

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of January 24, 2016

When You Feel Like Complaining

The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.

READ: Hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother. . .
Proverbs 1:8

REFLECT: There’s a huge pothole in the red mud in front of us. Our Jeep has been climbing painfully up into the Tanzanian mountains. The whole family is thirsty and shaken up. I open my mouth to complain and then shut it again.

The voice of my late mother comes into my head, “Count your blessings, my dear.” Without hesitation, I begin to count:

One, I am visiting this breathtaking country with my grown-up children, who are traveling with their parents of their own free will.

Two, I live in a country of surfaced roads and indoor plumbing.

Three, I had the kind of mother whose words of wisdom have stayed with me after she herself was gone.

We maneuvered around the pothole and reached the top of the hill, and I was still counting my blessings.

Bridgitte Weeks

PRAY: *Thank You, Father, for a wise mother whose words still correct and guide me.*

DO: Name your blessings until you can’t think of any more to name.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week—it will be used in our weekly prayer time, which has moved to Sundays at 11:15am for the winter months. Copies can also be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service; the music, scripture, and Pastor Dave’s sermon “Awaiting the Son—His Day Will Come” (1 Thessalonians 5:2)*—that it will encourage your walk with Christ as you connect with different people this week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray for the work of our Planning Group (Church Council and a number of additional people) as they explore options for Evangel’s future. Pray specifically for a number of important meetings in January with potential church partners. More details will be shared with the congregation when it is appropriate to do so.

** A podcast of the sermon and other materials will be posted on the website by Monday.*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (www.evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”