

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of January 31, 2016

When You Feel Overwhelmed

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: Then the waters would have overwhelmed us,
The stream would have gone over our soul. . . . *Psalm 124:4*

REFLECT: I’m in the midst of what I call a “convergence,” a kind of storm of stressful things all happening at once.

My wife and I have been building a new home. Nothing I have done in all my sixty-one years has tested my patience like working with contractors, discontinued products and hundreds of on-the-spot decisions. Meanwhile, I’m trying to meet deadlines and prepare for school, which starts in fourteen days. And today the phone rang with the worst news of all: my father has only a few days to live.

I don’t think there’s any conspiracy about these storms. They happen for the same reason that everyone comes to the checkout stand at the same time—they just do.

No one escapes these storms of convergence, but the Psalmist reminds me that, “Blessed be the Lord, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth.” And, “Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 124:6-8).

I’m counting on that.

Daniel Schantz

PRAY: *I’m sorry, Lord. I’m so distracted I can’t pray a sensible prayer, so I turn this chaos over to You.*

DO: Don’t think about your problem: think about God, your solution.

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 “Preparing for the Future” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5, 9)*—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.”