

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of February 21, 2016

When You Need to Share Your Burdens

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: Two are better than one . . . For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. *Eccl. 4:9-10*

REFLECT: It was a rough day. Work was stressful. I was still coping with my divorce, and earlier that day my two-year-old son Harrison had taken a tumble. He was okay, but the whole thing shook me up. I decided to give my minister, who happens to be my father, a call.

“You know, Brock,” he said, “I’ll bet some of your peers are struggling too. Why don’t you form a support group? I’d be glad to join you.”

I agreed to try, but I was still nervous when my friends met at my house for dinner. But when I described my dad’s idea, the response was immediate. “Things have been so stressful,” one friend said. “I can’t tell you guys how much I could use this.”

We talked for hours. By the time we said good night, it was clear that I wasn’t alone with my struggles. Each of us needs help finding God in the confusion of life. Sharing with friends is a good place to start.

Brock Kidd

PRAY: *Forgive me for being too proud to admit my needs, Lord. And thank You for friends who are happy to share theirs.*

DO: Find a friend or two who could use a prayer/support group.

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, the message “Thirsting for Jesus” by Dr. Lou Petrie (guest speaker, from Converge Cornerstone Fund)—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing to people you have contact with.
- 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. Next Sunday we will vote on the proposal to engage in an Executive (Pastoral) Search through Converge MidAmerica—one of three options we are pursuing. Pick up a copy of the Evangel Profile (one per household....or download it at www.evbapt.org/docs/evangel-profile.pdf) and prayerfully read through it to better understand our succession planning as Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement (tentatively late spring 2017).

** 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.”