

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of March 20, 2016

When You Need Hope

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: I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more. *Psalm 71:14*

REFLECT: An older man in our small town, an accomplished artist and painter, spends his retirement days hitchhiking in and out of town. Along the way he picks up trash on the highway. Standing along the roadway with his thumb thrust upward, he is a familiar sight. He never waits long for a ride and his many friends look out for him.

One gray day I gave him a ride north. Along the way we passed a high ridge where a strong wind had recently torn off the tops of many trees. Seeing the white scars of the broken limbs, I commented on how sad the scene was.

My friend replied, “Just think about how glorious next spring will be when new growth pops out to replace those scars.”

It came to me that my view was focused only on what could be seen while his was on what could be. That started me on a conscious effort to view the world with hopeful eyes.

Eric Fellman

PRAY: *You give the gift of new life out of death and destruction. Thank You, Father.*

DO: Focus on a situation that seems hopeless and try to look ahead to the good that might come out of it.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org). The prayer time returns to Wednesday evenings on March 30.
- Reflect on this week’s Palm Sunday worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message “The Answer Is...” (Matthew 3:17)—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 that God will bless our succession planning efforts. For more information, pick up a copy of the Evangel Profile (one per household). Also see the [website](http://www.evbapt.org) for information to help you 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.”