

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of May 1, 2016

When You Want to Give to the Poor

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: Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. . . . *Psalm 41:1*

REFLECT: The clothing rooms operated by our ministry were stocked through lovely handmade donations from generous Christians. But once a woman brought a bad of ripped, threadbare jeans covered with oily stains. Noticing my nose wrinkle (they smelled terrible!) she snapped, “Poor people shouldn’t be picky! If they are really in need they’ll wear these and be grateful.”

That reminded me of a story I once heard. A little girl came home from Sunday School and asked her mother for some food to fill a basket for a poor family. The mother rummaged through the pantry and pulled out a couple cans of anchovies. “Take these,” she said. “They’ve been on the shelf for years, and none of us likes them anyway.”

The child’s face fell in disappointment. “But, Mother,” she said quietly, “if we only share what we don’t want, we’re not helping the poor. They are helping us.”

—Penney Schwab

PRAY: *Father, I want to give my best to the poor, as if I were giving it to You.*

DO: Take a look at the box of things you have saved up to send to charity. Are you helping the poor by giving, or they helping you?

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/archive). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, the prayer focus for our Succession Planning*—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the 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 and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts (Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement, tentatively late spring 2017). Pray specifically this week for a meeting of the Planning group on Monday, May 9 and for the Open Forums on May 15 and 22. See the Succession Planning page on our [website](http://www.evbapt.org), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process.

* A PDF file of the Prayer Focus outline will be posted on the website.

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.”