

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of June 5, 2016**

**When You’re Afraid to Try**

*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:** Show yourself. . . a model of good deeds . . . *Titus 2:7 (RSV)*

**REFLECT:** I signed up for duty at a children’s hospital in Manhattan only to discover that I was world’s worst volunteer. My sheltered Alabama childhood had certainly not prepared me to work with city kids from broken homes. After a few months of failing to connect, I was just about ready to give up.

On what was to have been my last night, eight-year-old Victor wanted help drawing a tiger. “Please, somebody,” he pleaded, as one by one the volunteers turned him down. “How about you?” He stood in front of me with a brown crayon. I didn’t want him to be disappointed, but it was only fair to warn him: “It won’t be perfect, Victor.”

He frowned and point right between my eyes. “Nothing in life is perfect, but you have to try.” I looked at that child, whose life had been anything but perfect, and knew he was right. So I tried. And for weeks, a goofy tiger with a lopsided grin hung over my favorite second-grader’s hospital bed.

—Allison Sample

**PRAY:** *Lord, I know I’m not perfect, but with my trust in You, I’ll try anything.*

**DO:** That thing you’ve been convinced you’d fail at—try 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/archive](http://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, Pastor Dave’s message “The Rebellion Restrained” (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)\*—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). See Pause to Pray for specific prayer requests. 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. (The handout from the Open Forums May 15 and 22 will not be posted on the website. See Stu Johnson or Pastor Dave if you missed the sessions and would like a copy).

\* A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material will be posted on the website by Monday.

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://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.”*