

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of June 19, 2016

When You’re Blessed by a Friend

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: Everyone helped his neighbor, and said to his brother, “Be of good courage” . . . *Isaiah 41:6*

REFLECT: For years my husband and I enjoyed our daily walks together. Sometimes we talked quietly, other times we were just together in silence.

But our walks lost their glow when, after an illness, I *had* to walk as therapy. I suffered with each step. It changed our gait, our buoyancy. Moreover, it was changing my attitude. *What’s the use?* I thought. *It’s doing no good. . . .*

Then one day a little note arrived in the mail. It said, “Keep it up, you two lovebirds! You make my day as you pass my window every afternoon, looking so fit and happy. I am a shut-in and don’t know what I would do without the inspiration you give. ‘Things will be better,’ your very presence seems to say...”

Each of us is an instrument of God, sometimes inspiring another without knowing it. Today, tell someone you know what they secretly give to you.

—June Masters Bacher

PRAY: *Thank You, Father, for friends who are natural encouragers. I’m not one, but I’d like Your help seeing opportunities to say something that would encourage others.*

DO: Be intentional about looking for opportunities to compliment others.

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, Greg Jarvis’ message “Fitting Words”^{*}—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.evangel.org), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process. Pray for the upcoming Open Forum on June 26, that the Lord will use it to help reveal His plan.

^{*} 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.evangel.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.”