

## **“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**

**For the week of July 1, 2016**

### ***When You’re Concerned for the Cities of America***

*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.*

***This reflection was originally titled “When You’re Concerned for Your City,” but on this July 4 weekend, it is appropriate to expand that to cities across America in which you have lived, know people who live there now, or are drawn to it because of something that puts it in the headlines.***

**READ:** I have many people in this city . . . Acts 18:10

**REFLECT:** While I was visiting Los Angeles, there was a major earthquake. Amazingly, I had experienced two major earthquakes since moving to California several years earlier. Later, when I told a friend that I had been in San Francisco during the Loma Prieta quake too, she said, “Oh yes, I prayed for San Francisco after that, and I prayed for Los Angeles as well.”

“You prayed for an entire *city*?”

She smiled and shrugged. “Why not? Cities are made up of people. When I read of some horrific tragedy—a flood, an earthquake—I ask God to heal the city and the people in it.”

Although I must admit the idea sounded a little grand to me, I did feel comforted by the idea that she’d been praying for those cities.

Is there a city you would like to ask God to watch over? Perhaps your own?

*Linda Neukrug*

**PRAY:** *Mighty God, show Yourself powerful in cities in crisis today.*

**DO:** Pray for your city...and other cities around the country as they are brought to mind: its residents, its government officials, its economy, that God would be God of it all.

#### ***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 “In God is Our Trust” (A reflection for Independence Day on Monday, July 4)—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://evbapt.org), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process. Pray for an upcoming meeting of the Feasibility Teams of Evangel and College Church that the Lord will use it to help reveal His direction regarding the merger option, one of three we are currently pursuing.

*\* 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.”*