

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

For the week of July 31, 2016

When You’re Giving God a Hand Answering Your Prayers

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: “For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” . . . *John 6:33-35*

REFLECT: For years, when I had a need, I entered my study, closed the door, and sank to my knees. When I was done, I would leap to my feet, rush out and try to give God a hand in working toward my prayer aims. After all, I figured, the Lord helps those who help themselves.

Well, often I found that nothing happened. And sometimes the things I was trying to fix only seemed to become more entangled. Finally, I stopped butting my head against the wall and decided I would try surrendering myself to God and to God’s answers for me.

As I listened and waited, the answers started to come—not dramatic answers, but tiny ones, woven into the fabric of everyday life.

Oscar Greene

PRAY: *I’m very grateful, Lord, for answers to even the tiniest prayers, woven into the fabric of everyday life.*

DO: No prayer is too small. Go ahead and pray for that seemingly insignificant thing.

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, Pastor Dave’s message “Days of Elijah” (1 Kings 16:31-33; the first in a new series on Elijah)—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. Pray for the leadership of the church considering the purchase of our property as they commission an appraisal and consider the feasibility of moving forward, a process we expect to take the rest of the summer. [The church name is withheld here, but has been shared with the church family in an email update].

** 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), 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.”