

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of August 7, 2016

When You’re Discontent with What You Have

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: You shall rejoice in every good thing which the Lord your God has given you and your house . . .
Deuteronomy 26:11

REFLECT: I never understood why my grandmother wouldn’t buy a new apron. She would smooth a crease from the faded cotton and say in broken English, “This apron still good.”

An immigrant from China, she lost her mother at five; at twelve she was running her father’s household and nursing him as he lay dying in a Cantonese village. As a bride of eighteen, she left for America. When my grandfather’s store failed, she sewed at night and raised six children by day.

As an old woman, she seemed awed by the richness of her life and expressed it in the loving way she handled food. Her apron was an emblem of what hard work in America had won her: the ability to feed her family without fear of famine, bandits and flood.

I, who had so much, always wanted more. She, who had so little, was joyously awed by her bounty.

Linda Ching Sledge

PRAY: *I have so much, Lord, and want so much more. Please forgive me and help me choose to be happy with what I have.*

DO: Think of the things you want ask yourself, “How necessary is 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). 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 “Be Aware!” (1 Kings 16:34; the second 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.evangel.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.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.”