

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of August 14, 2016

When You’re Enjoying Everyday Pleasures

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 week’s focus on enjoying pleasure takes the opposite viewpoint of last week’s concern for being discontent.

READ: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above . . . *James 1:17*

REFLECT: The blustery day only added to the high spirits of the children. For the tenth time, it seemed, I said irritably and too loudly, “Please go outside.” Then I yelled after them, “But stay close to the house.”

Thankful for the peace, I hurried about catching up on chores. Suddenly I realized that things were too quiet. I ran to the door and saw all three boys playing quietly in a large box that had not been there earlier.

“Look, Mom!” Clay shouted, “Jesus sent us a box!”

I was tempted to explain that the wind must have brought it from the grocery store. Then I was ashamed. How seldom I give Jesus credit for the everyday pleasures of life. A child’s expression of gratitude caused me to say a prayer as I went back to work.

Ruth Dinkins Rowan

PRAY: *Thank You, Jesus, for all Your special gifts, especially those I haven’t thank You for because I didn’t realize they came from You.*

DO: Write a thank you note to Jesus for His perfect gifts.

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 “God’s Mountain Man” (1 Kings 17:1) as he continued his 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.”