

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of November 6, 2016**

**When You Need Time Alone with God**

*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:** When He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. *Matthew 14:23*

**REFLECT:** Tonight is mine. The one night when I’ll be alone. No work at the desk. No meetings about anything, anywhere. No shopping. No trip to the mall. No movies or television. Just beautiful hours I can use as I please. I can read that book I’ve neglected. Maybe I’ll just sit and think. Perhaps I’ll take a walk where there’s little traffic or people, where I can really study God’s marvelous firmament and feel His peace—that wonderful contentment we seem to have lost.

I believe my love of family and friends is made stronger and more meaningful by standing aside for a time to appreciate those relationships. Being alone, really alone, for a while restores my sluggish mind. To withdraw from my usual routines and to discover new capacities within myself is a cleansing experience. It is a time when I am alone with Christ. *Walter Harther*

**PRAY:** *Lord Jesus, I know many people who need and even desire the cleansing experience of being alone with You. I pray that You would make that desire irresistible.*

**DO:** Make every effort to get time alone with God, sooner rather than later.

**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 “Here I Stand—Part 2” (Romans 4:5, continuing the Reformation Day theme from last week)—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). Pray for the Lord’s blessing on the newly appointed Negotiation Team as it works on a response to the offer from a church in Wheaton to purchase our property (we plan to use the proceeds to establish an Evangel Missions Legacy Fund to continue our commitment to missions for 8-10 years). The initial stage of negotiation will lead to a “terms” document that must be approved by both churches before work begins on formalizing a final Contract. It is a complex process with many components that could take us well into 2017 to fully implement. Pray that the Lord will lead with clarity and provide wisdom, as we have already seen through expressions of His providence over the last year.

*\* 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 ([evbapt.org](http://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.”*