

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of November 13, 2016

When You’re Grateful

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: Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. *Psalm 100:4*

REFLECT: After I had surgery to remove a large tumor behind my eye, I telephoned the churches who had prayed for me to thank them and give a praise report. Because of a new medical procedure, I’d had very little bleeding and my surgeons removed most of the tumor with no nerve damage.

“That’s wonderful, Roberta,” one lady said. “We’ll be sure to put it in the bulletin. We have two columns: ‘Prayer Requests’ and ‘Answered Prayers.’ Of course, the request column is always a lot longer.”

I couldn’t get Barbara’s comment out of my mind. How often am I like that in my personal prayer life? My “Please Help Me” column is always much longer than my “I’m Grateful” column.

But I started a prayer journal to record my requests and the ways God answers them. I’m amazed at the many answers to prayer that I long took for granted. Being grateful is such a wonderful place to be, I’m making it a lifelong habit.

Roberta Messner

PRAY: *I don’t just want to say I’m grateful, Father. Help me to truly be full of gratitude.*

DO: Start your own *Please Help Me/I’m Grateful* prayer journal.

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 “No One Answered” (1Kings 18:20-21 – returning to the 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). Pray for the Lord’s blessing on the newly appointed Negotiation Team as it works with a church in Wheaton that made an offer 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 for wisdom and continued evidence of God’s providence in this process.

** 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), 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.”