

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of November 27, 2016

When You Doubt You’re Up to a Task

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: By my God, I can leap over a wall. *Psalm 18:29*

REFLECT: At a flea market I came across an early edition of *The Little Engine that Could*. “Hannah,” I called to our seven-year-old granddaughter. “Come. I want to read you an important story.” She came running.

I read the story with enthusiasm and sound effects. Hannah seemed hypnotized.

At last I closed the book. “Well, Hannah, the next time you face a problem that’s a mountain to you, what are you going to say?”

She shrugged and said, “I’ll say, ‘Oh, brother, here we go again.’”

I suppose all of us have ambivalent feelings before a difficult task. “I think I can—I think I can’t—I think I can. . . .”

No, I can’t do everything I think I can. I once tried to water ski, and all I got for my trouble was a hernia. But whether I’m facing my first public speech or chemotherapy, a good first step is for me to say, “With God’s help, I can do this.”
Daniel Schantz

PRAY: *God, help me belief in myself and Your enabling power.*

DO: Read or reread *The Little Engine that Could*.

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* “They Will Sing My Praise” (Exodus 15:1-18)—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. Pray for the Lord’s blessing on the Negotiating 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.”