

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of December 4, 2016**

When You’ve Judged Others

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: Do not judge, and you will not be judged. *Luke 6:37*

REFLECT: I left church that sunshiny morning feeling a bit smug. The sermon had been a stern attack on the “big three”—alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. I could be smug. I was a nonsmoker and nondrinker who had never touched hard drugs, and I felt a benign kind of pity for those who had.

And the Lord, as He so frequently does, popped my balloon. He reminded me in clear “instant replay” of times when I had been “drunk” with the pride of overcoming these temptations; “smoking” over the way I’d been slighted by a busy salesclerk; had “hangovers” of depression when life didn’t give me what I thought I deserved.

A quiet voice seems to say, “Shall I go on?”

Contritely I replied, “No, thanks. I got the message.”

And the message was that I could do as much damage to myself by pride, greed, envy, hatred and fear as I could be consuming harmful substances. *Doris Swehla*

PRAY: *I get the message, Lord. Nothing is more damaging to my pride—to myself, to others and to my relationship with You. Forgive me, please, Lord, for judging others.*

DO: Do what you can to help a friend struggling with addiction.

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* “Treasured Words” (Job 23:11-12; 2 Timothy 3:16), reflections on the centrality of the Word of God as he and Jennie celebrate 40 years in ministry today—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.”