

## **“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**

**For the week of March 12, 2017**

### **Laying Hold of His Words (Psalm 56:3-4)**

*As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003).. Today’s reflection is especially appropriate as we have an Open Forum regarding our succession planning.*

**READ:** When I am afraid, I put my trust in you, O God, I praise your word. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? *Psalm 56:3-4*

**REFLECT:** The scene in this psalm is very familiar: the psalmist has been attacked, slandered, and maligned by his enemies. He even feared death and had every human reason to be afraid. But as he reminded himself of the Lord’s care and concern, as he meditated on God’s power and majesty, and as he trusted and praised God’s Word, his fear began to flee.

When circumstances cause us to be afraid, the only way we can avoid being overwhelmed by fear and genuinely trust in almighty God is by experiencing and declaring who he says he is in his Word. It is there that we learn of him and come to know him. As he speaks, his very words and presence bring peace, calmness, rest, and stillness in our inmost being. Therefore, as the psalmist said, we trust in God, so why should we be afraid? As children of God, we learn to live by his precious, powerful Word so that we can walk before him in the light of life. We can trust him and not give way to fear.

**PRAY:** *LORD, when I am afraid, I trust in you, and I praise you for the sustaining power of your Word. Help me to lay hold of your words to me, for they alone bring me life, health, and peace. Let my trust in you continue to grow deep and wide so that I can fulfill the plans you have for me in order for your kingdom to increase. Thank you for the gift of your Word, which comforts, inspires, and guides my path each day.*

**QUOTE:** The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.  
*Martin Luther*

### **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)).
- Reflect on this week’s “Songs of the Cross” worship service to prepare us for the Lenten season—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. In an Open Forum today, we will hear from Dave and Anita Frederick of Vineyard Church of DuPage and present the Basic Terms of our proposed agreement with them. A vote on the Terms will be held next Sunday, March 19. Once approved, the next objective is a final sale Contract by May 31, along with details for “passing the baton” to Vineyard this summer.

*\* a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.*

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*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.”*