

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of April 30, 2017

Plans That Never Fail (Psalm 105:23-25)

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)..

This week’s reflection is very fitting as we move toward the conclusion of the long journey that has led us to “pass the baton” to Vineyard Church of DuPage later this summer.

READ: Then Israel arrived in Egypt; Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham. And the Lord multiplied the people of Israel until they became too mighty for their enemies. Then he turned the Egyptians against the Israelites, and they plotted against the Lord’s servants. *Psalm 105:23-25*

REFLECT: When the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites and treated them cruelly, gave the order to slaughter their infant boys, and in every way made their lives miserable, everything seemed hopeless. But God was still in control and had a plan to bring his people out of Egypt with joy. Corrie ten Boom said about her own imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp that no matter how things are on earth, “there is never panic in heaven! You can only hold on to that reality through faith because it seemed then and often seems now, as if the devil is the victor. But God is faithful, and his plans never fail. He knows the future. He knows the way.” Whatever you are facing today, you can praise God that he doesn’t have problems, only plans. And just as he had a master plan for his people’s exodus out of Egypt to the Promised Land, he has a plan for you, he will not fail to accomplish it!

PRAY: *FATHER, I thank you for the assurance that your plans never fail. When everything around me seems hopeless, remind me of your plan for the Israelites in captivity in Egypt. Help me to see things from your eternal perspective and to bold on to the reality that in spite of the way things look, you are in control. Indeed, you are still on the throne!*

QUOTE: God is never in a panic, nothing can be done that he is not absolutely master of, and no one in earth or heaven can shut a door he has opened, nor open a door he has shut. God alters the inevitable when we get in touch with him. *Oswald Chambers*

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).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message “And Can It Be? – Part 1” (1 Kings 21:15-21, continuing his 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.
- Continue to prayer for the succession planning process as we move through the transition of our property from Evangel to Vineyard Church of DuPage in the coming months, with the formal transfer likely to occur on or about August 1. The Negotiating Team, Church Council, and others are attending to a myriad of details. Pray for wisdom, energy, and attention to detail as there is much to do! Pray also that, through it all and despite much sadness, in the end there will be a sense of joy in successfully “ending well” and “passing the baton” to Vineyard.

** a podcast and other materials from the service 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.”