

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of May 14, 2017

A Heartfelt Cry (Psalm 57:2)

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 reflection is appropriate to the need we all have to ask, “Where will I worship?”; for Pastor Dave and Jennie as they move and seek new ministry/work opportunities, and for Gloria as she seeks new work (closer to home, if possible).

READ: I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me. *Psalm 57:2*

REFLECT: The idea of crying out to God usually implies distress, great need, testing, or simply a strong desire to experience or hear from God in a specific way. That was exactly where David found himself, surrounded by enemies who set a trap for him, fierce as lions whose tongues cut like swords. However, he directed his heartfelt cry not to just any god, but to the God who had proven himself again and again and who would fulfill his purpose for David. In this psalm David proclaimed his confidence that God would “send help from heaven” to save him (v. 3). Just as David did, we are meant to build on every experience of God’s help and faithfulness in the past so that our hearts will be confident in him and sing his praise (v. 7). What are you facing today? Give it—along with the burden and worry you feel—to the Lord, and trust in his promise that he will fulfill his purpose for you.

PRAY: *LORD, in my distress I still choose to trust and have hope in the fulfillment of your purpose for my life. Help me not to hide my troubled heart from you but to cry out to you, for you alone know the depth of my need. Thank you for your promise that you will fulfill your purpose for me. I lay at your feet any pressure I feel to take matters into my own hands. You are able to turn any troubles I face into a fulfillment of my destiny to be more like you!*

QUOTE: God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to him. *Andrew Murray.*

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* “Reality Check” (1 Kings 21:25-29—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.
- Pray that the May 21 forum will be helpful as people consider the heartfelt cry of many of us, “Where should I attend church?,” seeing it as not just a personal question, but a Kingdom question.

** 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.”