

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of June 25, 2017**

***The Lord Our Helper (Psalm 145:13-14)***

*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)..*

**READ:** The Lord is faithful in all he says; he is gracious in all he does. The Lord helps the fallen and lifts up those bent beneath their loads. *Psalm 145:13-14*

**REFLECT:** Have you ever felt bent beneath your load? Has life become a grind? Are you burdened with so many responsibilities and so much work that you can’t see any way to get it all done, and even if you did, a new pile of demands would be waiting for you tomorrow? Or perhaps you are bent beneath a load of worry for unsaved children or have fallen because the burdens you were carrying were so heavy. What good news it is that God takes delight in helping the fallen. He wants to lift us up when we’re bent beneath our own personal load! Whatever burden you are carrying today, give it to God, and ask him to lift your heart and show you his faithfulness. Then you can join with the psalmist in proclaiming “The Lord is kind and merciful. . . . He showers compassion on all his creation” (Psalm 145:8-9).

**PRAY:** *LORD JESUS, thank you for lifting our burdens when we are bent beneath our loads. I look to you for help. Thank you for your faithfulness and for helping the fallen. Lit me up by your Spirit, I pray, so that I can praise your kindness and mercy with the psalmist.*

**QUOTE:** To pray is to let Jesus into our lives. He knocks and seeks admittance, not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer; he knocks in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily “grind.” That is where you need him the most.  
*Ole Hallesby*

**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 worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message\* “Let My People Go: I Have Plans for Them” (Exodus 1:1-14)—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! This week, pray particularly for the tasks required by the sale agreement signed by both churches this past Monday, and for development of the new Bylaws, which will be introduced at today’s Open Forum. (We will convert to a foundation to disburse proceeds from the sale to missions over a period of up to ten years).

\* 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](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.”*