

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of July 9, 2017

A Shelter and Refuge (Psalm 9:9-10)

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 selection is another that seems so appropriate to the people of Evangel—we have been on an often difficult journey that has led to passing the baton of ministry to Vineyard Church of DuPage, and our people looking to God for direction in finding new places of worship, service. . . and blessing. Know that we can do that with the assurance “not only that He does what is best, but that He knows what is ahead.”

READ: The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, have never abandoned anyone who searches for you. *Psalm 9:9-10*

REFLECT: Oppression and trouble are not pleasant things to encounter. Nevertheless, we do experience both of them in our lives. Oppression pushes us down and hinders our ability to grow and to be all we were meant to be. Trouble harasses and inconveniences us and caused worry to creep into our lives. Oppression and trouble try their best to keep us from enjoying our days. A small dose of either can send us into a tailspin. We need a solution—a solution that can give us hope—a solution that can come against oppression and give us protection in times of trouble.

The psalmist declares that the Lord is the solution. Knowing his name means understanding, declaring, proclaiming, and confessing who God is and what he does. It means discovering more and more the grandeur, the glory, and the unshakable foundation of his character. As we know his name, trust him more fully, and search for him more diligently, oppression and trouble lose their effectiveness. The Lord is our shelter and refuge. He has never abandoned anyone who sought him, and he will never abandon us.

PRAY: *FATHER, I want to know your name! Guide me as I purpose to increase my knowledge of you. Help me to understand the importance of loving you, trusting you and seeking you. When oppression and trouble come my way, shelter me and be my refuge, for I know that you have never abandoned anyone who searched for you.*

QUOTE: We must trust God, we must trust not only that He does what is best, but that He knows what is ahead. *Max Lucado*

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, Gil Zinke’s message* “Rejoicing in Jesus, the Bridegroom”—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 for the Evangel Baptist Foundation and its newly elected Board of Directors as they prepare to carry on the legacy of Evangel’s commitment to missions through use of the proceeds from the sale of our property. Pray that God will be a shelter and refuge to everyone seeking a new place of worship, service . . . and blessing.

* 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.”