

**“First Watch” Touch Points for *Evangel’s Prayer Vigil* team**  
**For the week of July 16, 2017**

***I Have Good News! (Romans 3:23-24)***

*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)..*

***How appropriate that this reminder of the root of Evangel’s name, “good news,” would fall on this date in Cheri Fuller’s devotionals. It is a reminder of Evangel’s legacy for nearly sixty years. It is also interesting, given Fuller’s reflection, that Vineyard Church of DuPage has a significant ministry at the DuPage County Jail, which will now be much closer once we pass the baton to them at 1900 Manchester Road!***

**READ:** All have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet now God in his kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins.

*Romans 3:23-24*

**REFLECT:** As the song “Amazing Grace” resounded in the sanctuary, a woman on the front pew wept with joy. It seemed only yesterday that she had sat in a prison cell, shaking as her body suffered from withdrawal. She remembered crying out to a God she didn’t know, hoping that someone would hear her prayers. In that dark hour God sent women from a local church to tell her the good news that Christ would heal her and take away her sins. One year later she was not only free from the four walls of prison, but God had healed her of a ten-year addiction.

When the women entered the prison that first day, they felt shy, inadequate, and unsure in that environment but confident in God. And they were God’s answer to the prisoner’s prayers. Many times we feel inadequate to reach out to others. We make the gospel cumbersome or complicated and fear sharing it. Yet it is a simple message: God in his grace has declared us not guilty. We are free from sin through Jesus Christ. We encounter many every day who are crying out to a God they do not know, hoping someone will hear their prayers. Let’s share the Good News!

**PRAY:** *SAVIOR, every day people who are hurting and lost surround me. Help me to share the good news that you are the Christ and that you have set us free! Lord, if there are those in my life who are crying out to you, open my spiritual eyes that I might see, and give me the courage to share the gospel message with them.*

**QUOTE:** Jesus Christ is God’s everything for man’s total need. *Richard Halvorson*

**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 final sermon at Evangel\* “The Honor of a Hard Choice” (1 Kings 19:19-21)—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.
- Pray that the Farewell Service next week will honor God for the ministry he has enabled Evangel to conduct for nearly 60 years, and for the portions of that service that will honor our staff and provide time for words of testimony about the role that Evangel has played in the lives of those who have called it home. Pray that God will guide everyone seeking a new place of worship, service . . . blessings upon Vineyard Church of DuPage as it picks up the baton of ministry...and the Evangel Baptist Foundation as it builds on Evangel’s legacy of support for missions in coming 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.”*