
“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team

For the week of September 29, 2013

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Giving Ourselves in Prayer

[The apostles said,] “Then we can spend our time in prayer and preaching and teaching the word.

Acts 6:4

Prayer for the Week

Lord, grant me a continual readiness and devotion to prayer. Open my eyes and heart to understand the great privilege you have given me in allow me free access into your throne room. Give me a heart that is hungry to spend time with you. And as I do, prepare my mind and heart for the work you have for me to do for you and your kingdom.

Notable Quote

The seed we sow on the soil of heaven, the efforts we put forth, and the influence we seek to exert in the world above, heed out whole being; we must give ourselves to prayer. But let us hold fast the great confidence that in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

Reflection

With such rapid growth in the numbers of believers, hard feelings and dissension were on the rise in the early church. So the disciples put their heads together and realized that they needed to spend their time and effort teaching and preaching the Word of God and giving themselves to prayer instead of administering a food program or judging disputes. So they did what wise and responsible leaders do: they settled on their highest priority and then delegated remaining important tasks to others.

Missionary and minister Andrew Murray compared the great time, effort, and diligence it takes for a farmer to bring forth a good harvest with the need for us to put time, effort, and diligence into prayer. Rather than relegate it to a tiny segment in our Day-Timers, we need to cultivate an ongoing, wholehearted giving of ourselves to intercession if we are to obtain the blessings God has for us and in the lives of others. Is the highest priority in your life to be diligent in prayer?

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill the lives of those who went forward (in body or spirit) two weeks ago, that He will fan into flame a desire to live righteous, obedient lives that will draw others to the love of Christ.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. We had an encouraging report this week from Mark Albrecht, who has several people in mind and is working to line up a visit to Evangel by at least one. He is seeking the Lord’s direction to find the best person for the Wheaton area. In the meantime, take seriously Bill France’s challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel by year’s end—a seemingly impossible task. It has already started.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message on “The Church: Beginning and Becoming” as he concludes with part 15 of this series, this week looking at the letter to the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3.* Reflect on the letter that Jesus would write to the church in America today and—as Pastor Dave suggested, write a letter to Evangel before our next “Conversation with Council” on October 6.

**A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, along with pdf’s of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.