

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of February 12, 2017

Amazing Power (Psalm 33:13-17)

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).. Today’s reflection is especially appropriate as we have an Open Forum regarding our succession planning.

The quote in this week’s selection, with its reference to opened and closed doors, is particularly meaningful to our succession planning efforts, where we have used the same imagery.

READ: The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From his throne he observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do. The best-equipped army cannot save a king, none is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don’t count on your warhorse to give you victory—for all its strength, it cannot save you. *Psalm 33:13-17*

REFLECT: Sometimes it seems as if the forces of evil are winning and godless rulers and superpowers are dominating our world. But these verses remind us of who is really in charge and calling the shots: the Lord Almighty. The same God who created the world with a word can shatter plans of the nations and thwart all their schemes. No matter how out of control things may appear, God’s plan remains in place. He is running the show and knows the end from the beginning. No one is higher or mightier than the Lord! He governs our world, his kingdom will come, and his sovereign will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven! God’s intentions can never be shaken, and his plans stand firm forever. His amazing power is at work in the world, and he will carry out his eternal purpose to the last detail.

PRAY: *Thank You, Lord, for the assurance your Word gives me that you reign over heaven and earth and that no one can thwart your plans for my life—and for the whole world. I put my trust in you today. Only you understand everything—even those things that are mysteries to me. Because you have all authority on earth and in heaven, I can rest in you.*

QUOTE: God is never in a panic. Nothing can be done that He is not absolute master of. And no one in earth or heaven can shut a door He has opened, nor open a door He has shut. God alters the inevitable when we get in touch with Him. *Oswald Chambers*

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* “Days of Elijah—...and I’ve Seen Rain” (1 Kings 18:41-44)—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 that God will bless our succession planning efforts. The Negotiating Team met Friday (Feb. 10) with the leadership of the local church whose offer for purchase we are currently considering. Our Team had submitted a number of questions and requests for information. The Team will meet on Monday to consider developing a counter-offer to advance the discussion with this church.

* 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.”