

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church family,

One day a small opening appeared on a cocoon. A man sat and watched for the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and could go no further. The man decided to help the butterfly so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restraining cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening was God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

As Christians, struggles (or trials) are exactly what we need in our life in order to grow and develop properly. If God allowed us to go through our Christian life without any obstacles, it would cripple us spiritually. We, like the butterfly, would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly!

There are times in our lives that we think that God has abandoned us because of the trials that we are going though. Yet, if we take the time to look back at those trials, we can usually see that God allowed us to experience times of difficulty so that we could develop a greater reliance upon Him. No matter how things look, God intends to accomplish one of two things through your problems: He will carry you through whatever situation you're facing right now, or he will deliver you from it.

He made this day to strengthen you. He made this day to empower you. He made this day to change you. He made this day to move you one step closer to the person he has designed you to be.

Let's thank God for our daily struggles (trials) and display the same attitude toward trials as the Apostle Paul. The great Apostle said in 1 Peter 4:12-13 – NKJV: "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

In Christ's service,

Paston Raiph

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We are so glad you made it today!

Grab an info packet in the lobby and a Bible from the information desk There is a mother-baby suite in the NE corner of the Worship Center Babies and Preschoolers can join us in the preschool area 1st-6th Graders, your groups meet at 9:15-10:15AM and you'll be released to "Energize" from the 10:30 Service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ecuador Mission Trip Informational Meeting: Today

Right after worship services, in the youth zone concerning the Ecuador mission trip (June 1 - 9). \$100 deposits are due Feb 28. Trip costs will be around \$850. You must be high school aged or older/ or middle schoolers can attend with a parent. Come join us in what God is doing in Ecuador! We will be spending time in the mountains and jungle of Ecuador. Passports will need to be gotten quickly! Please call Pastor Matt or email for any questions.



Adult Fellowship Florida Strawberry Festival March 8: Depart @ 8AM: \$10 Connect Card to Reserve Spot



First Friends Preschool and VPK

In House Registration Feb 26 - Mar 2

Open House Mar 5-9 Drop by between 9:30-11:30 AM

EGFirst Student Ministry Fundraising Italian Dinner



\$10 donation per Dinner Fri., March 23 from 6 - 8 PM Fellowship Hall...Pick Up or Dine In Get tickets Lobby on Sunday mornings Worship center Wednesday nights Front desk during the week

Men's Breakfast Saturday March 17 @ 9 AM

All men are invited to come and fellowship and learn with us what it means to be a man of God in our ever changing world. Breakfast is free. Sign up with the Connect Card or by getting a ticket from the front desk so we can get an accurate count.



Registration opens March 4
Signup at camps.winshape.org/register-now/

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, SHARE JESUS, REACH THE WORLD

THIS WEEK AT EG FIRST!!

Sunday, February 25:

Prayer First: 8:30 AM - Rm 104 and Conference Rm Library Open: 8:45 - 9:15 AM and 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Revolution United Bible Study: 9:15 AM

Revolution Worship: 6 PM (doors open at 5 PM)

Tuesday, February 27:

Ironman Lifegroup: 9:15 AM (Rm 202) Women Warriors Bible Study (Rm 201)

Library Open: 9:30 AM

Wednesday, February 28:

Men's Life Group: 1:30 PM (Conference Rm)

Dinner Served: 5 PM Library Open: 5:45 PM

Wednesday Night Programs: 6:15 PM Praise Band Rehearsal: 6:30 PM Traditional Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 PM

Friday, March 2:

Salt SS Class Meeting: 6 PM (Fellowship Hall)

THANK YOU

Meagan and Brandon Lang and Cheryl Frontz would like to thank the church family for your prayers, support, and love in the loss of their step-mom/daughter in-law.

Doug Stewart would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, and cards. It has been a great source of encouragement.

Randy Bailey wanted to say thank to EGFirst for helping us with The Melbourne Gospel Jubilee. Your efforts were vital to us and we appreciate you helping us spread the gospel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

03/04: Calvin Dahl 03/05: Debra Bennett

03/06: Ron Stapleton, Sheila Teele, Bella Joyner

03/08: Ed Strimel

03/09: Timothy O'Malley 03/10: Judy Caldwell

SYMPATHY

We extend our Christian Love and Sympathy to Jeff and Tracie Collins, and Patrick and Brandy Breckenridge in the passing of Jerry Collins, father and grandfather.

IN MEMORY OR HONOR

To Benevolence

In Memory of Ann Connor by Thelma Pomeroy, Linda Thompson In Memory of Bobbie Lashinger by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Daniels

To the Food Pantry

In Memory of Ann Connor by Nellie Crees

To Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund

In Honor of Larry Porter by Jackie Wallace

To the Media Library

In Memory of Joe Beahan by the BYKOTA Class In Memory of Ann Connor by the BYKOTA Class

FAITHPATH RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE

Faith Path has been introduced to the HomePointe Center. We have a gift for you to help lead your child from Parent Child Dedication to purity lessons and launching them to adulthood. Come by the HomePointe Center located in the front lobby after the 2nd service and pick up a FaithPath Kit and a free gift on your child's birthday. All kits are available on the church website as well @ www.egfirst.org.

Facts and Figures February 18, 2018

Weekend Worship Attendance 566

Weekly Budget Needed 18,301.31

Budget Offering 13,967.50 Designated 2,524.00 CTB Debt Retirement 155.00 Lottie Moon 70.00

Total Offering 16,716.50

To Date Figures

128,109.17
146,086.33
2,532,714.50
3,923.00
21,868.00

Wednesday Night Dinner February 28, 2018

Suggested Donation \$5 Adult...\$3 Child...\$15 family

Potato or Beef Vegetable Soup , Side Salad, Baked Potato

> Entree Salad: Greek Salad

No Reservations Needed

Deacons on Call Feb 25 - Mar 3

Jim Gilbert	501-1926
Don Leddin	255-0362
Bill Franklin	255-0868
Andy Miller	288-0844

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Luke 12:29-31 "And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added.

them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you."

9:15 am Sunday Traditional Worship

Instrumental Praise: "You are My All in All"

Choral Praise: "Mighty to Save"

Fellowship Time: "In the Presence of the Lord"

Message in Song: "His Precious Face" -Mary Miller

Worship Songs Today:

The Solid Rock When the Morning Comes

This is the Day Jehovah Jireh You are my Hiding Place Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus I Know Whom I Have Believed

10:30 AM Sunday Contemporary Worship

Worship Songs Today:

Spirit of the Living God God with Us

What a Beautiful Name Do It Again



Visit for FREE resources for marriage, parenting, life seasons and other great resources!

www.eofirst.org/ministries/homepointefamilyministry

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Doug Horde has been a volunteer in the children's ministry for many years. He as worked with our threes through Kindergarten children. Currently he serves in our four and five year olds classroom. Doug updates and lovingly takes care of the Military Board. Something you may not know about Doug is that he is a Rolling Reader at many local elementary schools. Doug is very kind hearted and generous to a fault, always sending cards, helping families in need, and helping both the Sunday School Preschool and First Friends Preschool.

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