



His 4 Souls

WITH BROTHER TOM

Dear Church Family,

Life is filled with questions that are difficult to answer. Things like ...

1. When cheese gets it's picture taken, what does it say?
2. How can you tell when sour cream goes bad?
3. What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?
4. Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
5. If buttered bread always lands on the butter-side down & a cat always lands on its feet, what happens if you strap buttered bread to a cat's back?

Of course those questions are in jest, but there is a question that humanity has struggled with since the dawn of creation. In one of Barna's polls, people were asked "If you could ask one thing of God, what would you ask?" And the question from believers and unbelievers alike, was the same, which is, "If You (God) are really sovereign, why all of the evil and suffering?" As believers we are not immune to struggling with questions like these.

There are three main points we must be cognizant of if we are going to try and understand the existence of evil.

1. God is not the author of evil; He cannot go against His own will
2. Evil exists because of humanity's sin or human desire to go against God's will
3. The existence of evil does not necessarily prohibit the existence of a good God

While there are many scriptures that could be quoted; bible stories that could be cited as examples, at the risk of seeming overly simplistic, the best answer the Christian has to offer is Jesus! Jesus as revealed in His life, His death, His resurrection, and His eternal promises is the ultimate answer to our struggle with evil.

With the coming of Jesus in the flesh, what we have is nothing less than God coming into our world and declaring His war against sin, death, and the devil; against all evil. Follow this up with our Lord's life, death, and His resurrection, by which He paid the debt for sin, and the reality is an actual, true overcoming of evil in this world and in the world to come. Does this mean evil will cease to exist in this life? No, it is not quite that simple. But what we learn in Christ is the fact that God is not indifferent to our troubles. By becoming man, Jesus has entered into our suffering, and in His death and resurrection, He has removed both the power and the problem of evil forever.

In dealing with this subject I'm mindful of the quote, "Life must be lived forward, but unfortunately it can only be understood backward." No, I don't always understand why things happen as they do, but I believe God is good. Life is not fair but God is always good!

His,

Bro Tom

WORSHIP NOTES WITH DANA ELLIS

Our PraizeKidz will present their end of the year program, "Plane 'Ol Mission Trip", on Sunday night, May 7, at 5:00pm. Please plan to attend and support these children and teachers who have worked so hard. The setting is an airport where a group of students have plans to go on a mission trip. However, some airplane mechanical problems keep them grounded for a time. Funny things happen while they wait, but also teaching moments about what their most important "first call" should be. The children come to realize that missions begin at home. Songs, choreography and special effects will bring the story to life. Please plan to attend. It will be an hour well spent!

Our FUSION choir is going great. I am so proud of these students. They will sing and lead in congregation music on May 3 at the POINT service. We will then travel down to Nashville for a day of fun (Laser-tag and lunch) on May 20. Please continue to pray for these awesome students that the Lord will direct them and prepare them for His work now and in their future.

Spring is a great time to join the Adult Worship Choir. We will be singing in upcoming weeks some songs that you've heard on the radio. This group rehearses once a week on Sunday nights at 6:00pm and leads in both Sunday AM services. Use your talents for the Lord. You will receive a blessing!

YOUNG ADULTS

WITH MARK WHITAKER

Wanna Preach? Sing Along!

Pastor Ben and I were talking about this the other day, and it struck me that many people at Eastwood may not have thought about the fact that the songs we sing, in so much as they are saturated lyrically with Scripture (and we work hard to make sure they are!), are in a sense proclamation of God's Word. Outside of the book of Revelation, all of the New Testament instruction for singing inside the church connects it with teaching ministry. Colossians 3:16 in the NASB says, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." We often see our singing in church purely as worship straight to God and aimed nowhere else, but that is only part of its purpose. A large part of its purpose is to serve as a memory device to make theology stick. Think about it. I bet a large part of us, when faced with a theological question, often revert back to the lyrics of hymns to find the language to use to express the answer. So have you ever thought you might want to preach? You get the opportunity to do so every Sunday at Eastwood! Look at the words up on the screen and preach your heart out (in tune to your ability, of course!), that everyone around you might hear the Gospel and believe!

SENIOR ADULTS WITH GREG SWACK

Dinner at Boyce General Store

Thursday, June 1

Leave at 4:15pm/Return by 7:00pm

Enjoy a special dinner and still arrive home before dark.

Fried chicken will be served.

Cost-\$14.00 (includes meal, drink, tip, and transportation)

Sign-up by Sunday, May 21 or until spots are filled. Space is limited.

PrimeTimers Potluck at First Baptist

Thursday, May 25, 11:30am (Please note the time.)

Each May, we combine with the seniors of FBC for a joint potluck, this year to be held at First Baptist.

Bring a dish and enjoy a great meal and program.

For those who are interested, you may ride the bus from Eastwood (leaves at 11:00am)

(Take note: this potluck is being held on the 4th Thursday.)

TeamKid

Last day of TeamKID will be May 24. We will have a special time ending our season of TeamKID!

Child Dedication

Mother's Day will be a special morning! On Sunday, May 14, at both campuses, parents will have the opportunity to present their child before the Lord and commit themselves to raise their child based on Biblical principles. The congregation will also at that time commit to work with parents to help be a Godly influence in the lives of the children at Eastwood. Parents involved in this opportunity need to register by completing a reservation form (located at both preschool desks) and email a picture of their child to Lisa Keen at lisa@eastwoodbc.org by Monday, May 8.

VBS June 4-9 @ East Campus and June 4-7 @ South Campus

We still have a few spots left for people to volunteer during VBS. Please contact Megan at 270-842-7867 or email megan@eastwoodbc.org. Please prayerfully consider how you can make a difference during VBS this year!

Camp Courageous

Camp Courageous for 1st-4th Graders: Registration starts May 7 for children who have completed 1st-4th grade.

Kids completing 1st grade will attend July 10-12 and ride to camp every morning in time for breakfast and arrive back to the church at 5:00pm. (1st graders do NOT spend the night). Cost: \$65

Kids completing 2nd-4th grade will attend July 10-12 and have a three day/two night experience. Cost: \$70.

Space is limited and registration will close when all bed space is reserved. Make your reservation online starting May 7. Another way to register is to fill out a registration form and pay a \$25 non-refundable deposit using a green envelope. Deposit and registration for camp will be due Friday, June 23. Registration forms will be available at the Preschool Desk at both campuses.

Volunteer Job Openings

Immediate Needs:

South: Bed Babies during 9:00 hour (1st/3rd Sunday of the month); assistant for 1s/2s at the 10:30 hour (2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month); teachers for the 3 and 4 year old class during the summer (June and July)

East: Bed Babies during the 9:30 hour (2nd/4th Sunday of the month); preschool desk worker

STUDENT MINISTRY

WITH JUSTIN MCCLURE

May 2- Graduation Banquet (For parents and Graduate only)

There are many opportunities for the extended family to be together but there are few opportunities for parents to focus on the student graduating exclusively. We have a special evening planned for graduates and their parents. Please rsvp by emailing erin@eastwoodbc.org

May 7- College Graduate Recognition

May 21- High School Graduate Recognition

All students please wear school colors for your recognition service. It could be a school colored tie, dress, socks, etc. Just show your school spirit and have fun with it!

May 29- Lake Day

Come ski, tube and eat with us on Lake Cumberland and meet our new interns; Conner, Jana, and Ryan. We will meet at the church at 8:00am and return at 10:00pm. No cost.

EDUCATION WITH ED JENT

Pray about who you can invite to Sunday Morning Bible Fellowship. This is the best opportunity we have to expose our friends and family to the warmth of Christian fellowship and the life changing impact of the Word. We have great teachers who communicate the truth of the gospel each week. We need to be praying for opportunities to invite others to hear for themselves what we already know. The Word of God can change your life. Pray that God will make it obvious when you have an opportunity to invite someone and it is as simple as explaining to them why you love your class. Offer to meet them at one of the entrances of the church or offer to pick them up. However you do it they will hear a great lesson taught and a great sermon preached. Thanks for all you do to make Sunday mornings great. Without each of you and your commitment I wouldn't be able to encourage you to invite others to a great Sunday Morning Bible Study experience. You make it great!

Is Jesus calling you to take a step out in faith for Him? Are you hindered from taking that step because of fear? Is what Jesus is calling you to do a bit risky, and are your flesh and the devil pressuring you to say “No” to God?

If you said “yes” to these questions, I want to comfort you by letting you know that you are in good company. Whenever Jesus calls anybody to make an impact for the Kingdom, you can bet that your flesh and the devil will set themselves against that call. You WILL experience spiritual warfare!

Maybe Jesus is simply asking you to share the Gospel with a family member or neighbor. Maybe Jesus is calling you to change jobs. Maybe Jesus is asking you to serve in a ministry. Perhaps Jesus is calling you to give sacrificially toward something. Maybe Jesus is asking you to lovingly confront somebody’s sin. Maybe Jesus is calling you to take a stand for His truth. Maybe Jesus is asking you to go a mission trip. No matter how big or small the thing is that Jesus is calling you to do, it’s a bit risky, and your flesh and the devil are opposed to it.

If Jesus is calling you to take a risk for him, here are the 10 biblical reasons why you should take that risk:

1. Take risks for Jesus because not a hair on your head will be touched unless the Lord wills (Luke 21:18)
2. Take risks for Jesus because your life is hidden with Christ on high (Colossians 3:3)
3. Take risks for Jesus because to live is Christ and to die is gain (Philippians 1:21)
4. Take risks for Jesus because whoever loses his life for Jesus’ sake and the gospel’s will save it (Mark 8:35)
5. Take risks for Jesus because God has ordained your number of days (Psalm 139:16)
6. Take risks for Jesus because nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39)
7. Take risks for Jesus because you’ve been bought with a price and are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
8. Take risks for Jesus because you have a Judea, Samaria, and remotest part of the earth to reach and not just a Jerusalem (Acts 1:8)
9. Takes risks for Jesus because you should aspire to also preach the gospel where Christ has not already been named (Romans 15:20)
10. Take risks for Jesus because you walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)

In moments where God has called me to take a risk for Him, His Word has been a great help to me, and I pray it’ll be a great help for you. If you are a child of God, God is calling you to take some risks for Jesus, and His Word is replete with reasons why you should do so. Take heart, and take risks for Jesus!

EASTWOOD EVENTS:

- 5/1 - 12:30pm ESL Bible Study
- 5/2 - 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 5/2 - 8:00am KBC Sr. Living Celebration
- 5/2 - 9:30am ESL Classes
- 5/2 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 5/2 - 6:00pm Graduation Banquet (South)
- 5/3 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 5/3 - 4:00pm Celebration Choir
- 5/3 - 5:45pm Huddle
- 5/3 - 6:30pm Point//TeamKID//APEX
- 5/4 - 10:00am Grandmothers in Prayer
- 5/6 - 8:30am PraizeKidz Rehearsal
- 5/7 - Regular Sunday Worship
- 5/7 - 12:00pm Ministry Roundtable (South)
- 5/7 - 5:00pm Praizekidz Musical
- 5/8 - 12:30pm ESL Bible Study
- 5/9 - 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 5/9 - 9:30am ESL Bible Study
- 5/9 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 5/9 - 12:00pm ALZ Support Group
- 5/10 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 5/10 - 4:00pm Celebration Choir
- 5/10 - 5:45pm Huddle
- 5/10 - 6:30pm Point//TeamKID//APEX
- 5/11 - 7:00am PrimeTimer's Trip
- 5/14 - Regular Sunday Worship
- 5/14 - 6:00pm AWC
- 5/14 - 6:00pm South Worship Rehearsal
- 5/15 - 12:30pm ESL Bible Study
- 5/16 - 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 5/16 - 9:00am Women's Bible Study
- 5/16 - 9:30am ESL Class
- 5/16 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 5/17 - 4:00pm Celebration Choir
- 5/17 - 5:45pm Huddle
- 5/17 - 6:30pm Point//TeamKID//APEX
- 5/18 - 10:00am Grandmothers in Prayer
- 5/20 - 8:00am Fusion Fun Day
- 5/21 - Regular Sunday Worship
- 5/21 - Next Steps Lunch (South)
- 5/21 - One Church Celebration (South)
- 5/22 - 12:30pm ESL Bible Study
- 5/23 - 7:00am Mens Prayer Breakfast
- 5/23 - 9:30am ESL Class
- 5/23 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 5/24 - 4:00pm Celebration Choir
- 5/24 - 5:45pm Huddle
- 5/24 - 6:30pm Point//TeamKID
- 5/25 - 11:45am PrimeTimer's Potluck (off-site)
- 5/28 - Regular Sunday Worship
- 5/29 - Memorial Day- Church Office Closed
- 5/30 - 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 5/30 - 9:30am ESL Class
- 5/30 - 10:00am Moms in Prayer
- 5/31 - 4:00pm Celebration Choir
- 5/31 - 5:45pm Huddle
- 5/31 - 6:30pm Point

KINGDOM CONTRIBUTIONS

March Monthly Report:

Tithes and Offerings	\$191,478.00
Tithes & Offerings thru 3/31/17	\$1,329,648.35
Tithes & Offerings thru 3/31/16	\$1,267,608.11
His Vision Our Faith	\$17,307.00

April 2017 through 4/14/17:

Tithes & Offerings	\$85,629.52
Tithes & Offerings YTD 4/14/2017	\$1,415,277.87
Tithes & Offerings (same period 2016)	\$1,349,460.96
His Vision Our Faith	\$7,552.00
His Vision Our Faith YTD	\$927,800.71

*Fiscal year Sept. 2016—August 2017

WELCOME TO EASTWOOD

Taylor Tucker, Natalie & Carter
601 Nutwood Street
Bowling Green, KY 42103

Ashley Gaddie
2600 Chandler Drive, Apt. 917
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Heath & Kellie Crawford
198 Talbott Drive
Bowling Green, KY 42103

EBC STAFF

Rev. Thomas R. James, Lead Pastor
Rev. Ed Jent, Associate Pastor of Education
Rev. Dana Ellis, Associate Pastor of Music/Worship
Rev. Greg Swack, Associate Pastor of Senior Adults & Pastoral Care
Rev. Justin McClure, Associate Pastor of Students
Megan Woods, Director of Preschool and Children's Ministries
Rev. Ben Simpson, South Campus Pastor
Rev. Mark Whitaker, Associate Pastor of Young Adults/South Worship
Dr. Don Mathis, Staff Evangelist
Sandy Enlow, Business Administrator
Lisa Keen, Education/Children's Ministry Assistant
Erin Reynolds, Senior Adult/Student Ministry Assistant
Natalie Martin, Publications/Worship Ministry Assistant
David Owens, Facilities Manager

5/1 - Exodus 17-20	5/12 - Jeremiah 32-36	5/23 - 2 Samuel 20-24
5/2 - 2 Samuel 5-9	5/13 - Luke 1-2	5/24 - Psalm 60-62
5/3 - Psalm 51-53	5/14 - 2 Corinthians 9-10	5/25 - Job 41-42
5/4 - Job 35-36	5/15 - Exodus 25-28	5/26 - Jeremiah 42-46
5/5 - Jeremiah 27-31	5/16 - 2 Samuel 15-19	5/27 - Luke 5-6
5/6 - Mark 15-16	5/17 - Psalm 57-59	5/28 - Galatians 1-3
5/7 - 2 Corinthians 6-8	5/18 - Job 39-40	5/29 - Exodus 33-36
5/8 - Exodus 21-24	5/19 - Jeremiah 37-41	5/30 - 1 Kings 1-4
5/9 - 2 Samuel 10-14	5/20 - Luke 3-4	5/31 - Psalm 63-65
5/10 - Psalm 54-56	5/21 - 2 Corinthians 11-13	
5/11 - Job 37-38	5/22 - Exodus 29-32	

2017 BIBLE READING -MAY

