
myEast Side

January 2012

Eastside Baptist Church exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ to impact the world locally and globally.

Dear Church Family,

I want to share an article I read from Fred Smith, Sr. It gives us all something to think about as we begin a new year.

The Menace of Materialism

The sensible rule of thumb for possessions is: when things start to limit us, we should limit things. When the spirit of acquisition takes over, we lose control. Accumulation should be a means of living, not the definition.

One of accumulation's dangers is the loss of time to enjoy what he have because we are grasping for more. We substitute the joy of ownership for the desire of acquisition. Luxuries become necessities. The person cursed with materialism and the tyranny of things passes up opportunities to live unless it is money making. How often do we stay home and drink in the beauty of our artwork, read the books we own, or listen to the music? How often do we take on one more project because it means more money and more stuff? The next possession, the next dollar, the next, the next, the next.....death by inches.

One night at dinner I sat with a wealthy lady who had been completely taken over by the spirit of acquisition. Surrounded in her home by treasures collected around the world, she started crying because she was illiquid and unable to invest in a surefire money making deal. I, too was miserable, but for an entirely different reason. She was living in a prison with 24 carat gold bars. I so wanted to shout, "Get free! Get free!" Yet I knew she was already enslaved. It can happen to any of us, and it doesn't have to be in the 7 figures.

When I was a small boy growing up in the mill district of Nashville I thought money would bring me freedom, not restriction. As I have known many of great wealth, I see too often the restrictions that come with the fame and fortune ---- the limits on where they can go, the clothes they can wear, the cars they can drive, and the people with whom they can freely associate.

I have laughed at the plight of these privileged prisoners because their wealth should be the mounting for the gem of life's true meaning, but instead they have a hollow setting with a large hole.

Over my lifetime collection of tools in the garage I hung a sign: "And whose shall these be?" It is a reminder that they are mine to use, but not mine to keep. Money and possessions are all tools with helpful purposes as long as they do not entangle and strangle us as we move toward maturity.

Think about: 1) Have I built a prison with golden bars? 2) What should 2012 look like as I define maturity? 3) Who will help me grow toward this goal?

Words of Wisdom: "Over my tools in the garage I hung a sign: "And whose shall these be?"

Wisdom from the Word: "When you gaze upon riches they are gone, for they surely make wings for themselves, and fly off into the sky like an eagle!" (Proverbs 23:5 NET Bible)

Love being your Pastor
Bro. Bob
bobh@myeastside.net

Kids East Side



Olympians and Gopher Buddies
Wednesday's at 6:45pm

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11



Parents - be sure to have your children here for **ELEVATE** - our approach to Children's Worship - Packed with high-energy worship, age specific small groups, and fun interactive Bible lessons!
Can't wait to see your children at **ELEVATE!**

Sunday School Nursery Schedule

1 AM: Andrea Hinton
8 AM: Greg Hinton
15 AM: Anna Hansen
22 AM: Kay Jacques
29 AM: Grace Phelps

Nursery Schedule

1 AM: Bonny Bowen & Kathy Daniels
8 AM: Melinda & Greg Hinton
15 AM: Temi Adeleke & Andrea Hinton
22 AM: Sharon & Steve Hicks
29 AM: Tina & Mike Martin



Children's Pastor Commentary

Children's/Toddler/Pre-K Worship

Starting the 15th of this month we are going to introduce your children to the City! And don't worry, they won't be the only new kids in town. Michelle just moved there with her dad and she is helping her new friends, Molly and Zane, learn what it means to be a follower of God. We'll sing, dance, and learn right along with them as we take a look at some important moments from the life of Abram in the Bible. Have your children stretch before they arrive to get themselves warmed up as we begin Elevate's first musical series: City Streets, The Musical!

Parents Night Out - Jan 27th

Our next Parents Night Out will be on Friday the 27th. We'll watch your kids while you have a quiet night in or out. Drop them off at the church at 6 PM, pick them up at 9 PM. We'll provide dinner, movies, fun and games for them for just \$5 per child. This program is for children ages 1 year old through 6th grade.

Teleios - Rooted, God Gave Us His Son

Give your seeds a chance. From seed to tree, it's a miracle of God's creation. But that tree never takes root if it doesn't have everything it needs. The same goes for faith. This study will help our children learn to be grounded in God's love--for life. It's a new kind of curriculum that lets people experience key Bible stories in a way they'll never forget. I pray your children are able to attend!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Friday, January 27 6 - 9PM - Parents Night Out
- ◆ Wednesdays 6:45 - 8:15PM - Word of Life
- ◆ Sundays @ 6:00 PM - Teleios / Rooted

Nick Carrillo,
Pastor of Children
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Weekly Focus

Children's Worship

Entourage

1/1 - Family Focus Weekend -
No Children's Worship

1/8 - A Good Friend Tells
Others About Jesus!

City Streets, The Musical

1/15 - I Will Follow God!

1/22 - I Will Tell The Truth!

1/29 - I Will Put Others First!

Toddler & Pre-K Worship

Entourage Jr.

1/1 - Family Focus Weekend -
No Children's Worship

1/8 - Jesus Will Forgive Me!

City Streets, The Musical Jr.

1/15 - I Will Obey!

1/22 - I Will Be Nice Others!

1/29 - I Will Do What Is Right!



Missions

This past year was an awesome time in missions. The Lord has blessed us as a church with many outreach opportunities to serve Him in all four areas of the Acts 1:8 challenge. We have sent teams to work at the Helping in His Ministry, we have had individuals volunteer each month at the A Friends House. In June a team went to Dublin, Ga. with the Bold Missions Builders. In July a team went to St. Kitts. Linda Holcomb went to Liberia. Our GIC was awesome it was great to see our Missionaries and local Ministries. During Thanksgiving Eastside's loving members reached out to 4 families that were in need.

We have so many opportunities as a church to reach out and serve. If you would like to serve on one of our mission outreaches please let us know.

A Friend's House – This ministry outreach is looking for volunteers to work a couple hours a week in their office or working with the children. Please note that a background check and orientation is required by A Friends House. Orientation is always the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 am.

Christmas Shoe Boxes - We received a blessing on Sunday December 18, by delivering 80 shoe boxes to Laurel Park Nursing home. The Team had the opportunity to personally go to each room and hand them the shoe box. We visited, we prayed and exchanged smiles. We also had the opportunity to deliver shoe boxes to some children who were in need. I would like to thank everyone who prepared a shoe box and had a part in this Great outreach ministry in our Community.

Community Mission Outreach - We will be serving the Lord at the Helping in His Ministries Food Pantry on Saturday, January 28 from 9 to 12 noon. If you would like to be a part of this outreach and like to join this team, there will be a sign up sheet on the mission's bulletin board. Please Note: we can only take a team of 20 members.

We have added a new mission's bulletin board. This bulletin board will have all information pertaining to all mission opportunities. Please come by and check it out. We would love for you to be a part of the missions outreach at Eastside Baptist Church.

*Serving the Lord,
Mike Martin*

mikem@myeastside.net



Teleios Kick-Off

*This semester last from
January 8 to April 1, 2012.
Plan now to attend the
January 8 kickoff event.
Come grow with us!*

Tuesday Morning Worship Service

*Each Tuesday at 10:30 am
A traditional service with
singing and preaching.
A light lunch and time of fellowship
follows after the service.
All are welcome.*



“A New Year”

The one thing about the first of January that I thoroughly enjoy is that all of the hustle and bustle is now behind us for another year. Everybody has gone home now, and it is just me and my dear wife. I've heard people say that the sight of the car lights coming brings great joy to them, and then the lights of them leaving also brings great joy. I guess there is something wrong with me. I've never felt that way. I always hate to see them go because I know we'll be separated. Although the cell phones keep us in touch daily, still I don't get to see them. I will miss them.

As we begin a new year, I'm reminded of one of my life verses. It's found over in Philippians 3:13-14. It goes like this, "But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Jesus asks us where we're going not where we've been. The decisions that you will make about the future are much more important than what has happened in the past. I thank God that a new year marks just that. It's new! I can put my failures and what I had planned to do but didn't do, what I had hoped to do but didn't do, what I had wished I had done and failed to do, thank God I can put it behind me because it is just that, a new year. Therefore, I'm going to forget the things which are behind, and I want to push forward to the things that are ahead. I am going to press on.

I pray that you will press on with me because the Christian life is not a wind sprint. The Christian life is a marathon, and I want to join you in concluding that we want to finish well. No matter where we are in life, let's continue the marathon with the understanding that the goal and the prize are in front of us, and we will finish well. Thank God for a New Year!

Ron Long

My Eastside Staff

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“What is Normal”



As Christians, is it normal to encounter problems? Is it normal to regularly overcome struggles? Is it normal to fail? Is it normal to continue to have issues? *Just what is normal?*

Often times when we hear "back to normal" we think of things settling into a positive routine. We often aspire to define "normal" as a place where the positive routine is a haven from difficulties and pain. And if we should encounter difficulties and pain, well then those can't be "normal. But what happens is that our struggle to get back to "normal" (read "*absence of problems*") does not stop more problems from coming our way. In fact, sometimes our efforts to overcome problems only cause more challenges to come up. It's like the guy in quicksand. He thinks- "I am stuck!" So he struggles to get out. Bad idea. Struggling isn't the reason he got in the quicksand, but it will be the reason he will stay in it, if he doesn't stop.

The whole problem with all this is our definition of "normal" has somehow come to mean "without problems". We need a redefinition. God is saying this-- "let Me define normal". God, being God, has much more creative and fluid ideas than our pea brains can think. Scripture articulates "normal" in a way which seems strange to us - one day at a time. Jesus was trying to help us redefine normal when He said, "*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*" (Matthew 6:34)

Notice that God defines a normal "today" and "tomorrow" as having trouble! God also helps define "normal" by His call to live in a trusting relationship with Him and to let Him transform us amidst whatever the conditions, provision, circumstances and people are in your life. This is clear from what is instructed us by Paul: "*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" (Romans 12:2)

Don't be pushed around by the winds, but be focused on living Christ-like lives regardless of the current issue". Sometimes it will be tough, sometimes easier. The "normal" is being changed to be like Christ, in any situation. Normal is *not* "no troubles". Normal is being transformed, day to day into the likeness of Jesus. "*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Our struggles against issues are misplaced if we are hoping it will lead to normalcy. Since, in Christ, normalcy includes struggles (at least, while we're on earth). Seeing momentary victories against individual struggles as a way to make it to a "normal" life will always lead to a sense of isolation and failure, since we won't realize that we are living Christ's normal by following Him while in the struggles.

In this new understanding of "normal", we find that God's "normal" is a life where we are being transformed in the middle of our situations into the likeness of His Son.

*Don Phelps,
Pastor of Worship
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Student Ministry

Dear Eastside Family

The new year is already here! Can you believe it? I was talking recently with some friends of mine and we were saying how crazy it is that the older you get, the faster time flies (I'm sure a few of you know what I'm talking about), and we're only in our early 20's!

Of course, with a new year comes New Year's Resolutions. Some say certain things every year and they have still yet to do them. Some say different things every year and they may start but rarely finish. Some don't try at all and simply say, "They're just set-ups for failures!" In any case, we like to think that because of a fresh new start we will have the motivation and will-power to do what we've been putting off for too long. But, as we all have learned at some point but seem to forget, getting the determination to do something rarely comes from flipping the page of a calendar or watching a late-night infomercial. The kind of resolution we need to actually change something permanently comes from resolution, commitment, sacrifice, and even love. With this in mind, you might have already guessed where I'm heading with this: a resolution to spend regular quality time with the God who so desperately loves you He gave up His own Son, His own part of Himself, into the hands of murderers to be killed so that you and He could have a relationship. A real life, living, growing relationship.

Now you might be thinking that I tell you all of this to guilt you into spending time with God. You might be thinking, "I've heard it all before," or "Who are you to give advice on relationships?" Truth is, I'm a nobody. One day my bones will deteriorate and my tombstone will crumble. But, the God whom I serve... well, let's just say it's very safe to assume that His fame and glory will live on forever. His love and power is so great that He will never be forgotten. And because He is so mighty and awesome, He demands an awe and respect that we rarely show Him, even when we come together in corporate worship. Jesus told us many things while he was here on earth and because we're so good at categorizing and ranking, we've broken down what He said into what we call the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. The Great Commandment simply says to love the Lord your God with everything you are (Heart, soul, mind, and spirit. Trust me, He covered everything in that phrase.). Then He tacked on, "...and the 2nd [Greatest Commandment] is like it. Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself." Then, He goes on with the Great Commission: making disciples all over the world.

Now, what in the world does all of this have to do with youth ministry. That answer is simple too: a LOT. It'd take a fool not to see that our current generation is going downhill fast, and has been for too long. What's more, it'd take an even bigger fool to say, "I'm not necessarily responsible for that," especially if that fool calls himself/herself a Christian, a follower of Christ. You see, Paul told Titus another very simple command in his letter to Titus. He told him to get the older men teaching the younger men (including Titus himself) and the older women to teach the younger women. This principle of practical discipleship applies to us today as well. Our younger generations are leaving the Church in droves because we are not putting into practice what we've been taught because we're too lazy to do anything about it. We're too "busy" or we have too much on our plate already. No, the simple truth is: we're disobedient and don't care.

So, remember the resolutions we were talking about earlier? Well, like we said before, they won't stick without resolution, commitment, sacrifice, and love. Love for whom? God. And His sheep. See? It's all so simple. Yet so very hard. And time-consuming. Too bad we don't have a superhero or something in our corner to back us up, huh? Oh wait. We have something better. How about the God who runs the world and desperately loves you even though you're two-faced liar without a heart? Yep, He loves you so much that He is dying to let His love just flow and flow and flow straight from Him to you and through you to others. He wants to fill you with love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness and self-control and then show you how to show Him off to the world. And that all starts by loving Him with everything you are, loving others as much as you love yourself, and making disciples. And He is chomping at the bits wanting to help you do it. If that's not the craziest and most loving thing I've ever heard of in all of my long and experienced 22 years (sarcasm alert!), I don't know what is. What's more awesome is: you can start now. Just get involved! With the children, with the youth, with the college and career aged people, with the young adults, with the middle-aged adults, with the seniors. Just get involved. It'll be the best, and most successful New Year's Resolution you've ever made (God promised). So, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Caleb Halstead
Pastor to Students
1 Corinthians 11:1*





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MyEastSide is the newsletter for Eastside Baptist Church. MyEastSide is also available as a monthly email. If you would like to have future newsletters sent to you in email form, please email us at office@myeastside.net.

Service Times:

Sunday School	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:50 am
Teleios	6:00 pm
Tuesday	10:30 am
Wednesday	7:00 pm



Building our Future