

January 2021



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

*Happy* NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



**New Year's Day**

Friday  
January 1

**Leadership  
Meeting**

Sunday  
January 3



**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**Annual Meeting**

Sunday  
January 17



## ***A Note from Pastor Seth***

We just went through one of the strangest and most difficult years in recent memory. It has been interesting asking people much older than me about their thoughts on 2020. All of them said the same thing: "They had never seen a year like it." The year started off very normal in America. We heard about a virus in China but were not sure if it would make it to us. Then March came and we experienced something unprecedented in our lifetimes as the virus hit and states all across America were shutting down. At this point we did not know how serious it was. This led us to shut down for two months - something that has never happened in the 140-year history of Eureka Baptist. Once we met again the third Sunday of May it was such a delight. The Bible tells us not to neglect to meet together (Hebrews 10:24-25), and this past year we have a better understanding about how important Christian fellowship is. May we never take for granted the importance of meeting.

Now while the virus was a global issue experienced everywhere, America had more turbulence than any place on earth. In this past year more evil was advanced than at any other time in our nation's history. Frankly, I do not think many Christians understand what is coming and the fact that the evil will be directed toward us soon, and in some places this has already happened. Many churches, mostly in California, have already been fined numerous times for meeting on Sundays, while people were allowed to protest in large crowds in the same city. These protests often turned into riots where cities were burned down all over America.

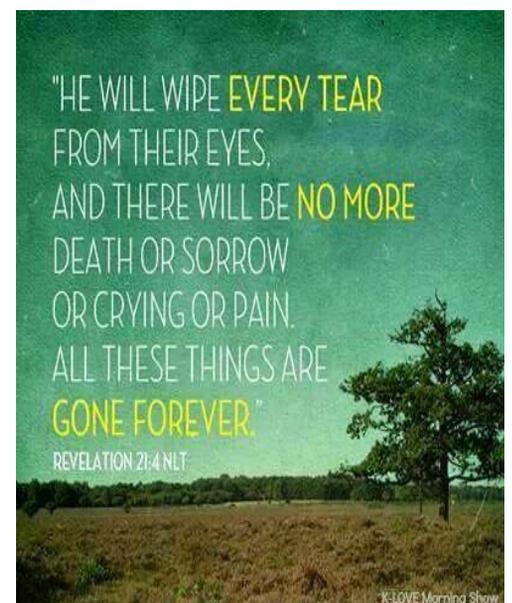
These riots all happened of course because a black man was unjustly killed by a police officer in Minneapolis. No one condones what happened to George Floyd and the officer will be sentenced, as he should, but we also saw an evil agenda at work that has aims at dividing rather than uniting our country. Instead of powerful people condemning these riots they let it happen and some even encouraged it. The ones who carried these crimes out were not held accountable. What we experienced in America was lawlessness unlike anything we have ever seen.

What Christians need to realize is there is an effort to overthrow the American system that started in 1620 when the pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock. From that point all the way to the present, Christianity has had a greater influence on this country than anything else. Now America has never been perfect, but this nation has been a beacon of light to the world. But now our country is moving away from that, and honestly this is the biggest story of 2020. Evil powers have been at work to make America into something it never was, and they have used the issues and tension of 2020 to gain lots of power. Since the beginning this country has been a friendly place for Christians because it has upheld religious freedom. If things keep moving the direction they are, worshiping the Lord in a peaceful and quiet environment (1 Timothy 2:1-2) will be a thing of the past. The godless agenda at work in America has animosity toward the exclusive claims of Christianity. Anyone who does not conform to their agenda is not tolerated, and no true Christian will conform. I write this article to warn people to the reality that is before us.

**Eureka Baptist Church**  
2393 210th Avenue  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
715-483-9464  
www.eurekabapchurch.com  
Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am  
\*Kid's Church during Service  
Sunday School: 9:00am

America was different in 2019 than it is in 2020. Call me a pessimist, but I do not anticipate that the America of old will come back. Truthfully, part of this should grieve us as the country we love is fading fast. However, every Christian should be encouraged. Every Christian that suffers for the name of Christ is blessed (1 Peter 4:12-14). The apocalyptic feel of this year also shows us that The End is near. The Bible describes times of turbulence preceding the return of Christ. We are experiencing those significant birth pains right now (Matthew 24:8) and times will be hard but the greatest blessing is that much closer. As Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). During this season may we pray more than ever the words, "Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). May we long for the day when the king takes his throne and his people live under his blessing forevermore (Revelation 21:1-4).

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Seth



# MissionMissionsreach

## **Tokar Family: Ukraine**

Like many of you, perhaps, we are looking forward to the end of what has been an incredibly difficult year for our family. This year started with travelling to the US to say goodbye to my grandma who died of cancer. Then, in May I (Josh) myself was unexpectedly diagnosed with cancer and had to make an emergency trip to the US for treatment. One surgery and 9 weeks of chemotherapy later, in October we found ourselves by God's grace on our way back home to Ukraine to continue our lives and ministry.



Throughout the difficulties and uncertainty of the past year, God has remained faithful to our family and has provided for all our needs through your generous support, prayers and encouragement. Despite the chaos, we have experienced His transcending peace in our lives.

Upon returning to Ukraine, Sveta looked forward to resuming her role as 4th grade teacher at Kyiv Christian Academy. However, after arriving we learned that Sveta's position at the school had been filled permanently instead of being subbed for as she was initially told. Since the stipend she received for teaching went toward the boys' tuition at the school, this put us in a difficult position. The school did offer us a discounted rate, but without Sveta's stipend this turned into an added expense for this school year we did not expect. We have the first couple of months covered so far but we are still uncertain about the rest of the year.

Our overall financial situation remains concerning. We are still more than \$2000/month below our budgeted need. So far, tent-making options we have pursued to supplement our income have not worked out. What this means for our future we do not yet know, but we press on in the meantime.

I am regaining strength (and hair!) and continue to lead a team of four English teachers at UETS. Sveta is substitute teaching at KCA this year whenever possible. We continue to pray and trust God to provide for our needs, as we pray also for you during these trying and uncertain times. The Christmas season is a reminder that we have much to hope for!

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Merry Christmas and a hopeful New Year!

from Josh, Sveta, Daniel, Jacob and Mark



## Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study  
 Saturday, January 2  
 9:00am



Men's Breakfast  
 Saturday, January 9  
 8:00am



## Weekly Events



Sunday School  
 Sunday Mornings  
 9:00am



Morning Service  
 Sunday Mornings  
 10:00am



Kids Church  
 Sunday mornings during  
 Morning Service

## 2020 Board Members

### Deacons

Shaun Anderson  
Gordon Trombley

### Elder

Mark Brooks

### Trustees

Randy Clark  
Shaun Anderson

### Deaconess

Barbara Trombley  
Amber Lindo  
Hansi Stridde  
Abby Swanson

### Secretary

Amber Lindo

### Treasurers

Hansi Stridde  
Abby Swanson

## Church Announcements

- You are still welcome to join us for **Adult Sunday School** at 9:00am on Sunday mornings and **Bible Study** on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm
  - Sunday Sermons will continue to be shown on facebook live until further notice.
  - **2021 Annual Meeting** will be Sunday, January 17 after morning service.
  - **Nominating Committee** – please prepare the 2021 Nominating Ballot for the Annual Meeting.
  - Thank you to **Shaila Johnson** and **Patsy Anderson** for decorating the church for Christmas. A photo is shown below. It was beautiful!
  - Thank you to all that participated in the Christmas Service.
  - Now is a great time to get involved! Join a church team!
  - Thank you to the **Kitchen Crew** for setting up and serving for the Christmas Service.
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Elias Anderson 1/5, Jeremy Hall 1/23



**Q:**

*This past year wasn't very good for me, and I can't blame anyone but myself. I know I need God, but how much do I have to clean up my life before He'll have anything to do with me? He must be very angry at me.*

**A:**

The most important truth I can tell you is that God still loves you, in spite of the fact you've spent most of your life ignoring Him. No, God doesn't love your sin—but He does love you, and He wants to forgive you and come into your life and change you.

And that's why God won't refuse to have anything to do with you until you've cleaned up your life! He knows how weak you are, and He welcomes you just as you are. If God didn't love you, Jesus Christ never would have left Heaven's glory and died on the cross for you. But He did—because He loves you! Let the truth of God's Word sink deeply into your soul: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Think of it this way. When you're sick, do you have to wait until you're almost well before you can see the doctor? Of course not. Your doctor will help you no matter how sick you are—and the same is true with Christ. Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32).

Don't stay on a dead-end road; don't reject Christ any longer. Instead, by faith turn to Him today, repenting of your sins and asking Him to forgive you and save you and come into your life. It's the most important decision you will ever make.

-Billy Graham

Verse of the Month: Matthew 9:12-13

But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."



In the spring of 2017, they actually found it. Steve McQueen's iconic 1968 Ford Mustang GT. Only traces of its original highland green paint job remained as it had sat unnoticed in a backyard in Mexico for years. Collectors had been searching for it for decades.

Of course, this is not just any old '68 Stang. This was one of the original cars used in the classic Steve McQueen film Bullitt, a film that defined "cool" for a generation of Americans.

Now, I get it. This wasn't discovering the Ark of the Covenant or the Ten Commandments, but the discovery stopped me dead in my tracks for two reasons.

First, I own a 1968 Bullitt myself. Not the original, of course, but a very close replica. You can call it my "midlife crisis!" People either "get it" or they don't. On more than one occasion, when I have parked it in the lot, I will return with two or more admirers (always guys) standing by it with lots of questions.

Secondly, this story was of special interest to me because I've just spent a year of my life working on a new biography and documentary of Steve McQueen (with Marshall Terrill).

McQueen was Hollywood's "King of Cool" for a reason. His legacy lives on in a new generation as his image is ubiquitous in culture (especially hipster culture). He also still appears in modern films like the recent remake of The Magnificent Seven. Yet, for most boomers like me, we can't forget when we saw the original version of The Great Escape as McQueen played Virgil Hilts in a role that propelled him to super-stardom. Then there's his role as the detective Frank Bullitt. He literally flies his car through the streets of San Francisco in what is regarded by many as the greatest car chase scene in cinematic history. Steve McQueen was not cool because he drove the Bullitt car. The Bullitt car was cool because Steve McQueen drove it. At the time, Steve McQueen was the number-one movie star in the world, and he is still used as a point of reference for masculinity and "coolness" to this day. He was (and is) the definition of an American icon.

Only in America - with America's dream - could McQueen transform his hardscrabble beginnings into epic stardom. Yet, until late in his life he struggled to find meaning in life, and he suffered because of it. It might have been because he was born into a home of an alcoholic mother and a father that left him early in life, but eventually he found himself on the wrong side of the law more than once. Then, as his star began to rise higher and higher he began to chase harder and harder after every pleasure this planet had to offer.

But notwithstanding all his fame and fortune, a colossal vacuum lived rent-free in Steve McQueen's heart, a yawning chasm, a lack of purpose rooted in the absence of functional, involved parents. He spent his whole life avoiding his mother and searching for his father—searching for someone or something to stand in for him, someone to love him.

He had the best cars money could buy, the most beautiful women at his beck and call, drugs galore, booze until the well ran dry, and much more.

While still the top movie star on the planet, and with all the money and power in the world, he decided to search for more than this world could offer. That was the story I was interested in, and I chased it till I found it. Everyone knew about McQueen's Bullitt! but I wanted to find McQueen's salvation.

McQueen knew he needed God, and he found his way to salvation through Billy Graham's gospel message. In fact, Billy visited him and gave him his personal New Testament from which he shared with him the teachings of Jesus.

Tragically, Steve McQueen found out he had cancer about 6 months after his conversion. His newfound faith played a key role in dealing with the hardship that was to come, and he fought with great faith and courage to the very end. As Steve's son, Chad, said in a recent interview, "I think Dad was finding his way to go to the next place. I remember, he would wake me up at seven in the morning to go to church, which never happened before he got ill. So I think he was looking for peace."

When McQueen died on an operating table in Mexico trying one last time to beat back his cancer. He died clutching the Billy Graham's bible.

He nearly missed it but eventually he found what so many others need today, especially at the heights of fame and fortune. He needed faith in God, again.

-Pastor Greg Laurie



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