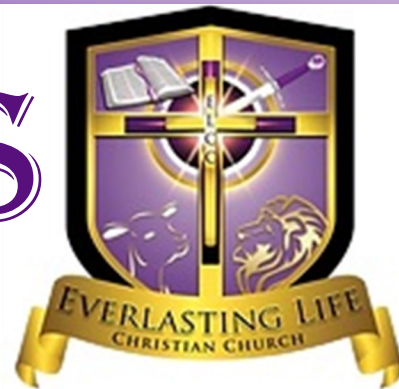


# E-LIFE NEWS

EVERLASTING LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



## WEEKLY SERVICES

- SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.  
(VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON BY REGISTRATION ONLY)
- MONDAY 7:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM
- WEDNESDAY WORD 12:00 P.M.
- THURSDAY 8:45 AM WOMAN TO WOMAN BIBLE STUDY—CONFERENCE CALL

## ABOUT US

EVERLASTING LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAS BIRTHED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 AS A SMALL CONFERENCE CALL BIBLE STUDY. IT QUICKLY GREW FROM LOCAL PARTICIPANTS TO STATE-WIDE, AND EVENTUALLY COUNTRY WIDE CALLERS. A DECISION WAS MADE IN JANUARY 2011 TO MOVE FORWARD IN MINISTRY AND BEGIN OFFICIAL INCORPORATION AND TAX-EXEMPT STATUS AS A CHURCH UNDER FEDERAL AND NC STATE LAW.

EVERLASTING LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (ELCC) DERIVES ITS NAME FROM JOHN 4:14 AND ROMANS 6:22. BOTH VERSES SPEAK OF AN ETERNAL LIFE AWAITING ALL THOSE WHO WALK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LIVE ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD UNTIL JESUS CHRIST RETURNS.

## MISSION OF ELCC

Our mission is to train, teach and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those in our community through outreach and love according to Mark 16:15-18. This involves ministry to the whole person – body, mind and spirit.

### Q: Why a newsletter?

A: To keep you, leaders, members, and donors, informed on events, to encourage you, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

“AND JESUS CAME AND SAID TO THEM, ‘ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.’”

MATTHEW 28:18

# “PRAY ALWAYS. PRAY CONTINUALLY.”

- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-17 NIV

SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION WILL BE THIS COMING SATURDAY! JULY 22ND

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
ELCHRISTIANCHURCH@GMAIL.COM



# REFLECTIONS

"THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE THESE PROMISES, DEAR FRIENDS, LET US PURIFY OURSELVES FROM EVERYTHING THAT CONTAMINATES BODY AND SPIRIT, PERFECTING HOLINESS OUT OF REVERENCE FOR GOD."

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1

## THE FEELING & EMOTIONS – OVERSEER AILEEN LYONS

God created man in His image and likeness.

Genesis 1:26a- And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. 27: So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.

Adam's transgression of God's instructions causes him to become separated from God. Meaning Adam lost his identity and is no longer in God's image. There were certain attributes like God Adam continued to possess such as his feelings and emotions.

1 Corinthians 15:47- The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48- As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49- And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

There is a place we must return and that's back in the image of God. In view of that we see, nothing showing that we continue to possess certain qualities of God. For example, God has emotions. In religious settings, in certain beliefs emotions are bad and shouldn't be expressed. But throughout scriptures in the Old and New Testaments we witness types of emotions in good and bad situations.

Some emotions cause us to do good or bad things. Some emotions cause us to say things we later regret that cause pain, heartache, and separation. In studying this I'm learning there are three types of emotions.

- Subjective experiences
- Physiological responses
- Behavioral and expressive responses

Some of us don't understand 'feelings and moods' are different from emotions. Yet, feelings are the result from an emotional experience, whereas moods arise from short lived emotional states.

Let's explore emotions because:

They are a result of how we respond to the world around us.

Help us shape who we are.

Are a part of our daily life.

Is an important factor in our quality of life.



# REFLECTIONS

CONTINUED

*"EVEN YOUTHS GROW TIRED AND WEARY, & YOUNG MEN STUMBLE & FALL; BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY WILL RUN & NOT GROW WEARY, THEY WILL WALK & NOT BE FAINT."*

ISAIAH 40:30-31

## THE FEELING & EMOTIONS – OVERSEER AILEEN LYONS—CONTINUED...

Play a vital part in our mental health and wellness.

This is a topic that's not thought of nor taught but it is important to understand how emotions work and it's okay to express our emotions.

The purpose of emotion can be described in four ways:

- Helps protect, preserve, and enhance life.
- Helps us communicate with others.
- Helps to influence others.
- Helps confirm or validate our stand.

### Love is an emotion:

John 3:16- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### Compassion is an emotion:

Mark 1:41- And Jesus, move with compassion, put forth His hand, and touched Him, and saith unto him, I will; be thru clean.

### Anger is an emotion:

Ephesians 4:26- Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down on your wrath:

John 2:15- And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; 16- and to those who were selling the doves He said, Take these things away, stop making my Father's house a place of business." 17- His disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

Each emotion operates in our old nature before our transformation and now once we are converted into our spiritual conformation.

Ephesians 2:1- And you hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins: 2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience: 3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in time past, in the lusts of our flesh, and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4:26- Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27) Neither give place to the devil.

Wherever we express our emotions, let's make sure it's not expressed to our old man before our transformation and renewed minds. Let's walk in love and allow those emotions to build up, for correction, and exhortation. To edify and manifest the purpose of God in our lives.



# REFLECTIONS

CONTINUED

"EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE  
DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT  
RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR  
GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

## YOUR ENDURANCE—YIELDS OVERFLOWING BLESSINGS

—ELCC MINISTER CARRIE WILSON

Thank God for this opportunity to share this brief word of encouragement with you today. God has brought us thus far by our leaning and trusting in Him, and not on our own understanding (Prov. 3:5). Because of your Obedience, we will be receiving an overflowing of blessings (prayer).

Endurance means getting through the trial without compromising or wavering; Webster defines it as the ability to last, withstand pain. Biblical endurance means rightly handling of God's word (using His wisdom as our guide, led by the Holy Spirit).

Endurance requires making a decision (a choice). God's way vs. My way. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways (beginning part of Isaiah 55:8). Because we are soldiers in God's army (equipped with the whole armor of God, His Word, and by using his Power (Holy Spirit), we are able to endure hardness as a 'good soldier' of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2).

There will be time on this Christian journey (all of us have had these moments, remember we are in the world but not of the world) when situations will come up, and we feel (our flesh) tell us we can't go on. Each individual's situation is different, but how we handle it is by relying on the word of God. (Philippians 4:13). I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". That's why it is important to have on the whole armor of God, which gives us the power (strength) needed to Endure, even when it is painful (Eph. 6:10-12). This Christian race is not given to the swift (how fast you can run), or to the strongest (how much physical power you possess), but only given to the ones who endure to the end will be saved (paraphrased from Matt. 10:22). Be encouraged through the message that Paul gives us in (James 1:2-3), "My brethren (sisters) count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing the testing of your faith produces patience (NKJV)." There is nothing joyful about trials, but the key to finding that joy is where we place our focus. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2). Through those times especially, God is there for us, in us, and working through us, waiting patiently to answer our cry by our reaching out to Him, acknowledging that we need him. Just realize that He is building us up in those areas that need some adjustments. Remember what I said earlier, we are in God's army, and as Soldiers, we must be equipped for "battle"! He is pruning us so that we can bring forth 'His fruits' in due season.

In closing, I want to leave you with the words from (Hebrews 10:23 NKJV), "Let us hold fast the confession of our Hope without wavering, for He who promise is Faithful. Also know that we are glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance character, and character hope (in Jesus)" (Romans 5:4).

My last scripture I want to leave you with (1Peter 5:10) NLT.

Other scripture references:

1 Thessalonians 1 – Our faith in Christ Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-2 – Lay aside all things that hinders you from running the race.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 – The importance of those who run also finishes the race.

Galatians 6:9 – Do not grow weary in well-doing.



# REFLECTIONS

CONTINUED

“FOR WITH GOD NOTHING  
SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE.”

LUKE 1:37 KJV

## **GOD USES THE FAITH OF ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS —EVANGELIST SOPHIA BOUKNIGHT**

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. (Hebrews 11:31)

God, for the beginning has always had compassion on the weak, the lowly at heart and the downtrodden, especially those who exhibited so much faith in Him. He employed unlikely people to do extraordinary things. Often, the outcast was embraced, the sinner was chosen, and the “labeled” was marked by God for a divine purpose.

The Bible says we are a peculiar people (1Peter 2:9). As believers, we are “God’s own special people.” We are often referred to by the world as odd, strange, unusual and even different and that is okay because we have been “born again of the spirit of God, believing in Christ for salvation gives us the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). Luke 11:11-13 lets us know: “If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him!” The truth is the God of Rahab will always take care of His own.

For example, how is it that the two Israelite spies, sent by Joshua to search out the land of Jericho, went specifically to the house of Rahab the harlot. It makes perfectly good sense that they would lodge at a house located on the wall of Jericho—for strategic purposes, however, it doesn’t make sense that they chose to lodge with a harlot.

Looking at the commandments of God, a harlot would normally have been avoided at all cost. Yet, against all of our rationale, God chose Rahab to help His people, and eventually become part of the lineage of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 1:5.

God’s character is amazing and the testimony that he leaves behind for us is so powerful! He truly sees past the physical and straight to our heart. God looks for those who will be faithful to Him, and often finds them in the most unlikely places. Admit it or not, God had to reach way down into the dirt, the mud, and the mire to get some of us to where we are today. He saw our hearts and where faith the size of a mustard seed could take us. He does not sleep nor slumber (Psalm 121:3-4)

According to 2 Chronicles 16:9: “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”

By faith, Rahab risked her own life to help the spies escape. It was her faith and belief in the Lord that saved her and her whole family. Unlike the other inhabitants of Jericho, the miraculous things she had heard about God spurred her to action.

“Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men: “I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.” (Joshua 2:8-11)



# REFLECTIONS

CONTINUED

“AND WE HAVE SEEN AND TESTIFY THAT THE FATHER HAS SENT HIS SON TO BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.”

1 JOHN 4:14

## GOD USES THE FAITH OF ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS —EVANGELIST SOPHIA BOUKNIGHT—CONTINUED...

In holy fear of the Lord, Rahab acted in faith. What she heard about God was enough to mellow the heart of a harlot. Instead of closing the door on the spies, she allowed her reverent fear of “God in heaven above and on earth beneath” to motivate her.

We can learn a lot from Rehab. The point is for us is to let a holy and reverent fear of the Lord motivate our service to Him and energize our heart to give Him all of the glory. Always remembering what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. We may not have an illustrious title in front of our names and folk may know and have said some bad things about us, but God knows every heart today and is still doing amazing things in the lives of ordinary people.

As children of God, our faith requires us to put aside our will and boldly decree “Not my will, but your will be done in my life!” I challenge each of you: Dare to be ordinary! Dare to have faith! Dare to have a holy fear of a holy God! Dare to cast aside your will, Dare to get inspired to serve God more abundantly! and watch new things begin to unfold in you and your entire family. All He wants is for us to have faith in His Son Jesus—the kind of faith that leads us to do great things for His glory for ever and ever Amen!

“WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED, NO ONE SHOULD SAY, “GOD IS TEMPTING ME.” FOR GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED BY EVIL, NOR DOES HE TEMPT ANYONE; BUT EACH PERSON IS TEMPTED WHEN THEY ARE DRAGGED AWAY BY THEIR OWN EVIL DESIRE AND ENTICED.”

- JAMES 1:13-14

## PRAYER FOR THIS SEASON

*Thank You Lord for giving us time to reflect on this life that we have been afforded. We know each breath we take is a blessing. Give us wisdom in our actions, our words, our life and how we represent you. You are perfect in all your ways and we need your help, forgiveness, and strength to conquer each day. We lean on you, the author and finisher of our faith. Thank you for being our strong tower, our refuge in time of trouble and in time of peace. You give us purpose. We will take each experience we have to glorify you. We will not be ashamed and afraid, we will be bold and free. Your name is more important than our name. Your sacrifice was and is more than any ‘sacrifice’ we could ever offer. We will still offer our life as a living sacrifice and look forward to the eternal reward you have promised us. Dear merciful Lord, have your way, work it out like you always do so well. Thank you for your faithfulness and never failing, even when we fall short. Selah.*



## **PASTOR WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT & STATE OF THE MINISTRY - PASTOR STEPHEN & CYNTRIA LYONS**

**We are officially half-way through 2023 and 2024 will be here before we know it! The beautiful thing about this fact is that God has been with us every single step of the way.**

I am pleased to announce that in mid-June our church's Site Plan was conditionally approved by the Town of Fuquay-Varina. What this means is that there are some minor updates that need to be made to the plans before the town puts their final stamp of approval on them. We're believing God that by the next newsletter this phase will be complete, and we'll have the Site Permit in hand.

Next, we will submit our Building Plans for approval to the Town. We hope this approval process will go a little quicker than the Site Plan. My goal is to have the Building Permit by end of this year (December 2023). I also plan to begin reaching out to Lenders again in September for construction funding. We came so close in 2022 to securing funding, and unfortunately this just wasn't our time. But I believe 2023 is our year! Please keep us in prayer as we continue to raise funds towards our \$65,000 goal (we're over half-way there!) and we believe God for full construction funding by end of year!

I believe that by this time next year (July 2024) we'll be in our own building. This would not be possible without your help, contributions, and liberal giving. I want to thank all our members, tithers, guests and visitors who have and continue to give and sow into the vision.

**We begin a new pledge in April that will run through the end of September. It's not too late for you to make a pledge and become part of history in the making. Use the Contact Form on our website to let us know you're interested in participating and how much you'd like to pledge. Any and all amounts are appreciated.**

I started a series back in June 2023 entitled "Giving God's Way: Cheerfully & Generously." The foundational scripture for this series is 2 Corinthians 9:6-8,

"6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."

There's many of takeaways from this passage of scripture. Here's a few I want to leave with you.

- 1) Our crop or harvest is based on not what we plant, but how much we plant and where we plant. Everyone who plants in the Body of Christ will reap a harvest, but how much we reap is dependent on where we plant and how much we plant (our generosity).
- 2) We must ALL decide in our hearts how much we're going to give. Giving should be intentional and from the heart. God knows what each and every one of us can and is capable of giving. Remember, "giving" is a form of Worship and though it's FOR the Church, it is between you and God.
- 3) God loves those who willingly and cheerfully give towards Kingdom work and in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 4) When we give generously, God provides generously ALL we need so that we just don't have enough for ourselves, but we have some "left over" to share with others. This is a perpetual principle that will hold true as long as we continue to do our part, God will continue to do His.

**I believe we're in a season of surplus and a season of sowing. Our harvest decades from now will depend on how we sow the surplus and increase God has blessed our households with today. Don't miss this prime opportunity to sow into the Kingdom of God. This series has truly been food to my soul. I have been blessed by the reports and testimonies I've heard from others, and the good thing about this is I'm convinced that God isn't finished! Remain obedient and let's see this thing all the way through to the end!**

