



### What Now?

*From the desk of Pastor Samuel Blakey*

There have been many times over the years when I have used the phrase “What now?” Every time, I used it at a time of negative uncertainty. Something difficult or devastating had just occurred and I was completely unsure about what could possibly come next. My prayers in those situations were very similar: “Lord, what are You going to do here after this happened? Is there some miraculous way that You can turn this around or make it better?”

We’ve gone through a season like this as a church. The upheaval of losing one pastor and waiting through a search for a new pastor has certainly felt like regular uncertainty. What is the Lord’s plan for Eastridge? How will He bring us through this season to work out that plan and conform us into the image of Christ? By His grace, we have been able to see many answers to those questions, and we stand near the end of the tunnel, ready to walk into the light and celebrate the arrival of Pastor Kempiz and his family.

Just because we’re coming out of a season of uncertainty, however, does not mean that we need to stop asking the question “What now?”

True, we tend to think of that question negatively (“What could possibly come next after this terrible thing?”), but I would argue that we can now take that question and look to the future with eager expectation! Now that we’ve seen the Lord’s goodness to us in this hard season and His guidance out of it, what’s going to come next for us? If He was able to work in us during the last year, how much more will we see Him work in the coming years?

Asking these kinds of questions can help us develop a more consistent attitude of dependence on the Lord. We know that it is much easier to turn to the Lord in prayer when times are hard and we feel our need for Him. Perhaps asking what the Lord has planned for us in seasons of prosperity can continue to draw our attention to our need of Him. Consider the words of King Solomon:

*In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him. (Eccl 7:14)*

God has determined both good days and bad days. We do not know when we will experience which because we are not in ultimate control of that decision; God is. We don’t know what will happen in the

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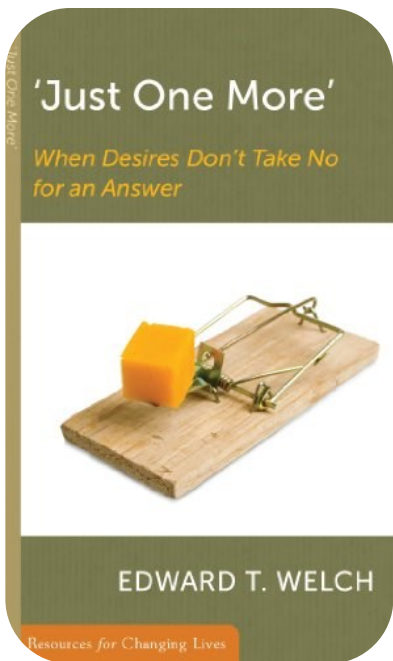
next hour with absolute certainty, but God does. He uses even the good days to remind us that we need Him!

So, as we enter a new season as a church, one that promises to be more joyful than the recent past, let us consider asking with eager expectation, “What now?” Who knows what joys, ministry opportunities, and other blessings await us soon. Let’s be ready for it!

Suggested listening: Downhere, “For Life”; “For the Heartbreak”; “Living the Dream.”

# Just One More: When Desires Don't Take No For an Answer

A book review by Danielle Jensen



Unfortunately, struggling with a desire that does not take no for an answer, also known as an addiction, is not uncommon. We all have desires, but Ed Welch poses the question: are we in control of the thing we desire or does it control us? In his book *Just One More*, Welch offers a biblical perspective on the cause and solution for addictive behavior.

Giving into desires follows a particular cycle; imagining what we want, craving the thing we want, saying yes to what we want, and then, being satisfied by what we want. However, the problem with sinful desire is that it never truly satisfies — we just want more. Routinely giving in to this pattern shows us that we have an addiction. Addictions survive in secrecy. Therefore, being honest and sharing a struggle with someone you can trust is key. James 5:16 says, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed...” Sin thrives in the dark, bring it into the light!

Welch makes the case that addictions are a spiritual problem. Yes, they are physical too, but they are spiritual at their very core. It can be hard to see

because someone who is addicted feels out of control and often does not want to be stuck in the cycle anymore. However, addictions do not just happen. We choose them and then, eventually, the desire chooses us and we feel enslaved. Welch describes this as voluntary slavery.

The struggles in our life always point back to our relationship with God. There could be a few different heart idols at the root of addictive behavior such as a desire to be comfortable. A strong love for God is the only motive that will replace a heart idol like comfort and will sustain lasting change. I loved Welch’s point that God has the right to just command obedience. Instead, God woos with love and motivates us to change by showing why He is *better* than the thing we think will satisfy. Isaiah 55:1-2 says,

*“Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is  
not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.”*

God’s richness truly satisfies, when earthly cravings never will.

Please grab this mini-book, *‘Just One More’: When Desires Don’t Take No for An Answer* in the foyer to check out Welch’s four step plan to address addictions.

For a more thorough discussion of this topic, check out Welch’s book, *Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave: Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel* or talk to an Eastridge Biblical Counselor.



# In the Lord we are glad, for the birth of a sweet little lad!

## Nathan William Mickelson

was born to Daniel and Christina Mickelson on Saturday, April 22! Nathan was born as 9lbs and 5oz of sweet blessing to the Mickelson family, and they give praise to God for his safe arrival. Big brother Joshua and sisters Alyssa and Katelyn are eager to show their littlest sibling the ropes and cover him in love. Please be praying for this family of six as they adjust!

Nathan is also the seventh grandchild of Bill and Cathy Mickelson and fourth grandchild of Brian and Loye Reas.



Celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14!

## Poetry by Susan Rehberg:

### TELL ME, MY LITTLE ONE

Tell me, my little one,  
will you ever outgrow your need for my love?  
Will your little hand grow too big to rest securely in mine?  
Will your heart grow too hard to be softened by my touch?  
Will my shoulders grow too old for your tears?  
Will my eyes grow too feeble to enjoy your smile?  
Tell me, my little one,  
will you ever outgrow your need for my love?

*She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
And the teaching of kindness is on  
her tongue. Proverbs 31:26*

SusanRehberg

# Devoted: Great Men and their Godly Moms

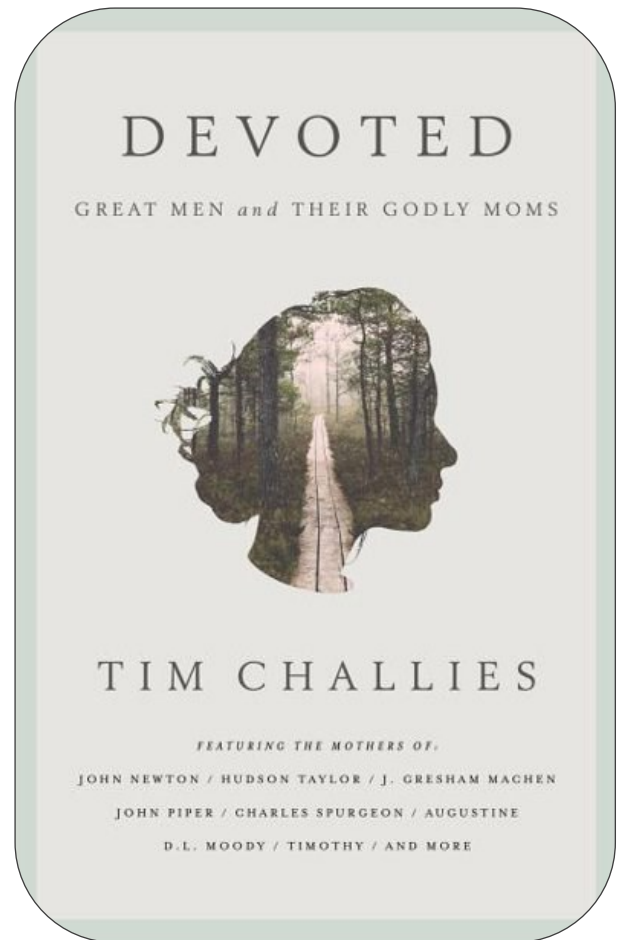
A book review by Jennifer Swenson

What is a mother? Today, that can be a loaded question. It is crucial that we do not listen to the messages our culture shouts in all its depravity. As believers, we must turn to the Word of God to answer that question. For example, in Proverbs 31:25-29, Solomon describes a mother as one who is clothed in strength and dignity; she opens her mouth with wisdom and teaches in kindness. She cares for her household and is not idle. Her children will rise up and call her blessed. Proverbs 6:20-21 calls children to not forsake their mother's teaching. Solomon admonishes children to heed their mother's teaching and to allow her instruction to guide them where they walk, watch over them while they sleep, and minister to them while they are awake. Isaiah 66:13 talks of a mother's comfort. Titus 2:4 instructs the older women to teach the younger women how to love their children. Proverbs 29:15 discusses the importance of a mother's correction lest her children bring her shame. 1 Thessalonians 2:7 displays the gentle nurturing of a mother. Motherhood is a high calling and comes with great responsibility. A mother is called to instruct her children in all wisdom, to comfort, love, correct, nourish, and point them to the cross and the riches of the Lord Jesus Christ's saving grace. As a mother of four, I depend utterly on the grace of God moment by moment as I undertake this challenging call.

Recently, I read Tim Challies' book, *Devoted: Great Men and Their Godly Moms*. His book features the mothers of several great men throughout church history, such as John Newton, William Borden, J. Gresham Machen, John Piper, Charles Spurgeon, Augustine, D.L. Moody, Timothy, and more. While these names are well-known, the instrumental influence of their mothers is not. Challies takes the opportunity to introduce the mothers behind these great men and describe their strength, surrendered hearts, tender training, grace, prayerfulness, patience, and hard work. These men "were shaped by the attentiveness and godliness of their mothers" (p. 6). From the earliest days in church history to recent centuries, Challies demonstrates how the biblical instruction, constant prayers, teaching, and examples of these godly mothers shaped some of the most influential theologians, evangelists, preachers, and defenders of the faith.

The book is a compilation of blog articles from Challies.com and includes "A Mother's Reflection" and "Reflection Questions" with the help of Rebecca Stark and Melissa Edgington. These two sections make the stories personal for readers, inspiring them, challenging them to grow as mothers and encouraging them with the godly examples of these women.

This was certainly true for me. Before reading this book, I often found myself discouraged when I did not see the fruit of my labors or feel that I was getting through to my children, I often asked myself if I was making a difference. Was I impacting my children's lives in the day in and day out teaching, and reading of the Word as





I pointed out their need for the cross, the importance of repentance, and God’s grace to forgive? Reading *Devoted* challenged this type of thinking and I realized that I should lay that worry down. My job is to be obedient to the Word of God and do the work He called me to do. The rest is in God’s hands, and I need to rely on the work of the Holy Spirit in my children’s lives. “[All I] really need to do is love God’s Word and live by it” (p. 123).

Challies’ book shows us how these women took the truth of God’s Word and “shaped the men who changed the world” (p. 7). The pages of *Devoted* answer more than the question, “what is a mother?” It answers the greater question, “what is a godly mother?” and then shows how godly mothers can influence their children’s lives and impact the world. This book is on my must-read list for all moms.



**VBS Side Note:**

Each year during VBS, I have the opportunity to lead the Snack and Story station. During our story time we look at the life of a missionary, and this year we will look at four different men from *Devoted*. We will discover the ways God used each of them to advance the gospel message as well as their mothers’ influence in their lives. I look forward to sharing the stories of these men and how they heeded their mothers’ instruction and allowed it to guide them, watch over them, and minister to them.

# Vacation Bible School 2023

## GAME ON!

***Discovering the One who  
brings victory***

**Monday to Thursday, June 26–29**

**6:30-8:00pm**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Anchored</i> Workshop (@ Blakeys')	<b>2</b> 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	<b>3</b> <b>6:30pm Adventure Club</b> 6:30 Men's Discipleship Group 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>4</b> 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	<b>5</b> 6:00am Men's Discipleship Group 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>6:00pm Prayer Meeting</b>  <i>Anchored: Post-Prayer Meeting Fellowship</i> (@ Blakeys')	<b>8</b> 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Anchored</i> Workshop (@ Blakeys')	<b>9</b> 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>11</b> 1:30pm Missions Prayer Ministry (@ Alaire's)  5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	<b>12</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study  <b>6:30pm Men's Ministry Event: Breakfast for Dinner</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Mother's Day!</b>	<b>15</b> 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Anchored</i> Workshop (@ Blakeys')	<b>16</b> 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo  6:30pm Elder Meeting	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	<b>19</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>20</b> 9:00am-2:00pm Church Workday
<b>21</b> Annual Business Meeting	<b>22</b> 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Anchored</i> Workshop (@ Blakeys')	<b>23</b> 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>25</b> 5:00pm Youth Bible Quizzing	<b>26</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>29</b> 2:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30pm <i>Anchored</i> Workshop (@ Blakeys')	<b>30</b> 5:00pm-8:30pm Taekwondo	<b>31</b> 6:30pm Youth Group			



**Birthdays**

- Andrew Watson 5/1
- Isaac Hayward 5/1
- Grace Rutherford 5/2
- Keren Goheen 5/3
- Alex Lege 5/3
- Mark Yarnold 5/4
- Gabriela Ramos 5/4
- Sarah Watson 5/7
- Debbie Thompson 5/9
- Jean Foster 5/9
- Kimberly Bonar 5/13
- Levi Hammett 5/16
- Emma McArdel 5/20
- Mila Kukhar 5/21
- Rebecca Pogue 5/23

- Diane Carlton 5/24
- Ai-Lin Eng 5/25
- Nathan Bonar 5/25
- Mike Freeland 5/25
- Erin Freeman 5/25
- Peaches Sandelius 5/26
- John Rutherford 5/27
- Karen McArdel 5/29

**Anniversaries**

- Chris & Tammy Jensen  
5/5
- Mark & Cathy McMinn  
5/20
- Brad & Amy Meeuwse  
5/12
- Vlad & Irina Schedrin  
5/25

**Church Workday**

Saturday, May 20 @ 9:00am - 2:00pm

Join us as we finish spring cleaning for our church grounds at our final spring workday! Help us spruce up the church campus in time for Pastor Kempiz and his family's arrival! Refreshments and lunch will be provided, so please sign up at the Welcome Table or on Realm (Events).

For more information, contact Cherryl Boston at [crboston12@gmail.com](mailto:crboston12@gmail.com).

**Looking Ahead at Eastridge  
June 2023**

- |                       |                        |                     |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday, June 4        | Monthly Prayer Meeting | 6:00pm (Auditorium) |
| Mon-Thurs, June 26-29 | Vacation Bible School  | 6:30-8:00pm (EBC)   |

**July 2023**

- |                |                        |                     |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday, July 2 | Monthly Prayer Meeting | 6:00pm (Auditorium) |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|

**August 2023**

- |                      |                        |                     |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday, August 6     | Monthly Prayer Meeting | 6:00pm (Auditorium) |
| Mon-Fri, August 7-11 | Youth Summer Camp      | @ Double K Retreat  |



Men's Ministry Event:

# Breakfast for Dinner

Friday, May 12 @ 6:30pm

**Come join us for a hearty meal,  
fellowship, and devotional.**

As the first half of the Men's Ministry calendar wraps up, we want to connect with other EBC men about our mission to inspire one another to grow in the Lord and to be godly leaders.

Contact Greg Goheen  
for more information:

[greggoheen@gmail.com](mailto:greggoheen@gmail.com)

**Please RSVP on Realm (Events)  
or at the Welcome Table.**



**EASTRIDGE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH