

ECBC QUARTERLY

THE JESUS PLACE

FALL 2025 | ISSUE 4

ECBC Turns 7!

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Electric City Baptist Church

The Jesus Place



Electric City Baptist Church
Est. 2018

7TH ANNIVERSARY

Seven is the number of completion. A stigma exists around what theologians have called numerology. What one man sees as confirmation another finds superstitious.

There is credence to both of these views. Jesus tells us that all of the Old Testament speaks of Him. This can seem not to be the case when you read. And Paul tells the Athenians in Acts 17 that ***"I perceive that ye are too superstitious."***

These two extremes aside, it is clear that God measures completeness in sevens, and He does this throughout the Scriptures.

Before I point out the meaning of sevens, I must first put on display that our God is a God of completing. Philippians 1:6 teaches this clearly:

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Furthermore, Paul teaches us in Colossians 2:10 that ***"Ye are complete in Him."***

God finishes to completion every work He starts—you, the believer, in particular. He will complete the work in you, and He will see you through all kinds of adventures, whether they be stormy weather, shipwrecks, snake bites, spiritual attacks, temptations, hardships, trials, or triumphs.

He will especially see you through church plants. This anniversary is the perfect time to plant a church as we reach our personal seven. It is fitting that we are launching into our "parent season." God is bringing us to completion.

Now, what's the deal with God and His sevens? Throughout Scripture we see God working in sevens. He says about His word, in Psalms,

that it's been ***"purified seven times."***

We see in Genesis, after creation, that God ***"rested on the seventh day."*** In Revelation, there are seven churches, seven angels, seven vials, and seven bowls.

In the book of Exodus, God commands the release of any servants in the seventh year. And after seven times seven years comes the Year of Jubilee in the book of Leviticus.

In what looks to be God's favorite month, the seventh month, He instructs His people to have three celebrations—the Feast of Trumpets, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Day of Atonement. And in what could be the most famous "seven" of them all, Jesus teaches Peter to forgive ***"seventy times seven."***

God works in sevens. Now whether or not this is superstitious, I want to remind you that God completes every single thing He starts. He is the author and finisher of your faith, and there is no person and no thing that can complete you outside of the God who completes.

God finishes to completion every work He starts—you, the believer, in particular.

On ECBC's seventh birthday, I praise the Lord for beginning this work. And I ask you to join me in excitement to see how He completes it.

Pastor Anthony

Our church family shares testimonials

ALEX AND CAT KOWALSKI

We had been looking for a church family for many years that not only fit closely with our understanding of Scripture and doctrine, but also where we could fit in, find legitimate friends who shared our faith and our interests, who were genuine towards us, and we could talk about deeper, often controversial subjects most churches shy away from, with not only other congregants but also church leadership. ECBC became that place.

KANDI BLACK

ECBC is a unique experience, packed full of joy and love—in heeps! We celebrate God's incredible works in us and through us, the triumphs, and the trials that got us there. We pray hard for one another and even harder for those who are not saved ... YET. There is no better place to get your "feet wet" (in baptism) than with a family who truly loves the Lord Jesus!!

CAM MCLEOD

The welcoming arms of the ECBC body have changed my life for the better really quickly. I'm so happy to have given my life to Jesus with the lovely brothers and sisters at Electric City.

DAVE STORM

I have been at ECBC for almost five years now. It felt like home from the start for me and my children. ECBC is a welcoming community with solid Bible teaching centered on Jesus.

SALLY HELLER

I am so glad that I started coming to ECBC because I have had the opportunity to work and learn from so many caring people. I thank you all so much!

ERIKA GOODMAN

We were church shopping after our tight-knit home church disbanded following the pastor's death. ECBC was recommended to us, but I wasn't able to find a sermon online to see if our

WHY WE LOVE ECBC

values lined up, so we had to visit. I was impressed that you read directly from the Bible in service, but more so that you prayed and the pastor knew everybody's names, adult and child alike. We are one big "Eclectic" City Baptist family. Anthony also opened the church to us when we had no power and offered to bring a generator over if National Grid didn't get it straightened out soon.

CHRIS AND LESLIE HOPKINS

We enjoy our relationship with ECBC. It is biblically based, has great Christian fellowship, has many opportunities for all to get involved, and last, but certainly not least, our son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren attend, and it's a joy to see them in service to the King.

SETH CRISS

It's pretty neat. I guess I'll stick around.

MICHELE FELICE

I love ECBC. It means LOVE to me. Because we are trying so hard to be a church that is pleasing to God and working to glorify Him in all we do. It's real. Not fake. God is there with us and HE is LOVE!

APRIL WOOD

I visited ECBC several times and could see Jesus each time. ECBC has a strong leadership. I appreciate the empowerment of men here. It healed a part of me that I didn't know needed healing. I have seen no compromise of his word. I see the fruit of the spirit and I see the heart of God. There is a strong vibration of growth and purpose forming in this church. I see humble servants with strong resolve that I know I can learn from.

DARREN AND REBECCA CARUSONE

Darren and I were walking down Hamburg Street when we saw the sign "Electric City Baptist Church." I said, "What a strange name for a church. We

should visit." The rest is history. From the first time we visited, we could sense this was a different church from the others, and that's what we were looking for. We wanted a community that we could grow in our faith with, and that's ECBC.

TAMMY WESCOTT

ECBC is a family-friendly church, meaning the family of God. It is not easy to just slip in and out, as you will most likely be greeted by somebody, whether you are an extrovert or not! It goes beyond a greeting, more like a getting to know you, with a mix of laughter, and leaving with the feeling of belonging to a community of believers.

JAIME HEATH

I think Electric City is amazing. We have a great pastor. God knitted together this faithful group of believers that truly walk in friendship on a daily basis. I'm personally thankful that He chose this church as the one I walked out the beginning of my salvation in. I'm really excited for the church plant!

MIKE GILE

The main thing that attracted us to ECBC is the heart of our people. When we arrived almost four years ago, Pastor Anthony was already well into building a culture of faith and camaraderie. It has been our personal experience that one of the most detrimental things in the life of any believer is that of complacency, as Keith Green described as being "asleep in the light." To know and be known is the longing of every human soul, and this is not only in our relationship to God, but with one another. This only happens with frequent deep interaction with God and man. While we all have walked different paths on the way here, we now walk together, all seeking to know God better, to encourage one another, and to spread His word together.

ABIGAIL HOPKINS

We had some church hurt, and we were struggling to find a place. When I came here, Pastor Anthony just read straight from the Bible and talked about what it said. It wasn't a motivational speech or one verse that he wrote a sermon off of. He just read the word, as it is written, and preached it as it is. I had never seen or heard that before. That was really important to our family, and that's why we kept coming back. We've been here for five years now. The way Anthony works with and builds up the men has grown and changed my husband and has made a huge impact on our family.

KYLE CIRA

When I first visited ECBC I was shocked. People going out of their way to greet me, people genuinely excited to fellowship with one another. It was like the people at this church actually loved one another. Coming from a church multiple times the size of ECBC, I was used to coming and going on Sunday with little acknowledgment of my existence once I made it past the greeters at the front door. ECBC turned expectations upside down and aligned them with what Jesus said we should expect in fellowship with Christians. This church has a shepherd that stands on a strong book and preaches about a strong savior.

SCOTT HULSEAPPLE

ECBC was not the church I was looking for. But I'm glad I found it.

CINDY GILE

Since going to ECBC, by the leadership examples, I've learned to pray more for people in church and become involved in their lives. I love that we sing, worshiping God boldly, and that worship time is authentic and not a show.

A TIME TO SHARE

By Cheryl Hulseapple

Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash.

How do we know when it's time to share our thoughts or our writings? When someone outside of us invites us or asks us to, it's a good indication.

On a monthly basis, our church has what is called "share week." Pastor Anthony invites a few regular members to come forward before the sermon and share something they learned while getting into God's word.

Daily bread

I was reading in the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. When I came to the ending of Jeremiah, I felt dissatisfied.

In the final chapter, there were no cross references given in my study

Bible to point the reader to the New Testament. Yet the book ends with a story of hope. Something seemed to be missing from the study notes.

The last four verses tell us about Evil-merodach, the king of Babylon, and how, in the first year of his reign, he **"lifts up the head of Jehoiachin,"** the king of Judah, who sits in prison after 30 years in captivity (52:31).

Evil-merodach—whose name, appropriately for Israel, means "foolish is thy rebellion"—brings Jehoiachin out of prison. The evil king speaks kindly to him and sets Jehoiachin's throne above the thrones of the other kings of Babylon.

The last verses (33–34) tell us the king gives Jehoiachin new clothes. And he also gives him **"bread before him all the days of his life," ... "every day a portion,"** a **"continual diet ... until the day of his death."**

I see hope in this ending of Jeremiah. I see the Lord's grace and provision for his people. I see daily bread.

How could there be no references to the New Testament, I wondered? No reference Bible provides every possible reference, nor can it, but I wanted acknowledgment of what I was seeing in God's word. If I could see our Lord and Savior in the story, why didn't the reference notes point to Him?

Drawn to Him

Sometimes the Lord wants us to go seeking for Him. Through our longing for Him, He draws us to Himself. John 6:44 says being drawn by the Father is the only way we can come to Him. I think that's exactly what's happening at the end of the book of Jeremiah.

When we see that the prophet's writings continue in the following book, the book of Lamentations, the unsatisfying ending of the book of Jeremiah makes more sense and becomes more hopeful.

Lamentations could be called the book of "deep dissatisfactions." The word "lamentations" means "to mourn aloud," or "to weep and wail."

The ending of Jeremiah therefore leads us directly into his next book and the prophet's lamentations, to what he calls his **"sorrow unlike any sorrow"** (Lam. 1:12).

The book reveals the Lord's sorrows over His people, who were taken captive when Jerusalem was cast down in punishment for its sins. Toward the end of Jeremiah (51:63), it says:

"And it shall be, when thou has made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it in the midst of the Euphrates."

So final! So seemingly hopeless!

Jehoiachin himself may have felt as if he were thrown into the depths of the sea when he spent 30 years in prison.

I think of where else we see the number 30. Jesus, our great High Priest, was 30 years old when He began His ministry on earth. Numbers 4:3 tells us this is the age when priests became qualified to serve.

Seeking hope

Many at ECBC have heard my testimony. I was saved during the summer of 2020, at the height of the

lockdowns. At that time, Scott and I were separated. I lived alone in a studio apartment. And my employer had sent everyone to work from home.

My single-room apartment became a prison. I could no longer go into the office and work among the people whom I thought were "my people"—editors and writers. I felt trapped in solitary confinement, chained to my laptop, and only able to communicate through cameras and microphones. And I could see no way to free myself.

My sorrow at that time felt "unlike any other sorrow" that I had known up to that point. I had to admit that I was not in control and that someone else was.

After many years of going my own way, I came up empty of myself, and I turned to the Lord.

Crying out to God

In Lamentations 1, Jeremiah calls Jerusalem **"the city that sits solitary."** He says the city **"weeps alone in the night,"** that **"she has no one to comfort her,"** and that all of her friends had left or betrayed her.

"Oh Jerusalem!" the Bible says in Matthew and Luke. **"Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."**

In my own time of emptiness, I thought God was pointing to my empty apartment. But I ultimately learned that he was pointing to the desolate house of my marriage.

Sometimes the Lord wants us to go seeking for him.

In Lamentations 2:19, Jeremiah calls Jerusalem to **"arise, cry out in**

the night:... pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift thy hands to the Lord for ... life."

When I finally lost hope in myself, only then did I turn my face to the Lord. I became ready to know Him, and I said, "God, what have you got?"

His mercies

I started reading the Bible, and within three weeks, I got saved. The Lord answered me. Through His word, he taught me about the gift of His Son, about who Jesus was, and what He had done for me.

What could I do but fall on my knees in surrender, just as Jesus surrendered to the cross?

The book of Lamentations, like the book of Jeremiah, ends with a bleak message. Its final verse says, **"But thou [O Lord] hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wrath against us."**

Even so, Lamentations gives us hope. We find it in the middle of the book. Chapter 3: 22-25 say:

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

When you are in the midst of your sorrows, remember to seek the Lord, and he will answer you.

Have you written a share that you'd like to be considered for the magazine? Send 750-1,200 words to thejesusplace@outlook.com.

ELDER'S

CORNER

Getting to know the new elders



MIKE GILE

My goal as an elder is to see people break through boxes of religiosity and continually receive increased healing, freedom, and fullness in Christ.

TIM DOREMUS

I see myself as part of the old guard of the church, protecting against any new wind of doctrine that might lead fellow saints astray, watching over the next generation and standing on the teaching of "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."



OLD LION YOUNG LION

First airing on WPTR in late 2023 and debuting this past spring on the Alive Radio Network, *Old Lion Young Lion* is a weekly podcast hosted by the young lion, Anthony Stafford, and the old lion, Sam Hazleton. Now in its third season and available on most platforms, the show combines bold and often unpredictable takes on enduring Bible truths and trending spiritual controversies. The old lion leans a little

bookish, and the young lion bends a bit bombastic, but together they deliver a fast-paced 30-minute show that is informative and entertaining, and that glorifies the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Subscribe through YouTube or your favorite podcast app, or listen live on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on WPTR 1240 AM and 97.1 FM, or at 10:30 a.m. at aliveradionetwork.com.

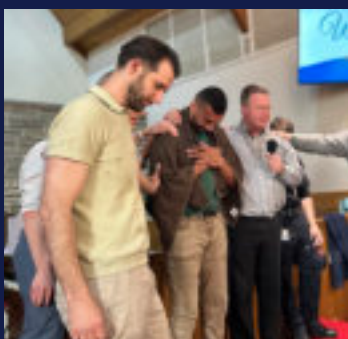
A YEAR OF WEDDINGS

Two became one ... eight times

And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.
—Mark 10:8



From top left: Derrick and Elizabeth, Jeremiah and Alyssa, Dave and Bibiana, Denny and Cortez, Cody and Caitlin, Dave and Selma, Daniel and Teju, and Kyle and Hannah (along with Nate and Dee).



The Gospel Is Found in the Word of God

God provides the answer to reconcile
your relationship with Him.

1

RECOGNIZE YOUR CONDITION

Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

2

RELIGION AND GOOD WORKS ARE NOT THE ANSWER

Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 2:5

3

JESUS PROVIDES THE WAY

John 14:6; Romans 5:8

4

BELIEVE AND RECEIVE JESUS

John 3:16; Romans 10:13; John 1:12



THE GOSPEL

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