



On the Edge

February 5, 2009

**“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap
(a harvest) if we do not lose heart.”**

Galatians 6:9

Are you weary? The world around us today saps our emotional, physical and spiritual strength doesn't it? But, God is faithful and we belong to Him! We are discovering this truth in the **EKG: The Heartbeat of God** study we are doing over these next 40 days. It is good to know we serve a God who is greater than financial distress, has the power to mend broken relationships and is stronger than our biggest fears. We may be weary, but our Lord will bring His harvest if we do not give up! I want to encourage you today to continue in your 40 day study and be consistent. God is teaching us about His character and His nature of love for the world. He is showing us how we are a treasured possession in His kingdom and the impact we can make in the troubled world in which we live. You have a glorious purpose that the Lord has created you for. Trust Him to guide you and your family in His ways and to bring a real harvest of blessings into your life! **Don't give up, give it to God!**

Our Vision Team had an excellent meeting last month and the Lord is revealing several new partnerships for River's Edge to explore. We hope to partner with Suwanee Elementary School, Angel Food Ministries and become an Adoption Hub Church for Bethany Ministries. I appreciate our Vision Team's direction and leadership. Please pray for the team as they prepare a path for the church's future.

Get Connected! Ministry Team Sign Up has begun! There is a display table in the entrance hall of the building that has places for you to commit to serve on a Ministry Team. Every person at River's Edge needs to be serving. Simply ask yourself two questions: **What do I enjoy doing?.....What am I good at?** Let the Holy Spirit lead you to become involved in one or more of the vital ministries of the church. Every ministry team is important and everyone needs to be involved! Have you gotten connected yet? Do it today!

Praying in FAITH is a discipleship Bible study that will begin on **Thursday, February 26th at 7:00 pm.** It is a part of the FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy and we will use it as a main vehicle for outreach this season. Come join us for bible study and then visits in the homes of prospects, members and special ministry visits. It is open to High School students through Adults. You can become a vital link to so many who are lost without Christ and without a church home. Pray about being part of FAITH.

Thank You Awana leaders! I appreciate our Awana leaders for their tireless efforts to reach boys and girls for Jesus. You folks are working hard and staying the course and I love you for it. Just a note to all the leaders: we have begun a special prayer time before each Awana meeting at **5:55 pm** in the Awana circle. This prepares us for a great Awana night and the possibilities to share Jesus with the children. Also, Commander Doug Linnell and I will be attending Commander College 201 in a couple of weeks. After this conference, we will have a special meeting with all Awana leaders to share what we have learned.

Sunday School is alive and well. At River's Edge, small groups are about Sunday School. Our morning Bible Study groups are doing well and we have had great attendance this year. Thank you Bible Study leaders for doing such a wonderful job in preparation and teaching. All of our classes are going strong, but we still have needs for team teachers in at least 3 of our classes. If God is leading you to be a teacher in training, contact me and I will get you connected to the right teaching team.

Security can never be taken lightly as we care for children, teenagers and adults every week. Our Vision Team has made a very proactive decision to promote the use of background checks for everyone who works with children at River's Edge. We have signed up with an organization to do the checks for us and we will be supplying the release forms in the next few weeks to begin the process. We need everyone who is presently working with children to give us three things: Your full name, date of birth and present address. This is all the information that is needed. Why would we do this? As our world becomes more dangerous, River's Edge needs to be above reproach as a church family. We need to have the highest standards of care for our children. This action instills a sense of confidence in us and shows that we can be trusted by families to leave their children in our care. The cost of each background check is \$10. If you can help us with this cost it will be greatly appreciated. The important issue here is that we can tell anyone that our folks have been checked and are clear of problems as it pertains to working with children. Let's make security a real blessing in our church family.

As the new year progresses, it is important to mention the need to be faithful in tithes and offerings. For the church to continue to grow in ministry we must continue to grow in our stewardship. Thank you for being so faithful in these first four years of the church's life. I am asking everyone to just be consistent in giving. The financial times are tough for all of us, but our God is up to the task of supplying your family's needs and the needs of His church. **Please continue praying and giving consistently in 2009.**

Two dates to put on your calendar:

1. **Paintball Palooza 2** will be Sunday, February 22nd at 2:00 pm at the Ryan's. Everyone is invited.

2. **EKG Celebration Weekend** will be March 14-15, 2009. Saturday, March 14th at 6:00 pm featuring Rev. Danny Jones, pastor of Northlake Church in Gainesville. Sunday, March 15th at 10:45 am featuring Kerry Jackson, creative artist and NAMB missionary. Make your plans to be in both services!

Remember, don't give up.....we will reap the harvest!

I love you all,

Pastor Stephen