



emmanuel faith
community church
honoring God by living like Jesus

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September 6, 2016

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers during my recent time away on sabbatical. Marsha and I had time to rest and reconnect with our extended family, as well as get reenergized and re-envisioned for the next chapter of our lives and ministry at Emmanuel Faith. I so appreciate your faithful support of all our ministries during my absence. Well done!

Now that I'm back, I'm thrilled to be starting our next teaching series I've entitled "Beyond!" We're going to hear from the Lord how each of us can deepen his/her own personal faith, as well as how EFCC as a whole can have a greater impact by "training our church family, serving our community and changing our world." I pray you'll join us for each one of the teachings in this series.

God has used EFCC for the past 77 years, and He's calling us *beyond* that to a new and greater impact. **Our 2020 Vision states it this way: "EFCC will be a church that risks using all means to invite people of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds into a life-transforming relationship with God through Jesus Christ."** To fulfill that vision, we have to go beyond what we're presently doing, especially in our ministry to children.

From our history we know that children and youth ministries are "growth triggers" for the whole church, as parents tend to go anywhere that ministers to their children and grandchildren. When we reach kids, both from within our church family and in our local community, we tend to reach their families as well. This is why we built the Children's facilities first on this campus in the early 1970s; why we paid cash for our Youth Center back in the 1980s; why we built Mission Hills Church with a preschool, and why we've developed plans for constructing a new Children's facility as part of the Master Facility Plan for our campus.

Here are some of the specifics: The Board of Elders has estimated that the financial need for Phases 1 and 2 of the Master Facility Plan will be about \$24 million. Phase 1, which includes the new Children's Ministry Center (with room for a preschool) and the required campus-related improvements, will cost around \$14 million. The goal is to meet this financial need over a three-year giving period ending December 2019. As of September 1, 2016, the Beyond Fund has received approximately \$1.6 million in direct donations and fund transfers. (Thank you!) Our hope is to raise an additional \$2.4 million before the end of this year to help secure a favorable short-term construction loan so we can begin building as soon as possible.

My heart aches for this next generation as we're in a battle for their minds and souls in a culture that has rejected the Scriptures, and as a result, is growing more and more morally dark. **Our children and youth need our best efforts, resources and technologies to be trained in the Holy Scriptures. Beloved, we can't lose this fight! Will you join me in helping us reach and train this next generation for Christ? Our goal is to have**

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100% of the church praying about the new ministry spaces and the lives that will be impacted for Christ.

As you pray, ask Him, *"Lord, what do You want me to do financially to help fulfill Your vision for EFCC?"* I hope and pray you will!

Please join me for one of our special Vision Events coming this fall! This will be a unique experience where we'll hear stories of what God has done through our ministries, and share in more detail about what we envision for the future of our church. Space is limited, so please register soon at www.efcc.org/vision-events.

As we pray, let's remember Ephesians 3:20-21, ***"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."*** It's thrilling to think how God will answer our prayers!

Together in His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Dennis Keating

P.S. More information is available at www.efcc.org/beyond. If you have questions, please email beyond@efcc.org.