



AMELIA PLANTATION CHAPEL

Footprints

Monthly Newsletter

April 2021

Content

Easter Egg Hunt Cont. Board Splinters	002
Footsteps of Paul	003
I Shall Come Again Edson Mutungi	004
Edson Mutungi Cont.	005
Easter Baskets	006
The Music Of Life	007
Bicycle Ride	008
The Praying Life	009
Augenblick	010
Chapel Events	011



A Letter From The Pastor

Easter Egg Hunt

BY CONRAD SHARPS

It's been several years now but I doubt I'll ever forget the morning of that particular Easter Egg Hunt. As the children arrived they were escorted into the fellowship hall, while the senior high students diligently hid the Easter Eggs in varying places of difficulty for discovery. We were only forty minutes from the opening of the doors to commence the egg hunt when the youthful volunteer in charge told a group of adults standing nearby that she thought we'd love the change she made in our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Naturally our interest was piqued enough to ask, "What change?" Whereupon, she informed us that she believed the gross over-commercialization of Christmas and Easter had detracted from the true meaning of our celebrations. Therefore this year she had placed in the plastic Easter eggs small scripts of various portions of scripture relevant to the resurrection of our Lord.

At first, there was general agreement that this was a good idea, until we discovered that these passages of scripture were not included with the candy — but rather replaced the candy in the eggs. There were fifty excited children about to scramble for eggs that contained, not candy, but small pieces of paper with passages of scripture that most children were too young to even read.

This is when we panicked! One very wise elder made a quick trip to the grocery store, bought up every available plastic egg he could find along with bags and bags of candy. It was a team effort but in less than thirty minutes

Continue to page 02



Continued: Easter Egg Hunt

we inserted the candy and distributed new eggs to supplement those already scattered with scriptures.

It was quite a sight to watch the children hunt these eggs. But I took note that as they opened the eggs containing scripture, the Word of the Lord quickly went its way, often hitting the ground and sometimes even blowing away in the gentle warm breeze of the day.

Naturally, there are many different lessons one can learn from this experience but I wonder if we might for a moment consider what we often do when presented with the precious gift of the Word of God. Indeed on Easter, Christians all over the world will be reminded that the tomb is empty; Christ lives! But what will we do with this good word? Will it be precious enough for us to hold onto, sweet enough to nourish and enrich our lives and important enough for us to share with others? Or will it be something that we release to the winds of the day only to strike the ground of insignificance in our lives?

The reality is, we're not children. The Word of God has come to us. Christ is risen! But what does this mean to you and me? Will we allow the resurrection of Jesus Christ to inform and direct our lives completely or is it just candy for our ears?

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

Board Splinters From March 2021

BY STAN WILSON,
BOARD PRESIDENT



Some highlights from our Board meeting on 18 March 2021

1. Plans are still in place to have an Easter sunrise service at the Omni Magnolia Gardens. No reservations are required. We approved a greater number may attend the two Easter services at the Chapel.
2. The Board approved the request for the choir to resume full membership to sing at the first service.
3. Treasurer reported that our giving this year continues to mirror last year's giving at this time. We are on target to meet our budget goals. Our Stewardship campaign was successful in accomplishing our goal.
4. Christian Education asked for permission to open the Library at certain times throughout the week and in between services on Sundays. This was approved. Vacation Bible School this summer was tentatively approved pending the progress status of the pandemic.
5. Fellowship asked for guidelines for opening the Fellowship Hall between services and for other events. It was decided to wait until early September to resume fellowship time. The summer picnic and Men's Breakfast resumption was not approved at this time.
6. Pastoral Care asked that the mission of Petal Pushers be resumed. This was approved.
7. Worship Chair asked for guidelines for seating during the two church services. The Board approved a larger number of people to be seated.



Footsteps of Paul

BY DON EDWARDS

With Great Expectation and Joyful Anticipation, Jeanette and I will lead a group of pilgrims to experience a spiritual journey of faith walking in the footsteps of Paul. Last year's trip was postponed after the announcement of Covid. Two years ago we took over 30 members of the Chapel to Israel and had a life-changing experience. As of now we have 15 people who are planning to take this trip of a lifetime and we have room for more. Many have been confined to their homes during this time of isolation of Covid and are ready to experience new adventures and leave this past year behind.

The trip to Greece will include in the first five days touring the cities of Thessaloniki, Philippi, Neapoli, Berea, Meteora, Delphi, Corinth, Cencreae, and Athens. Then, everyone will board a cruise ship to discover more Greek cities like Piraeus, Mykonos, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini, and then on to Ephesus, Turkey. Our professional tour guide will

explain the Biblical relevance of each place while touring famous basilicas, museums, monasteries, and famous ruins of Ancient Greece. It is a wonderful thing to travel with fellow Christians in the Chapel and, as the group found that went to Israel, it brought many new friendships. This is another great opportunity to unite as a church and to discover God's love by learning about the New Testament and seeing the lands where the first churches were established in Greece and Turkey. In Acts 20:24 Paul writes, "But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful Grace of God." The trip dates are October 5-14 and brochures are available in the narthex. If you have any questions and are interested in going, please call Don at 904-554-2934, or donedwds@ameliachapel.com.

“ *But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. Acts 20: 24 NLT* ”



Edson Mutungi

BY LEE MULDER



I first met Edson Mutungi in 2005, a skinny kid with curious eyes. Since then, thanks to his sponsors, Edson has grown into exactly the kind of strong, educated, God-loving adult Juna Amagara intends for all its children. This is his story. For more information on Juna Amagara, visit www.amagara.org.

“When Juna Amagara brought me in, my life changed! They have given me a reason to live and to keep working hard to make my life better.

Hello, I am MUTUNGI EDSON, I was born on December 26, 1993, the seventh child into a family of eight children. When I lost my dad in 1999, we remained with our mom, who was also ill. We sold our land to support ourselves and to get treatment to save her life, but she passed in 2002. After that life became complicated without enough land to support the entire family. When my two older sisters married at an early age, the family was scattered and only four of us remained at home. We would go to dig for food, and sometimes I would go with my brother to request food from family friends. Life was hard and there were days without eating anything. When I was in primary two, my youngest brother went to live with a family friend, but I remained.

God was watching over me. Through the connection of a family friend, one day I was picked up and taken to Mbarara. My sisters sent me with my paper bag, barefooted, and with torn clothes. It was my very first time riding in a car. The next day our friend took me, with my paper bag, to Juna Amagara Ministries. It was 2004 and

Continue to page 05

I Shall Come Again

BY JANET MCGUGAN



And I shall come again unto the World to gather My flock to Me and there shall be judgment upon the Earth for all who have turned from Me, For I AM all Power, all Might and all Glory.

I AM pure light and I have manifested Myself in each one of My Children. You each bear My Mark. I pour great Love out upon you and I shall gather you up in the end days and keep you safe with Me so that no harm may befall you.

Be cautious; discern what is going on around you for everything that occurs on the Earth has its purpose in Heaven also. Always remember that whatsoever you loose on Earth shall be loosed in Heaven.

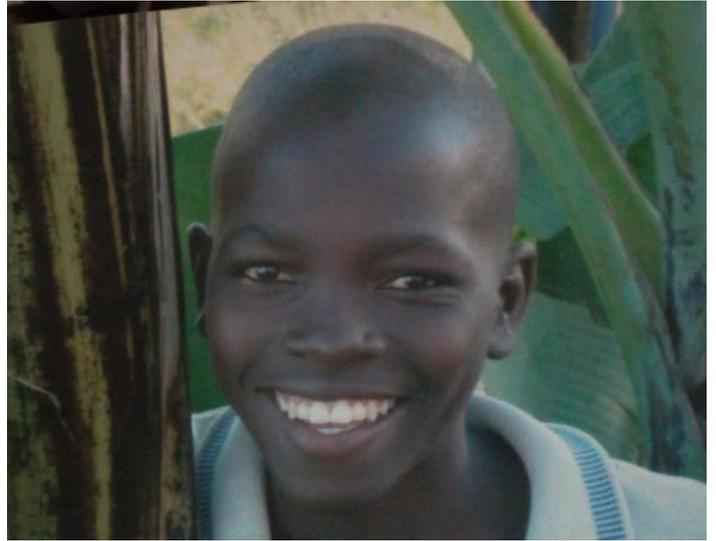
Trust in Me in all things and stay close to My Words for you for the End Times are upon you, the time is ripe. I AM approaching, the pillars are shaking, only the Rock shall remain.



I was 11 years old. I was so surprised that the lady there already knew my name. She welcomed me, showed me my room, and told me to rest and then bathe. I never rested, just went to bathe and found new clothes and sandals on my bed. She told me they were mine. She also gave me food and later in the evening other children came with Uncle Herbert. There were 14 of us at the house. Since then, I was treated as a son . They gave me food, clothes, shelter, education and health care; they gave me everything I needed.

When my education started, I was able to finish primary seven, then later secondary school at Kishanje Highlands High School for my ordinary level. I passed and went back for senior five and six, which I also passed. In 2016, I joined Bishop Stuart University for a Diploma in Business Administration and then went back for my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an accounting option, which I completed this year. I have successfully passed and will graduate on March 26, 2021! God used my sponsors in mighty ways to provide the financial resources, the prayers, and the encouragement along the way to make this possible. (THANK YOU!)

Juna Amagara Ministries groomed me into a God-fearing young man. This has helped me build my dream to venture into different businesses and also to become an accountant as my profession. I thank God for everything that has happened to my life because of JAM and the caring and loving



people that I have passed through their hands and that they have kept on trying for me to make sure that I achieve my dream. Great thanks to my caretakers, teachers, and sponsors for the love.”



Easter Basket Ministry, Thank You!

BY CLAUDIA SMITH

Once again, our Chapel family has shared Jesus' love and compassion with young people in need. Thank you to all who donated to, helped assemble, or helped deliver 100 Easter baskets for our Nassau County Schools Homeless Children. Thank you to Angie McClellan and Judy Hall from the Homeless Student Families in Transition program who coordinate and oversee services for families, so the baskets are available for these precious children on Easter morning.

Baskets were prepared for 4 groups, ages 3-18. Baskets included Easter story and activity books, New Testament Bibles, Christian bookmarks and bracelets, cross necklaces, Bible verse coins, stuffed animals, school/art supplies, games and toys, personal care items, and treats to eat. While we are not able to measure the impact our gifts have on homeless children and their families, we do have Jesus' assurance that some of the seeds we sow fall on good soil, are nourished, and multiply. That is good news!



The Music Of Life—Power And Joy Of Music

Some Personal Convictions

BY BILL HILLES

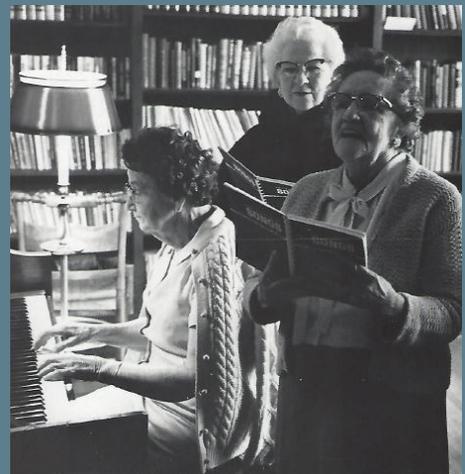
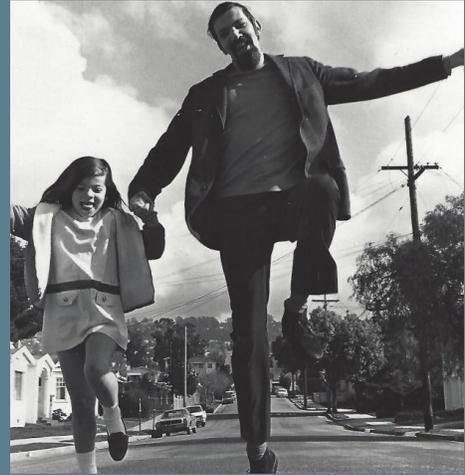


John Pearson and I sang together in the Men's Glee Club at Duke University. I learned of his passion for photography. He gave me a copy of his book featuring his Music of Life photographs. Throughout the volume, John's love of music is obvious in his pictures and in his apt quotations. He wrote about the "Soul's Own Speech."

God gave men speech in the common way;
For the deeper things men think and feel,
God gave the poets words to reveal; for the
heights and depths no words can reach, God
gave men music, the soul's own speech.

John lives in California with his wife and daughter—all relish the joy of music and it shows in the happy actions of those around them. He joined his mother and friends as they participated in a family hymn sing. And, on the street he showed joy as he frolicked with his daughter.

Contemporary music editor John Cage said it well, Everything you do is music and everywhere is the best seat.



Bicycle Ride By The Sea

BY JENNIFER ST. CLAIR



We humans do so love routine schedules. Whether or not there's any validity to this notion that a set repetitive daily pattern keeps us orderly and helps prevent chaos in our lives, well, many would agree it truly does. I, for one, admit anticipation of daily beach walks and bike rides excite me to no end. This part of my daily schedule provides inspiration for the remainder of the day.

And while there are other interesting routes to venture on my bike rides with new places to see and people to meet and greet, I find myself taking the same route every day for the most part. I simply enjoy being able to view the ocean as I ride and pass by the "Church by the Sea" with its towering steeple topped cross. An additional wooden cross beyond stakes itself next to the dunes, adorned with yellow and red daylilies plus space for two concrete benches. Many prayers lift to the Heavens from this peaceful spot.

As for me, I always sing: ***"At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow...Every tongue confess him, King of Glory now...'Tis the Father's pleasure...We should call him Lord... Who from the beginning was the mighty Word."***

The interesting thing is, I continue hearing this song play in my head long after I ride past the church!!! Guess that's a pretty good thought to take center stage of one's thinking given the 'wandering' nature of human minds.

The Bible says in Philippians 4:8:
"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

And so it is...Hallelujah!!!

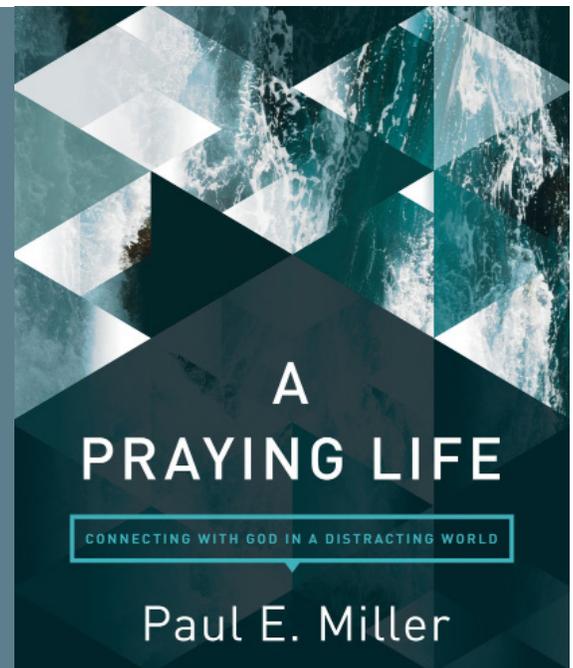




The Praying Life

Connecting with God in a
Distracting World
By Paul E. Miller

BY CAROL ANN MCKAY



"If you are tired of rote prayers that stop at the ceiling, or if you have suspected that God was on vacation somewhere, this book may change your life." Steve Brown, Reformed Theological Seminary

Author Paul E. Miller has penned numerous acclaimed books, as well as serving as Executive Director of seeJesus, a global discipleship mission which he founded in 1999. The mission is to help Christians and non-Christians to "see Jesus." Today, seeJesus is working in over 30 countries and has books and interactive Bible study materials translated into more than a dozen languages.

The author never intended to write a book on prayer; he simply discovered that he had learned how to pray. His wife, a colleague, and a friend urged him to write, suggesting that he begin each day by writing. So, he wrote. He wrote for

Christians, for those struggling, those who pray badly, those who don't pray, and all who long to connect with their heavenly Father.

Mr. Miller notes that we are busy people, endlessly focused on accomplishing more and more. It seems, that most of us just don't find the time to pray, resulting in lives troubled by fear, anxiety, joylessness, and spiritual lethargy. Relationship with God is the goal of prayer, and Jesus encourages us in Revelation 3:20 as he describes the intimacy He seeks with us. He talks about joining us for dinner. A praying life feels like having dinner with good friends. It is the way we experience and connect to God, and includes helpful habits and approaches to prayer that enable us to return to a childlike faith.



Augenblick - The Gospel of John

BY JOE MARASCO

When studying a foreign language, one frequently comes across a word that catches his/her attention. With me, it is the German word “augenblick,” (eye glance) meaning “glimpse.” Many of us have studied the Gospel of John in Community Bible Study this year with relish and great joy. The Gospel is rich with theological insights as John, “the favorite disciple,” tells the passionate and evocative story of Jesus and his ministry.

John starts with the affirmation, John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Jesus was there in the beginning! All things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made.” John then gloriously tells the story of Jesus’ ministry and ends with a simple statement, John 21: 23 - “Now there are also many things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”

John reminds us that his narrative and the other Gospels are simply an “augenblick” (glimpse) into

the rich story of our faith. Paul and other New Testament authors added to it. Indeed, many faithful men and women have expanded on the story of Jesus throughout history.

We are blessed to have so much written about Jesus from which we can learn and grow in our faith. We are even more blessed to have the power of the Holy Spirit in us every day to guide us and lead us. The Holy Spirit fills in the blanks that our “augenblick” misses. The Holy Spirit is our great gift from God.

These words from the Gaither hymn, *Because He Lives*, say it well:

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because he lives.*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.



Chapel News

April 2021

Holy Week Services

***All services will be livestreamed except for out Sunrise service at the Omni Magnolia Garden. ***

Maundy Thursday, April 1 - at 5:00pm

Good Friday, April 2 - Chapel office will be closed
- 5:00pm - The Trial of Jesus
presented by Buddy Jacobs

Easter Sunday, April 4 - 7:00am Sunrise service
- 9:15am at the Chapel
- 11:15am at the Chapel

The Chapel Library

The Chapel Library is now open during regular business hours, closing from 12-1 for lunch, as well as between services Sundays for you to come and enjoy.

Sunday Service Reservations

If you want to attend the 9:15am service please call and RSVP by Friday at noon each week to be placed on the list. If you attend the 11:15am service, we do not require reservations.

The Footprints of Paul

Join Pastor Don Edwards as he leads a group through Greece and the paths that the Apostle Paul walked! The trip is planned for October 4-15, 2021. There is a flyer with more detailed information in the narthex or contact Don with questions.



Amelia Plantation Chapel

36 Bowman Road, Amelia Island, FL, 32034

Phone:
(904) 277-4414

Email
kayla@ameliachapel.com

Writers

Conrad Sharps
Stan Wilson
Don Edwards
Janet McGugan
Lee Mulder

Claudia Smith
Bill Hilles
Jennifer St. Clair
Carol Ann McKay
Joe Marasco

