

## EDGEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH

1401 W. Hollywood Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60660

September 24, 2008

### A Letter from the Interim Pastor

Dear Church Family,

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (I Cor. 1:3).

Joge and I are both very excited for our return here to Edgewater Baptist Church! Having a firm belief in God’s providence, we take comfort in the fact that God is the One who has brought us back to EBC. While in the South, we found our thoughts drifting frequently toward the corner of Glenwood and Hollywood.

Joge and I would like to thank all of you who have helped us adjust to this new ministry. I could not thank everyone by name as there are so many of you who, even just by greeting us, have made us feel at home once again.

It is a great desire of mine to preach and teach the Word of God. I am honored and humbled by the task before me and appreciate your prayers as I begin as Interim Pastor here. “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1a). It is here, in God’s Word, that we will find the energy and compassion to encourage each other as Christian believers. The Scriptures clarify our roles and responsibilities as we seek to follow the true Leader of our church, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:15-16).

As we prepare for the next Senior Pastor at EBC, I will seek to help in any way that I can. Toward this end, please join me in reading through the passages for our current sermon series on “Famous Psalms”<sup>1</sup> and, beginning in November, our “Elevation” series covering the well known Sermon on the Mount.<sup>2</sup>

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you at Edgewater Baptist Church. Please feel free to contact me at the church or by using the new email address below.

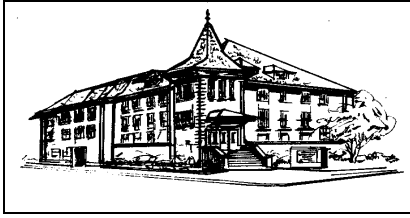
Grace and peace,

Jon Butler  
Interim Pastor  
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<sup>1</sup> Psalms 1, 8, 23, 42, 131, and 150

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 5:1-7:29

*“The GIFT of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*



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### A Letter Regarding My Role in the Army Chaplain Corps

Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, I have been training during the past few summers in various places as an Army Reserve Chaplain Candidate. Lord willing, I plan to continue ministry with the US Army Reserve as a Chaplain, after the accessioning board meets in November. For clarification, it looks like I will be deployed overseas sometime next summer. There is a full-time training period which would take place, beginning in early spring. I will know more details as this time approaches and as I transition into a position of a Unit Chaplain.

I welcome your questions on this subject as it is a complex reality of our lives. Joge and I firmly believe that this is a much needed ministry that we have been called to as well as a commitment that needs to be fulfilled. Personally, this will be a very challenging experience, as overseas duty requires family separation. Please pray for us as we travel down this path and that we would both be used by God during this difficult time for military families.

The Baptist General Conference (Converge Worldwide) has endorsed me for this ministry. I would invite you to view my time in the chaplaincy as one of partnership in the Gospel with you here at EBC. Chaplaincy has often been seen as “home missions” and for many reasons could even be called “cross-cultural ministry.” Please join me in prayer over the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead as we continue to dialogue on this topic.

Thank you and God Bless,

Jon Butler  
Interim Pastor  
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“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you” (1 Thessalonians 5:28).

*“The GIFT of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

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