



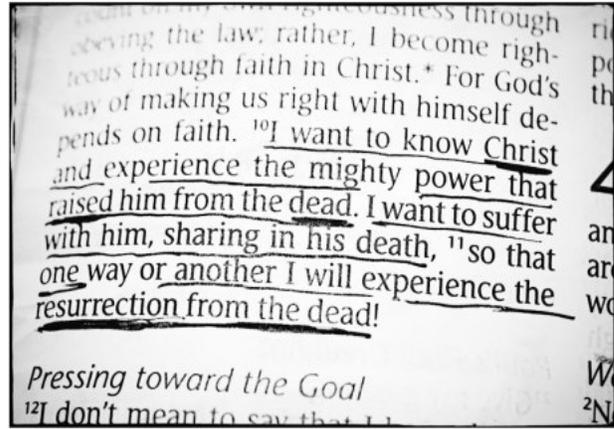
From Death Comes Resurrection

**“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”
Phillippians 3:10-11 (NIV)**

For four years I have seen death and near death. Churches who were worried about their future. Pastors in pain and sorrow. Bills that were due without money in the bank. Lost relationships, betrayals of trust, and angry outbursts. Declining attendance. I have seen pastors and churches make difficult decisions, choosing to let “pleasing everybody” die. They gathered together in prayer to listen for what pleases the Lord. Life emerged out of these places. Becoming like Christ in his death meant letting go of the expectations of others. Church communities and pastors fell on their faces before the Lord to find his will and to humbly share it with each other.

Life has emerged! There are many things I could name: new programs started, increased engagement in churches, increased courage in leaders. But at the core of what I've seen is a renewed love for God, for his people, and for the world he created. Radical hospitality, healing presence and strategic compassion are springing up because of the centrality of Jesus' life in our lives.

I know this will continue in even greater ways as Evana moves into its next chapter. My wife Sheila and I are now joining the rest of you with a primary focus on investing in the local church



as the central experience of Christ's body on earth. We will restart/replant a 165-year-old Mennonite congregation, Clinton Brick Church, with the new name of 2nd Acts Church. We are grateful that this resurrection is happening because of the way you have all mentored and taught us about what it means to boldly follow Christ.

So many times as we have searched for God's direction, we went down pathways that suddenly seemed to close. It was tempting at those times to force an outcome or find a safer way. But when we were diligent in continuing to seek the Lord, we saw even better pathways that we wouldn't have found without the travail.

I've shed some tears as I think about this chapter coming to a close. Although it's not really a goodbye, I will miss seeing many of you as frequently as I have. I'll miss the opportunity to see life emerging in so many ways in so many different places. But I'm not ending with regret; I'm ending with joy. What excites me is the life and resurrection continuing to emerge! May God richly bless all of you in your journey!

~John Troyer

Evana Team Updates

Spring is here and with the changing season comes changes for us at Evana. Here are just a few personal updates from our team.

John Troyer will end his time as Executive Director at the end of April. He will continue serving as Regional Pastor with two congregations in northern Indiana. He and his wife Sheila have started a new leadership development business, Thrive Leadership Center, and they will be pastoring and leading a new start for Clinton Brick Church in May.



"I've been thrilled to see Matt stepping into this role as Executive Director," Troyer says. "It has been great to see him lay the foundation for his priorities, and I believe Evana will have a bright future under his leadership. I have so much to be thankful for as I reflect on the opportunities I've been given and relationships that have developed."

Matt Hamsher has been phasing into the role of Executive Director, but he will officially take the reins May 1st. Longenecker Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship will hold a farewell service for him April 28th. Currently, Matt has been looking for an executive assistant and is in the final stages of procuring an office space for his Evana headquarters in Ohio.

Director of Church Development, Wes Furlong will be relocating to Asheville, North Carolina this summer to be closer to family.

"Both sides of our family are nearby," he says, "And it seemed like a good time to make the change." He and his family will be moving in early June, and as always he welcomes Evana pastors to visit. "We have room, southern food and hospitality waiting. Just need a short heads up that you're on the way."

Wes will continue with his same travel schedule and his work with the same initiatives within Evana. Currently, he has been establishing a coaching network to expand and customize our resourcing. He will be introducing a few new opportunities this fall, including some regional events and short-term intensives based around the feedback we have received from our pastors.

Steve Nelson, an associate pastor from Lower Deer Creek Church in Iowa, has been elected to fill out Matt Hamsher's term on the Evana board. He has started this month and will fill out the term to the next delegate's meeting in 2020.

We are excited for the new season here at Evana and the new resources we will soon have available for our pastors and churches!

You're Invited!

The Ohio Evana churches would like to invite all of the greater Evana family to **Regen-al**, a ministry conference to be held at Kidron Mennonite Church **June 29th and 30th**. This event is for the entire family and features keynote speakers Gil and Marketo Michel. Ohio Evana churches are covering the cost of the conference, and lodging will be available at Camp Luz and surrounding hotels for individuals and families to purchase. All are welcome! More information to come!
(*This is a separate event from Evana's biennial Regen conference with the next Regen happening summer of 2020.)