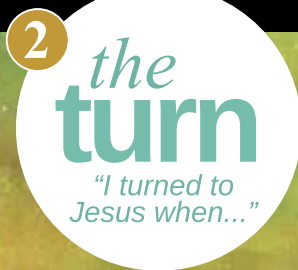


# share **YOUR** story



## #hopeforafool



**MARCH 25–APRIL 1, 2018**



## The Vision

We've been looking for ways to use social media as an outreach tool to our community. Here are some statistics: 7 out of 10 adults in the United States are regularly active on Facebook. 3 out of 10 are active on Instagram. If we want our community to know the good news that we have—our hope in Jesus—then we need to go where people are. And most of the people in our community are on social media.

## #hopeforafool Outreach

### Did you know Easter Sunday 2018 falls on April Fools Day?

We want to put a positive spin on the "April Fool" connection and reach out to our community during the Easter season. We crafted a theme based around Pastor Scott's Easter message, the story of The Thief on the Cross. In the book of Luke, we are told of the thief hanging next to Jesus on the cross—reaping the consequences of his foolish choices. But then he turned to Christ and found hope! All of us can identify with this story. We realize our foolishness, we turn to Christ, and we find hope—sometimes over and over again—as God works in our hearts and grows us toward maturity. Could you share a story about a time like this in your own life?

Some people believe church is a place where everyone "has it all together." We want our community to understand that church is where broken people come to find healing. Imagine the impact of multiple stories popping up in your friends' social media feed the week before Easter: stories about God working in lives and bringing hope. Can you imagine the possible impact if people in our community hear our collective testimony?

**Will you join us?**

*We realize our  
foolishness, we turn  
to Christ, and we find  
hope—sometimes  
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hearts and grows us  
toward maturity.*

*Easter* **APRIL 1, 2018**

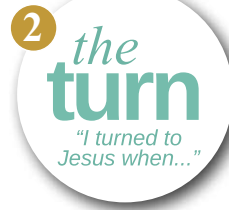


EAST WHITE OAK BIBLE CHURCH

**ewo.org**



## Tell your story in three sections:



### Laurie's Story

"There have been many times in my life when I acted foolishly but college was the worst. Some foolish decisions I made back then impacted my life in a myriad of ways. Every decision and action has a consequence and my life was forever altered from a decision I made in 1983 to terminate my first pregnancy. My conscience was telling me abortion was wrong but like a **FOOL**, I chose it anyway."

→  
"I was a fool  
because..."

"5 years later I hit rock bottom. I was experiencing severe post partum depression after the birth of my daughter. I felt that God was punishing me for what I had done to my first child. But then my sister shared with me that there was no sin so horrible that God could not forgive. She told me about Jesus – that He had taken up MY guilt and shame and died on the cross so that I could be forgiven. The Bible says in Psalm 103 that as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. I **TURNE**d to Jesus and repented of my sin of abortion and asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. "

→  
"I turned to  
Jesus when..."

"That day in October of 1988 I placed my **HOPE** and trust in Jesus Christ. No longer did I want to live for myself but for Him. I can't fully explain it, but what happened to me was REAL. I was forever changed because I said yes to Jesus. I opened my heart to His love, grace, and forgiveness. Since that day almost 30 years ago, I have felt such peace, joy, purpose, and **HOPE**. No longer do I struggle with shame and guilt. What He did for me, and countless others, HE CAN DO FOR YOU too."

→  
"My hope is in..."



→  
hashtag and link

#hopeforafool Learn more at [ewo.org/easter](http://ewo.org/easter)

## In a technological world, become a social media ambassador.

"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law...that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law... that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings." 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (ESV)

## Alex's Story



"I was a **FOOL** because I grew up in the church, hearing about God, but wanted nothing to do with God. I experienced sexual abuse as a small child, but instead of turning to God for healing, I turned ever more inward. I was great at covering it all up—my hurt, my sin, my unbelief—and from the outside, I looked great. Some might have even used me as the exam-

*"I was a fool because..."*

ple of what a "church kid" looks like. But on the inside I hurt, and was afraid of what God might have to say to me. So I ignored him and chose to live for my own happiness and satisfaction.

I was on a youth group trip the summer before my senior year of high school and it was on this trip that God was gracious enough to confront the lie I had been living. The speaker shared the gospel and, for the first time, I really heard it. Where I thought that God was distant and uninterested with my pain, I found that he had done everything through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus so that I might be brought near. I thought that he would speak to me as an angry and disappointed manager, chastising me for the ways I had failed. But instead, when I **TURNED** to him, I found a loving Savior, who had given his Son to die in my place so that I might find a new life and a new heart.

*"I turned to Jesus when..."*

The course of my life was shifted. I wanted to know God better, so I decided to go to Bible college after high school. This has led to a desire to serve the Lord with my life through ministry. The more that I learn about God, the more I see his goodness and his kindness towards me. Before he changed my life, I was inward focused, caring only for how I could serve myself, and I hid myself in shame. I deserved the punishment for my sin. But Jesus took that punishment so that I could be given new life. Now my **HOPE** is in Jesus and I am no longer ashamed of my weakness, because through it, God shows himself to be strong."

*"My hope is in..."*

#hopeforafool Learn more at [ewo.org/easter](http://ewo.org/easter)

*hashtag and link*

# OFFICIAL #hopeforafool VIDEO



## THE THIEF

Available at [ewo.org/easter](http://ewo.org/easter)  
ON MARCH 18, 2018

We hope as you share your story you'll add a link to our official video which shares the hope of Jesus Christ through the story of The Thief on the Cross.

## Wondering what kind of story to post?

### Here are a few ideas.

- Tell your conversion story.
- Talk about a time of discouragement where you discovered hope in God's Word.
- Reflect on a time when you were confronted with sin (big or small) and God brought healing and hope through confession and repentance.
- Tell how God brought comfort when you turned to him during tragedy.

# Has God prompted you to join our Story Team?

## Prepare to share your story

- 1 Pray.** Ask God to give you wisdom about what to share. Pray for courage to share boldly. Pray that God will miraculously use your story to touch someone else's life.
- 2 Take time to write out your story.** Keep your story brief! You should be able to read your story out loud in 1-2 minutes. Your story should have 3 sections:
  - 1. The Fool** *"I was a fool because..."*
  - 2. The Turn** *"I turned to Jesus when..."*
  - 3. My Hope** *"My hope is in..."*
- 3 Choose what format you'd like to use for your story:**
  - Video** Use your smartphone or other device to record yourself telling your story (or have someone record for you). Feel free to read your story. Don't worry about looking polished or perfect! The best stories are casual, imperfect, and real.
  - Text/Picture** Take a picture to post with your written story. A picture of yourself is best, but you can use any picture that relates to your story.

## Post your story on social media

- 1 Post your story** on YOUR social media platform (Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter) sometime during the week of March 25 – April 1.
- 2** If you are willing to have your story shared by East White Oak's Facebook page, **set your post to "public."**
- 3 Use this wording** at the end of your post: *#hopeforafool Learn more at ewo.org/easter*
- 4 Pray!** Ask God to use your story in someone's life. Be prepared to respond to comments, and make sure to do so graciously.

## Be part of the bigger #hopeforafool Outreach

- 1 Watch for other stories** posted with the hashtag #hopeforafool.
- 2 Like, comment, and share other stories.** Look for opportunities to engage in conversation. Every comment, like, and share tells Facebook that a post is important, prompting the Facebook algorithm to show the post to more people. By interacting with #hopeforafool stories, you increase their impact.

## Hashtags

If you don't already use hashtags, you might wonder what they do. By posting #hopeforafool, you are digitally connecting your story with all the other stories that are posted with the same hashtag (if your post is "public"). When someone watches a #hopeforafool video and clicks on the hashtag, they will be able to watch all the other stories that have been posted online. This allows our stories to have a greater impact, because we are posting TOGETHER.



## Why add ewo.org/easter to my post?

The link to our website will take people to the official #hopeforafool video that tells the story of The Thief on the Cross. It also will connect your story to our church.

## Responding to Criticism

Not everyone will understand why you are sharing about God's work in your life on social media. You may receive criticism from those who don't understand. That's ok! Just as missionaries face persecution and difficulty, we should expect the same thing when we publicly talk about our faith. Don't be intimidated: we are called to suffer for Jesus (1 Peter 4:16). And be encouraged that you are in good company (John 15:20, Matthew 5:12).