

Timing is everything

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In the 12 plus years I have been raising butterflies for release on Easter Sunday, I have learned much and have gotten the timing down. Timing is everything to get a successful coming out experience. You receive the tiny caterpillars and put them in a feeding cup. They eat for about 7-10 days, are in the chrysalis for 7-10 days, and then emerge as butterflies.

Just like many of our struggles are what we need in our lives in order to be strong enough to fly, the struggling the butterflies go through to emerge from their cocoon is part of God's design to strengthen their wings to enable them to fly. They continue to pump their wings after emerging to gain the additional strength they need. So, I plan accordingly so the butterflies will emerge from their cocoons the week before Easter and have time to pump their wings and fly when we release them on Easter Sunday morning as a symbolic remembrance of Christ emerging from the tomb.

This year was no different. I had plans for over 100 butterflies to emerge the week before Easter. None did. According to my time table I should have had butterflies, but as of the Saturday before Easter, not one butterfly had emerged. By sunrise on Easter morning, I was thrilled to find one butterfly out. At least I had one, but it didn't look like a mass butterfly release was going to happen this year.

But God had other plans and what happened made this year unique and special. During each worship service, enough butterflies came out that we were able to have a release afterwards. Newly out of their cocoons, the butterflies stayed on people's fingers while they pumped their wings to get ready to fly. The joy on the faces of the children was contagious. A number of people were able to take a chrysalis home and celebrate "resurrection" again as their butterflies emerged in the days following Easter. We were blessed with a great experience!

Let's see: John's timing: 1. God's timing: a hundredfold with addition blessings. There's got to be a lesson in there somewhere!