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Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013

# Calif. pastor delivers final message in Wichita, dies in Sedgwick County plane crash

By Rick Plumlee and Fred Mann  
The Wichita Eagle

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In a message to a Wichita church Thursday night, California pastor Ed Dufresne talked about having faith and not fear. It would be his final message on this Earth.

Friday morning, he and his longtime pilot, Mitchell Morgan, took off from Mid-Continent Airport on the way to deliver another message at a church in Texas.

Less than 20 minutes after takeoff, shortly after 10:15 a.m., their business jet crashed in a field in southeast Sedgwick County, near 95th Street South and Webb, authorities said.

Dufresne, 72, pastor at World Harvest Church in Murrieta, Calif., and Morgan, 49, also of Murrieta, died in the crash, Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeff Easter said. They were the only ones on the plane.

Their deaths left at least two Kansas churches where Dufresne visited this week in shock.

“He had so much joy (Thursday night),” said Jeanette Burlie, an associate pastor at Triumphant Faith Center on South Seneca, where Dufresne spoke. “His message was very timely.”

It was based on a passage in the Bible from Hebrews 11:6: “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

“He talked about a troubled heart is not a

## Photos

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Ashlee Burlie/Courtesy

Dr. Ed Dufresne speaks to members of the Triumphant Faith Center Thursday night in Wichita. (photo by Ashlee Burlie)

## No survivors in airplane crash southeast of Derby



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believing heart and we cannot fear," Burlie said. "If you are in ministry, you have to love people, and he loved people. He was a man of faith."

### Global mentor

Dufresne led an organization that mentored to pastors around the world, traveling more than 11 million air miles in his career, according to his church's website. Burlie was among those and so was Jim Ames, a pastor at Abundant Life Family Church in Dodge City.

Dufresne spoke at Ames' church on Wednesday night.

"This is such a shock," Ames said. "He was just here, and then to hear this."

Dufresne's wife, Nancy, who also is a pastor at World Harvest, was not with him on the visits to Kansas. She was scheduled to join him next week in Texas, according to the itinerary on his website.

Dufresne had just returned from preaching in Brazil and Russia, Ames said.

"We've known him for more than 30 years," Ames said, "but in the last 15 we've come to a much closer relationship. He was very much a mentor to us. He took us under his wing. He was a father figure."

Joe Aguirre, mayor of Delano, Calif., said in an e-mail that Dufresne "was a friend of our city and Christian community, and he will be greatly missed. He demonstrated to me how to be a God-fearing leader in our city."

### Heard explosion

Dufresne was scheduled to speak Friday night at Word and Spirit Church in Schertz, Texas, near San Antonio.

The 1975 Cessna Citation, which was registered to Dufresne Inc., according to the Federal Aviation Administration, left Mid-Continent Airport at 9:59 a.m. It was flying at an altitude of 16,500 feet before disappearing off the radar screen at 10:17 a.m., Easter said.

Witnesses on the ground reported hearing an explosion in the air and seeing the plane hitting the ground at 10:18 a.m., he added.

A 911 caller reported seeing a plane go straight into the ground, followed by black smoke. Other witnesses saw pieces falling off the plane as it came down, Easter said, and there was a small fire after the crash.

The plane crashed a quarter-mile north of 95th between Webb and Greenwich, just east of a cemetery, and left a debris field with a radius of up to 1 1/2 miles, Easter said.

"The plane is completely destroyed," Easter said during a briefing shortly after the crash.

Easter said authorities weren't aware of a distress call by the pilot before the crash.

The plane was scheduled to land shortly before noon at a suburban airport near San Antonio, according to a flight plan filed with the FAA.

Because it was a fatal crash, the National Transportation Safety Board will join the FAA in the investigation to determine the cause, authorities said.

Webb between 87th and 95th and 95th between Webb and Greenwich were to remain closed overnight Friday. Authorities planned to resume scouring the area for pieces of the plane on Saturday, Easter said.



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**April J. Rice**

What a great man he was.

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**Haneul Gonzales**

He was a great Christian speaker. This is really sad to hear.

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**Elizabeth Miller** · Regional Operations at Verizon Telecom

We have lost a great man of faith. He will be missed, but thank God we will see him again.

[Reply](#) · [9](#) · [Like](#) · October 18 at 6:26pm



**Frank Sladek** · Cedar Rapids, Iowa

I knew them both. They are now in the bleachers of Heaven cheering us on and on. Thank you Dr. Ed & Mitch for your kindness, your time, and your presence here on our earth. Looking forward to seeing you. "Well done, thou good and faithful steward."

[Reply](#) · [13](#) · [Like](#) · October 18 at 6:57pm



**Zandra Fausto**

My, my, my... God receive you in His hands...

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · October 18 at 6:59pm



**Marcus Bailey**

I remember riding the elevator with him and talking to him at my church ten years ago. He ministered here earlier this year. He was a treasure to the Church....I will miss him! Til we meet again!

[Reply](#) · [5](#) · [Like](#) · October 18 at 7:26pm



**David Brule** · Grand Haven High School

I knew him, he ministered at our church many times and also poured his wisdom into the lives of both my wife and myself. My best friend and fellow pastor was at the airport awaiting his arrival as he was scheduled to minister Fri night. A great man of integrity, faith and love of The Lord Jesus Christ.

[Reply](#) · [5](#) · [Like](#) · October 18 at 8:12pm



**Becky Pillow** · Works at Bethel Christian Schools

He has come to our church(Bethel Christian) in the past several times. A wonderful man of God. Always enjoyed his messages. Mitch Morgan is who I am more familiar with. Very close friends with his mother Elaine and late father Phil and his younger brother Shawn. Will be praying for all of these families for peace during this time. This is so shocking.

[Reply](#) · [4](#) · [Like](#) · October 18 at 8:35pm



**Elsa Borisow**

yes it is very sad we have lost two great men of God, they have been to our church at living word in Fremont Ne, Ed and Nancy have both been to our church, and Mitch also with them along with many others from there church, it was such a blessing to have them all at our church, and to meet with them all, all our prayers are with the loves ones that they have left behind, but we know that we will see them all in heaven, it is such a lost to see them both go. We will miss them both greatly, We are so sorry for the lost of Great men of God, our prayers are with Nancy and his love ones along with Mitch and all his love ones,

[Reply](#) · [3](#) · [Like](#) · October 19 at 11:05am



**Daniel Quintana-Manriquez** · Top Commenter · Rhema Bible Training Center

He spoke at The Father's House Christian Center, my church, and he was so gracious, and kind. His pilot, Mitch, was love personified.

[Reply](#) · [4](#) · [Like](#) · October 18 at 9:25pm



**David Lykken** · Managing Partner at Mortgage Banking Solutions & Host of the "Lykken On Lending" radio program

His ministry and life was a blessing to me and many. He will be missed. My prayers are for his family.

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