

April 2011

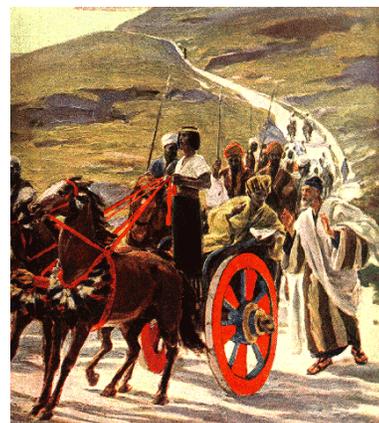


EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

E.C. LEADER

# CALLING ALL PHILIPS

**H**ow many people do we know that have an interest in Jesus, want to explore the Christian faith, but they lack knowledge? What we need are more Philips. Remember him? According to the narrative in Acts 8, an angel directs Philip to go south to the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza. There, an official in charge of the treasury for Candace, queen of Ethiopia, is sitting in his chariot reading from Isaiah the prophet. Directed by the Spirit, Philip runs over to the Ethiopian and asks, "Do you understand what you're reading?" His response to Philip is classic. "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" At that, he invited Philip to come, sit with him and explain the Scripture. Beginning with the suffering servant passage in Isaiah 53, Philip expounded on the Scriptures and told him the good news about Jesus.

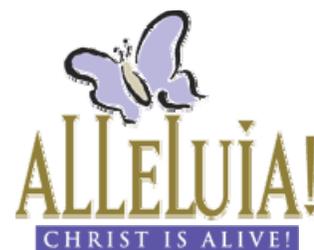


What about us? What inquisitive, seeking people that are exploring the Scriptures could we get to share with simply by asking the question, "Do you understand what you're reading?" As I ask that, I'm aware that another Holy Week is upon us. We who know and love the Lord will again take time during this week to attend special services and reflect on those Scriptures that emphasize all that Jesus, the suffering servant, went through for our sakes on his way to the cross. We will also celebrate Easter, rejoicing in our Lord's resurrection victory over sin and the grave. I remind us to share the "Good News" of the Gospel story with those interested in learning more about our Jesus. If our purpose really is "to know Christ and make Him known," then sharing like Philip did must become priority number one.

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## National Conference Chair Prayer & Praise

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- ◆ Praise God for the good progress being made in our stationing work. Please pray for the pastoral and church appointments that still need to be completed. Also remember the Stationing Elders and Conference Ministers as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this task.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the upcoming National Conference sessions to be held at Messiah College, May 25-27.
- ◆ As we prepare for the upcoming election of our next Bishop at National Conference, remember to pray for the four candidates, their families and their current ministries.
- ◆ As the Delaware Region Conference Minister installation service took place on April 17, I request that all of us pray for Rev. Gary Kuehner and his wife Carol as Gary continues his preparations for this new arena of service in the Evangelical Congregational



Church.

- ◆ Please pray for Mrs. Sharon Haupt and the Haupt family as they grieve the recent death of her husband, retired pastor Rev. Roy T. Haupt.
- ◆ Pray for the regional Conference Relations Committees and those seeking credentials and ordination in the E.C. Church. As the interview process is completed by each committee remember to pray for each candidate seeking approval at this year's National Conference.
- ◆ Praise God that the Tsunami in Japan did not directly affect any of our E.C. churches in that country. However, I ask you to remember Rev. Nobuo Abe as he continues to provide the leadership for our Japan churches in these trying days.

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**YOU LEAD 2011** will be traveling to Zaporozhe, Ukraine in June to work with EC missionary Ken Sears.

“You Lead” is an EC camp for teen leaders, usually held in Ohio or Illinois. The course is a three year cycle the third year of which is a mission trip for those who have participated in the camp in the US for at least one of the years. Year one offers “Keys of the Kingdom [of God]” followed by year two “Reclaiming the Kingdom”. The group travels in year three to use what they have learned “in the field.”

This year the team consists of Joe Dennis, Leighan Wells, Mary Hollingsworth, Rachel Nitache and Gary Brown, all based in Ohio. The Illinois group includes Annette Carr, Hannah DeVries, Sydney Koch, Kyle McIntyre, Abigail Willey and Nancy Wadsworth.

While in Ukraine the group will be helping with two very different camps—Camp I will be a VBS type gathering. The participants will be ages 7-12. Our group is responsible for crafts and games. Several work projects await us to help out the community. For Camp II we will travel to Feodosila (near the Black Sea). There we will participate in various seminars with teens from Ukraine discussing issues many teens face.

If you would like to partner with us, either in prayer and/or with a donation we welcome the help.

Donations may be made to YOU LEAD 2011, c/o Nancy Wadsworth, 1152 Bay Drive, Dixon, IL 61021.



**“To Your Tents, O Israel!”** is the theme for an April 28 , 7:00 pm presentation on the life and ministry of Rev. Andrew Manship, 19th century Methodist evangelist and entrepreneur. Rev. Joe Di-Paolo, pastor of Wayne UMC and adjunct professor of Methodist studies at Evangelical, will give the historical lecture based on his new book, followed by an opportunity to view the EC Archives in Rostad Library. There is no cost, and the public is invited to attend.

**Glenn Eshelman, founder of Sight and Sound Theatres, is guest speaker** for the year’s final Faith in the Marketplace Breakfast on Tuesday, May 3, at 7:00 a.m. We expect a capacity crowd, so advance reservations are necessary to assure a place. Call Katie Willey at 717-866-5775 or register online at



[www.center4li.org](http://www.center4li.org)

**2011 Praise Dinner is set for May 5** at Lebanon Expo Center. Hosted by the Wenger Foundation, the program includes The McKameys and The Triumphant Quartet. Your participation supports the work of Evangelical. To request an invitation, contact Marsha Conley at 717-866-5775 or [mconley@evangelical.edu](mailto:mconley@evangelical.edu).

**Evangelical’s 56th Commencement**

takes place May 14 in Dech Chapel. EC pastors Stephen Holubec (Akron Grace) and Gene Stevenson (Palmyra First) are among the 27 graduates. Bishop Peggy Johnson, of the Eastern PA Conference of the UMC, is the speaker. Because of space limitations, this is a ticketed event, but we’d appreciate your prayers for the occasion and our graduates.



**26th Annual Golf Tournament** to benefit Evangelical takes place at Fairview Golf Course, south of Lebanon, PA, on Thursday, May 19. The first 144 golfers to register will enjoy good fellowship on the links, opportunity to win prizes for themselves and their churches and a wonderful buffet dinner afterward. For further information or to register, contact Marsha Conley.



**President-elect Tony Blair** will share in Evangelical’s special dinner on Wednesday evening, May 25, at National Conference. Reservations must be made prior to the National Conference, contact Brenda Long at [blong@eccenter.com](mailto:blong@eccenter.com).

## News from Benefits Corporation /Compensation Committee

Participation in the AllOne Wellness program during 2010 remained constant in some areas but decreased in others. Involvement in AllOne Health Disease Management Programs remained stable in 2010, with over 100 members enrolled, and contact with health coaches was above average as compared to other AllOne clients. We experienced a decline in completed Health Assessments (HA) with only fifty-one HA completed compared to 119 HA completed in 2009 and only 24 participants qualified to receive the gift card incentives. 2011 will be the third year of AllOne and your active participation is strongly encouraged. Thank-you, to those that continue with the AllOne programs and are taking an active interest in your health.



The Healthy Pastors Task Force, AllOne, Corporate Synergies, Prudential Securities and the Benefits Corporation will be in attendance at National Conference, please stop by their tables in the exhibit area.

Worker’s Compensation invoices have been mailed to the churches that participate in the program with payment due on July 1, 2011. The EC Benefits Corp. services fee is due from all churches with an assigned pastor(s) (active or super-annuated) by April 15, 2011.

Kevin Henry, Controller



## 1. Japan update:

The disaster situation in Japan remains somewhat fluid and complicated as they continue to deal with the reoccurring aftershocks, infrastructure issues such as water, food, transportation and electricity as well as the concerns about the damaged nuclear plants leaking radiation. In a recent communication from Rev. Nobuo Abe, the Director of the EC Church in Japan, he expressed his deep appreciation for the prayers and concern on behalf of Japan from the EC Church in the United States and around the globe. To date over \$40,000 has been donated for Japan disaster relief! These funds will be sent to the EC Church of Japan so that they can administer them through their local, regional and national relief agencies in the name of Jesus Christ and the global EC Church. The leadership of the EC Church of Japan will keep us informed on the specifics of how these funds are used and we will do our best to pass that information on to all.



## 2. Remembering Glenn Paul



The Global Ministries Commission and the EC Church lost a friend and great supporter on March 23, 2011 when God called Glenn to his eternal home. Glenn served the GMC in many ways, serving on various committees, visiting international EC fields and financially supporting the mission work of the EC Church. While we praise God for Glenn's life and example of Christian stewardship, our prayers continue for Glenn's wife Stella Jo and his family as they grieve the loss of Glenn.

## 3. Save The Date: Fall Mission Rally

Mark your calendars to attend the Fall Mission Rally at Salem EC Church, Lenhartsville, October 14, 15, 2011. Friday afternoon will feature a pastor's appreciation luncheon sponsored by GMC with updates from DGM Randy Sizemore and missionaries David & Conce Roof. Saturday's sessions will include presentations from the Roof's, an EC Church of Japan update from Yoriyoshi Abe and more. Saturday's schedule will be family friendly with programs for children nursery through age 15. Watch for more information as the day draws closer.

## 4. Visit to the EC Church of Mexico and Annual Conference: April 25-May 2, 2011

Please pray for Randy and Carla Sizemore as they travel to visit the EC Churches of Mexico and participate in the 34th Annual Conference. Randy will be officiating the conference, leading workshops, meeting with the leadership and preaching in various churches. Carla will be leading a session for the women and interacting with the pastors' wives. Carla has developed a prayer calendar for this event which can be viewed/downloaded from our website—[www.ecglobal.org](http://www.ecglobal.org).



## 5. Short Term Mission Trip opportunities:

SHORT TERM MISSION OPPORTUNITIES! The Global Ministries Commission is working on two short term mission opportunities for youth this summer, plus one for a family or two couples.

- (1) Joe Toy will train a youth team in open air evangelism in inner city Philadelphia. Dates are July 31-August 6. Cost is approximately \$500 per person for housing, meals, and transportation to and from the Myerstown area to Philadelphia.
- (2) Brad and Maxine Waldman will work with a youth team in Trinidad. This will be a combination of light construction/maintenance work and helping a local church with children's VBS program. Dates are July 31-August 6. Cost is approximately \$1200 per person.
- (3) Ron and Brenda Anderson are looking for a family with teenagers or two couples to help at an English Language Camp in Spain this summer. Dates are July 11-18. The camp is held over the weekend of the 15-17, with two days of training ahead of time. The rest of the time you will have opportunities to do some sight-seeing and visit with other missionaries. Approximate costs in Spain are \$300 plus airfare.

Hurry, deadlines to register for Trinidad is April 30th and the deadline for Philly is June 1st. The deadline for Spain is May 30th. Contact [ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com) for more information.





In the book *From Followers to Leaders*, Bob Logan tells a story of Michael Jordan. For six years Michael was a star on a team that won no championships. Then, Phil Jackson, became the coach of the Chicago Bulls, Phil brought teamwork to the team in a new way. Michael Jordan was still a superstar, but he began to trust in his teammates more and pass the ball to them. The team became a dynasty, winning six championships in the early 90's.

Bob Logan finishes this story with this line, "You might have a MDiv or a DMin. You might know more than many potential coaches. But if you want to be a champion, you need to get a coach and you need to develop a team and trust it."

I tend to think that aim should be a little more specific—you need to get the RIGHT coach! (Who was the coach of the Chicago Bulls before Phil Jackson?) The right coach has the right "chemistry" to bring out the best in you in every way.

I also believe that the trust factor is huge. In fact, I don't believe that anyone can operate on a team very well without trust in their teammates. What do you think?

*Bruce Wagner*

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# Healthy Pastor - We Care About You! - Healthy Pastor Team Healthy Church!

National Conference is fast approaching and just as we promised - the Healthy Pastor Team has not gone away! We continue to provide support, resources and encouragement to our pastors, their families and our EC churches as they strive to lead healthier lifestyles and thereby strengthen their ability to carry out ministry.

We have been blessed to hear many victory stories from you about how healthier lifestyle choices have impacted your lives, your churches and your ministry. What a joy it is to share in those victories with you! To all of you – we say "Thank you for sharing and - Keep going!" And to the rest of you – "We're looking for your victory stories, too! How can we help you get started?"

One specific area we would like to encourage your participation in is the AllOne Health program. It's as easy as 1-2-3: Complete an on-line health assessment, participate in at least 2 coaching calls and have your own family care provider complete a physical assessment form. AllOne will have computers and representatives available at National Conference to assist you in getting started.

Please make an effort to stop by the benefits area in the Exhibit Hall at National Conference – we have some special surprises and resources for you!

(continued from page 1)

As an ambassador for Christ, Philip seized every opportunity to tell others about his Savior and Lord. I am urging us to go and do likewise. After all, there is no better time than the present for sharing this greatest story that our world needs to know. And there are many who are waiting to hear what we will say. Our message now and always must be that *“God demonstrated His love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom. 5:8* If we will be the Philips in our neighborhoods and our communities, people will listen and the Spirit of God will transform their lives.



Fred Moury  
National Conference Chair

**PRAYER FOR THE BISHOP  
CANDIDATES, THEIR FAMILIES AND  
THEIR MINISTRIES**

*Sunday May 15th or May 22<sup>nd</sup> will be  
set aside for prayer for the following:*

*Rev. Jeffrey Byerly*

*Rev. Bruce Hill*

*Rev. Ramon Mendez*

*Rev. Kenneth Miller*

**YOU WILL RECEIVE BULLETIN  
INSERTS FOR YOUR USE ON THESE  
SUNDAYS.**

**REMINDER**

*Stationing updates can be  
found on our website at  
[www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)*



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