



E.C. Leader

How's Your Prayer Life?

As I have served in this office as National Conference Chair for the last eight months, many people have blessed me by saying, "I'm praying for you." My standard response after I thank them has been, "keep on praying because I need all the prayers that I can get." We all know that we need prayer, but I often wonder how our prayer lives are really doing.



Like many of you, I have attended prayer conferences. I have employed specific prayer techniques like **ACTS**—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. I have also participated in workshops and seminars that emphasized the spiritual formation issues of fasting and prayer. I don't believe that I need more training on the subject. However, I do go through those dry times when my prayer life is not what it could or should be. Prayer often becomes a chore rather than a blessing when my closeness and intimacy with the Lord is not where it ought to be. The tremendous volume of prayer needs can also be overwhelming at times.

But I address these thoughts to you as leaders because I have a hunch that you can identify with these dry times in your prayer life too. So, in an effort to encourage us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ," as Paul directs in Galatians 6:2, I am inviting you to share those obstacles that adversely impact your prayer life as well as those dynamics that enable you to have a more effective and beneficial prayer life. As you comment on this issue, please send your thoughts to me via Brenda Long at blong@eccenter.com and may this exercise in sharing be a source of encouragement in the prayer lives of us all.

Fred Moury
National Conference Chair

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National Conference Chair Prayer & Praise

PRAYERS

- Pray for wisdom in stationing interviews and decisions being made by churches and pastors. Remember the Stationing Elders and Conference Ministers as they travel and fulfill their responsibilities.
- Pray for the Episcopal Nominating Committee as they interview candidates this month and discern God's direction in their decisions.
- Pray for National Ministry Team delegates and business to be conducted when NMT meets on March 3.
- Start praying specifically for the National Conference to be held at Messiah College from Wednesday, May 25, through Friday, May 27. Registration details and other NC information will be released shortly.
- Praise God for last month's excellent Pastoral Assessment Center. Among positive results of the week was the approval for Rick and Karen Christman (on staff at Boyertown Trinity) to prepare for church planting work.
- Praise God for the selection of Dr. Tony Blair as the next president of Evangelical Theological Seminary, and pray for a smooth transition as he prepares to assume the position on July 1.
- Pray God's comfort for Pastor Ken Hoffer (Mt. Culmen) in the death of his wife, Anna, on Feb. 6, and for Pastor Jared and Kerry Rabold (Jim Thorpe Ebenezer) who grieve the loss of their still-born child.
- Pray for members of our pastoral family who are currently hospitalized or recuperating: Rev. Brian Parker (church planter), at Harrisburg Hospital with an esophageal perforation; Rev. Dave Bailey and congregation of Hooppole, IL as he is on disability during a time of physical healing; Mrs. Cheryl Mong, wife of Rev. Keith Mong (Martindale), who has been in chemotherapy and just had surgery.



News from Benefits Corporation / Compensation Committee

There will be no incentive refund in 2011 from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance. One of our churches in the program suffered substantial property losses and the potential cost of that claim has negated the refund. Any church could have suffered an insurable loss that negatively impacts the program. Let us remember to pray for the health and safety of the EC Churches.

Kevin Henry
Controller

INSTALLATION SERVICE

April 17th, 2011

3:00 p.m.

*Salem EC Church,
Lenhartsville, PA*

Rev. Dr. Gary Kuehner

*Delaware Region
Conference Minister*

A NEW PRESIDENT!

Dr. Anthony Blair was named Evangelical's seventh president at the February 3 Board meeting. He will assume the office on July 1. A graduate of Messiah College and Evangelical, Blair 46, holds a D.Min. from George Fox Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Temple. He is currently on the full-time faculty at Eastern University and has also been an adjunct professor in church history at Evangelical. He holds ordination with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, where he has been pastor, church planter, and conference superintendent. He presently co-pastors the non-denominational church, Hosanna! A Fellowship of Christians, in Lititz, PA. Tony, his wife, Carol, and their daughters, Rachel and Alia, reside in Lititz. Pray for Dr. Blair and President Sigman during the coming months of transition.



“Transitioning the Family Business” is the theme for the March 3 Faith in the Marketplace breakfast. Roger North will moderate a panel consisting of Greg and Joel Zinn of Zinn Insurance Agency; Glenn Wenger and Rose Walmer of Wengers of Myerstown; and Wilbur and Travis Rohrer of Rohrer's Quarry. Register online at www.center4li.org or call Evangelical at 717-866-5775.

Two Exciting Courses begin in March and continue through the end of the semester. **“Evangelism”** is part of the Leadership Contact program, which is open to anyone seeking spiritual enrichment or leadership development. It meets Tuesday evenings from March 15 through May 3, and is taught by Steve Gilmore, a consultant for intentional discipling with The Navigators. Register by March 1 through the Center for Leadership Impact at

www.center4li.org. **“Islam”** will be taught from 3:00-9:30 p.m. on six consecutive Mondays from March 28 through May 2. Dr. David Shenk, an internationally known author, teacher, and expert on Muslim-Christian relations, is the instructor. The course may be taken for seminary credit or audited. Call Evangelical by March 24 to register.

Mark Your Calendars! We're looking ahead to **Spring Open House** on Thursday, April 7, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. This is a great time for prospective students to check out Evangelical, so spread the word! **Wesley Forum** is set for Thursday, April 14, with Drew Williams, senior pastor of Trinity Church, Greenwich, CT. His theme for this Center for Leadership Impact event is “Getting Ministry Outside of the Building.” Watch for more details on both events or call Evangelical for information.

Juliana Lesher, who serves with the Veterans Administration, has made available a number of sets of a series of brochures entitled “God Understands...” These brochures are used by military chaplains to deal with situations that particularly affect those serving in the military and their families. If you have military families in your congregation, family and/or neighborhood and would like a set, they are available at Church Center.

YOU ASKED...

Bill and Dottie Yanett, members of Christ EC Church, Allentown, PA, lost their home and all possessions in the catastrophic gas line explosion that took place in Allentown a few weeks ago. A fund has been set up for this family and contributions can be sent to Christ Church, 2135 West Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104. Checks should be made out to Christ E.C. Church.

As for gifts for the others that were affected by this explosion, the Lehigh Valley Red Cross is accepting gifts.





1. The visit to the EC Church of Liberia was a huge success thanks in a large part to the outpouring of prayer support from our EC family! Though we encountered spiritual and physical challenges; logistical difficulties



and equipment failure, great advances in the Kingdom were celebrated. We praise God for the following:

- *Rev. Lalrosiem Songate*, General Director (Bishop) of the EC Church of India has agreed to coach the leadership of the EC Church of Liberia toward becoming a National Conference. He has also helped them develop a website and has already begun to show a power point presentation of the EC Church of Liberia to the EC Churches of India to raise prayer and financial support!
- *Rev. Elias Martinez*, Field Superintendent of the EC Church of Mexico was able to encourage the local Liberian EC pastors beyond an attitude of dependence toward self sufficiency using his own success in accomplishing the same progress in the EC Church of Mexico. The EC Churches of Mexico have not only graduated beyond dependency, they have been actively praying for and collecting donations for the EC Church of Liberia!
- During Liberia's Annual Conference we baptized 20 new believers, ordained pastors, graduated 2 classes of men and women who are undergoing intentional discipleship and "commissioned" them to return to their towns and villages to build the existing churches and to plant new churches.

2. **Please continue** to pray for the EC Churches of Mexico that are being affected by the drug wars and violence. Our EC Churches are gathering with other churches in Mexico for times of prayer and mutual encouragement.

3. **Please pray** for the upcoming visit to the EC Churches of Costa Rica March 19-26, 2011. Because of extenuating circumstances this will be Randy's first visit to Costa Rica since becoming Director in 2008. Randy will be taking Mike Reinders, chair of the Costa Rica Committee and Rev. Carlos Kelly who will serve as the Spanish/English translator. The purpose of the visit will be to evaluate the current ministry and discuss future strategies.

4. Upcoming GMC Dates/Events:

- **February 20** Speaking at Bethlehem Sonrise Church Plant
- **February 26** Schuylkill District GMC Training Seminars at Manbeck's EC; 8:30-12:00
- **February 27** International Church Leader's gathering
- **March 5** MMK Rally at Boyertown EC; 10:00-2:30
- **March 6** Speaking at Bethlehem Emmanuel
- **March 8-9** GMC Commission meetings at Church Center
- **March 12** PA Mission Mobilizers' meeting at Church Center
- **March 13** Speaking at Reich's EC
- **March 18** Randy speaking at World Mission Associates luncheon on the forward progress of the EC Church of Mexico

5. Available dates for speaking:

April 10, 17

May 8, 22, 29





The **National Conference** is coming soon!!!
At least sooner than you think....

Wednesday, May 25th—Friday, May 27th
Messiah College, Grantham, PA

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ *Preacher: H. B. London, Jr.*
- ⇒ *Episcopal Election—Wednesday afternoon*
- ⇒ *Lord's Supper — Wednesday evening*
- ⇒ *Ice Cream Social — Wednesday evening*

Registration forms and other information will be available soon on the denominational website: www.eccenter.com



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