

From the desk of Bishop Bruce Hill

This summer has been a traumatic time in the life for Gloria's mother and family. Somehow or another, without falling, her mom suffered a few fractures in her lower back. I guess being 91 years old didn't help. That meant time in the hospital and the realization that she could no longer live in her own home by herself. It was now time for her to move into an assisted living facility.

If you've been through those kinds of struggles and decisions (I went through the same thing with my mom a number of years ago), you know it's not easy for anyone - especially the person who's losing his/her independence.

What I found fascinating was that during one visit with my mother-in-law, as she struggled with the physical pain and the decisions that were being made by her and for her, she looked at me and said, "I wonder what the Lord is trying to teach me?"

I found that wonderfully fascinating for a couple of reasons: first, it showed me that even though she was in great discomfort in the hospital, she had a faith that her Lord was still in control. He was in charge and even though she struggled to understand the "why" of it, she believed He knew of her suffering and was there with her.

Secondly, she reminded me that you can be a follower of Jesus for a loooong time (as I said, she was 91 at the time) and still realize that there is always something new to learn, growth to take place in your knowledge of the Lord, and your walk with Him.

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From the desk....

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She understands the life of discipleship, of becoming more and more like Jesus, is one in which you never really get to say, "I'm done."

The Lord is always teaching, and we are to be always learning and growing.

Two questions: Am I still looking to learn from Him? What is He trying to teach me today?

Jesus' invitation to each of us is,

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

I don't know where you are in your walk with the Lord, but don't stop walking, don't stop learning, keep growing. Because His promise is sure - when we seek Him and allow Him to teach and lead us, we will find rest for our souls.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Bruce D. Hill

Bishop





"The <u>lo</u>rd is always teaching, and we are to always be learning and growing."

- Bruce Hill







The Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise

- PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS AS THEY ALL BEGIN A NEW SCHOOL YEAR.
- 2 CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR GLORIA AND ME AS, OVER THE NEXT 8 MONTHS, I FINISH MY TERM AS BISHOP OF OUR DENOMINATION.
- PRAY FOR RANDY AND CARLA SIZEMORE AS HE COMPLETES HIS MINISTRY AT BETHEL EC CHURCH IN DIXON, IL, AND PREPARES TO BEGIN HIS SERVICE AS BISHOP AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MAY 25, 2022.
- arphi pray for the ministries of the pastors who are being ordained this fall.
- 5 ASK THE LORD TO GRANT SAFETY ON THE ROADS AS I BEGIN A VERY BUSY SEASON OF PREACHING.
- 6 PRAISE THE LORD THAT EVEN THOUGH THE ENGINE BLEW IN THE TEN-YEAR OLD BISHOP-MOBILE, I WAS SAFE AND HYUNDAI REPLACED THE ENGINE FOR FREE!
- THANK THE LORD THAT GLORIA AND I WERE ABLE TO JOIN OUR ENTIRE FAMILY FOR VACATION IN TENNESSEE. (17 PEOPLE IN ONE HOUSE FOR A WEEK AND WE ALL STILL LOVE EACH OTHER!)
- PRAISE THE LORD FOR THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ACCEPTED JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOR DURING THE SUMMER CAMPING MINISTRIES AT CAMP ECCO. ROCK RIVER, AND TWIN PINES.
- O JOIN ME IN PRAISING THE LORD FOR YOUR PASTOR WHO SERVES SO FAITHFULLY.
- 10 THANK THE LORD FOR THE CHANGE OF SEASONS AND COOLER DAYS AND NIGHTS (UNLESS YOU'RE LIKE GLORIA AND GET COLD ANYTIME IT'S UNDER 80 DEGREES).



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

It is already September, but it's not too late to plan your congregation's appreciation for your pastor(s).

While most people would say Focus on The Family started this tradition in 1994 by making it a point to remind congregations to make the month of October special for their pastor, it really started with the Apostle Paul, or maybe I should say it started with the Holy Spirit.

It was the Spirit who inspired Paul to write,

"Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching." [1 Timothy 5:17 NLT]

The work of the pastor has always been challenging, even back in the days of Timothy. But the last year and a half have required pastors to provide service above and beyond what they have been trained to do. In addition, the pandemic made planning an appreciation event difficult in 2020.

We hope every one of our Evangelical Congregational churches will plan some kind of appreciation event for their pastor(s) during October. It doesn't need to be elaborate or expensive: but be sure to say "thank you" to your pastor, his wife and family, for their faithful service to Christ and the church.



"Make sure that you show your deep appreciation for those who cherish you and diligently work as ministers among you."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12

Bless
Pastor

The Evangelical Congregational Church is once again partnering with the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) to honor and thank EC pastors for their hard work and dedication to their congregations and communities.

The NAE promotional materials and requirements for an additional pastor gift can be found at: https://blessyourpastor.org.

Please show your pastor how much he is loved and thank him for all his hard work and dedication.

A cash gift to your pastor is always appreciated but there are many other ways to bless your pastor.

You can download a list of

50 Creative Ways to Bless Your Pastor at; https://blessyourpastor.org.

National Conference News



Plan now for National Conference 2022

It may only be September 2021, but you really should plan now to attend a historic **National Conference 2022 on May 25, 26, 27** at Messiah University.

Conference will begin on Wednesday afternoon, May 25, with a very special service as we consecrate our next Bishop, Rev. Randy Sizemore. One of Randy's first acts as Bishop will then be to lead us in observing the Lord's Supper. Following that service Randy will open the first business session with his inaugural Episcopal Address.

On Thursday evening, May 26, we will gather together for a special banquet as we honor and celebrate the ministry of Rev. Bruce Hill for his eleven years of ministry as our Bishop. This is sure to be a time of good food, fellowship and fun, as we express our appreciation to Bruce and Gloria.

So, mark your calendars now and save the dates so you can be a part of these special times for our church family -

National Conference May 25, 26, 27, 2022.



2021 National Journal

The 2021 National Journal is completed and will be mailed the first full week of this month to those who placed orders.

Additional order forms are available on the EC Center website: eccenter.com click on

Post Conference Information.

EC Center
Renovations
UPDATE

The renovations to the main entrance and first floor of EC Church Center are nearing completion. A fresh coat of paint on the first floor hallway and reception area, along with the new front doors, have brightened the area and created a good space to display the drawings of the EC Bishops.

The drawings are replacing the photographs of EC Bishops that previously hung in the stairway leading to the second floor. These are the drawings that were on display at the May 2021 National Conference.







National Conference News



Retiree Appreciation

We would like to thank all the retirees for their many years of faithful service to the EC Church. We appreciate you!

*Please note: Unfortunately, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Retired Pastors' Appreciation Banquet again this year.

The decision was made as a result of the increase in COVID cases and its' variances.

Our hope is to be able to have it again in October 2022.



Friends of Evangelical Banquet

Celebrate the Savior and His Seminary



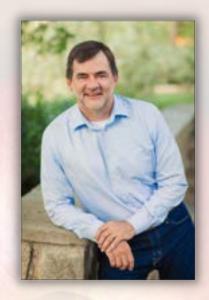
Evangelical Seminary resumes the annual Friends of Evangelical Banquet on Thursday, December 2, at the Eden Resort in Lancaster.

How great to celebrate together how the Lord continues to deepen and widen the ministry of our seminary!

Dr. Curt Thompson, author of *The Soul of Shame*, and host of the podcast, *Being Known*, will equip and encourage the banquet group with his extensive work in neurobiology and how we thrive when we have shame-free intimacy with the Designer of our brains.

Discover that the Spirit is calling amazing ECers into biblically-sound seminary education that is accessible, affordable, and relevant to our EC family of churches. Contact Sonya Valentino, (EC church member at Christ Community Church) if you would like more details.

sonya.valentino@evangelical.edu.



News from Executive Director

Kevin Henry

Executive Director khenry@eccenter.com 717-866-7581

David King

Benefits Administrator dking@eccenter.com 717-866-7581



Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Some may have heard that the Social Security COLA increase this year will be the highest since 1982. The current internet chatter is estimating the increase at around 6%. The official release of the Social Security COLA is normally in October, but also seems to be released later and later every year.

The Pastoral Compensation Committee annual report approved at the May 2021 National Conference continued the recommendation of awarding pastor salary increases at the Social Security COLA increase. Most likely, there will also be a moderate increase in health insurance premiums effective January 2022. Calendar year 2022 appears to be shaping up to bring some financial challenges to churches. As information becomes available, we will pass it along.

Highmark Freedom Blue

The Highmark Freedom Blue 2022 renewal was approved by the EC Benefits Trustees, with a rate increase of \$6/month, from \$249 to \$255 per month. The new rate will be on the January 2022 invoices paid during December 2021. Participation in the Highmark Freedom Blue plan is voluntary for retirees. Retirees are encouraged to investigate other MC Supplemental plans and choose a plan best for their healthcare needs and cost.

Disability Insurance Premium & Benefits Services Fee

There are several churches that have not remitted the \$100/yr disability insurance premium and the \$125/yr benefits services fee. If the disability premium is not received for the year the pastor is not covered. The disability premium is listed in the treasurer's guide on the EC website, and is due by January 15 of every year. The \$125/yr benefit services fee is due April 15 every year and is due from every church with an assigned pastor.

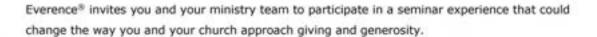
Please contact Dave King, <u>dking@eccenter.com</u> or Kevin Henry, <u>khenry@eccenter.com</u> with any questions or problems.

Kevin Henry Dave King

Executive Director Benefits Administrator

Cultivating Generosity

A seminar to help congregations inspire generosity



Saturday, September 25, 2021 – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pursuit Church, 1050 Mount Joy Rd., Manheim, PA 17545

Cultivating Generosity is a one-day interactive seminar, demonstrating how pastors and ministry leaders can unearth and energize generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a church.

This course is intended for those who:

- Believe in their church's capacity for greater generosity;
- Have a desire to become more comfortable with money;
- Are willing to redefine giving in their congregation; and
- Understand giving to include service, social networks and the sharing of ideas and professional expertise.

Presenters



Beryl Jantzi, Everence Stewardship Education Director, has more than 20 years of pastoral experience in leading four different churches in Pennsylvania and Virginia. He earned a M.Div. degree from Eastern Mennonite University and a Doctorate of Ministry from Lancaster Theological Seminary.



Lynette Morales serves as an Everence Stewardship Consultant in the Central Penn region, working closely with Hispanic and Latino congregations and church members, helping them integrate their faith and finances through congregational services, pastor and church leader resources and stewardship education.



Registration

Registration fee for the seminar is \$50 per ministry team. Space is limited. The deadline to register is September 17.

Learn more

Contact Lynette Morales, Stewardship Consultant at 717-394-0769 or lynette.morales@everence.com





Global Ministries Community



Brian and Missy Wagner *Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe, Kenya*



Lamar and Janice StoltzfusRift Valley Academy
Kijabe, Kenya



Jim and Janet Stahl Wycliffe - The Seed Company Bethlehem, PA



Juan and Rosita Zuniga Superintendent ECC Latin America - Mexico Monterray/Vera Cruz, Mexico



Kenneth Sears
European Christian Mission
Zaporozhzhye, Ukraine



Robert and Bettina Schaeffer L.I.F.E. Ministries Astoria, NY



Dave and Conce Roof One Mission Society, Brazil



Ed and Valerie Schubert Amor Sin Fronteras & Casa de Luz , Honduras

Freedom in Him

This month we celebrate the work and ministries of our EC Churches in Latin America and missionaries abroad and here in the US who give of themselves in service to those entrusted to their care - sharing the life-giving message of salvation through faith in Christ!

"In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." Ephesians 3:12

Facilitating Mission Workers Empowering National Churches Engaging the Local Church

Rev. J. Ted Rathman

GMC Associate

Denise Jaramillo

GMC Administrative Assistant

ecglobal@eccenter.com 717-866-7581

GMC.ECCENTER.COM





KINGDOM EXTENSION COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer is slowly winding down. You should be planning and/or preparing for fall ministries.

Are you wondering if what you will do next will be worthwhile? Consider one or both of the following teaching-learning opportunities as you plan and prepare.

Contact Les Cool at 717-951-8433 or revlescool@gmail.com with your questions.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP (Leadership for Our Times) with Dr. Tim Roehl

Tuesday, October 19 . . . 8:30 - 4:30 (The Commons, Evangelical Seminary)

Plan to join us for a day of inspiring and challenging conversation as we consider personal and corporate leadership for the church in the world in which we live right now. Pastors! Think about which of your leadership team members need to attend with you for this exciting workshop and conversation.

Sessions will include: Getting God's Heart and Agenda; Learning/Discerning Needs Around You; Simple Skills for Everyday Disciple-making; Bring Out the Best in Your Team; Leading in Difficult Times; and Intro to Game Plan.

The cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch, snacks, and a copy of Tim Roehl's book, *Game Plan*.

Register by Monday, October 11 (https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/EvangelicalCongregationalChur/KECevent.html).

NEW TAKES ON THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

ZOOM Session . . . Saturday, September 18 . . . 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Join us for two conversations about Jesus' mission, our mission, and daily life in our ever-changing world.

The mission hasn't changed. The need hasn't changed. But the world and culture in which we live is in constant flux.

Let's discuss ways to focus and make a difference as we live a Jesus-kind of life.

Session #1. God Has a Church for His Mission. You've probably read. "God doesn't have a mission for his church."

Session #1... God Has a Church for His Mission ... You've probably read, "God doesn't have a mission for his church, he has a church for his mission." Do we understand the mission of God as the purpose for the church?

Join us for a conversation as we seek clarification and stretch one another with the questions we really should be asking.

Tim Seiger will guide the discussion and time of Q&A.

Session #2... As You Go... It's great to gather to worship and fellowship. But we can't stay there all week.

Let's discuss what we might do for Jesus as we go, as we do what we normally do during an average week.

"Go and make disciples" does not have to be complicated. Lynda Miller will moderate the discussion and time of Q&A.

REGISTER BY EMAIL to Les Cool at reviescool@gmail.com by Monday, September 13.

PLEASE PROVIDE your name, mailing address (for the book), and email (for the Zoom link). And your choice of one of the following books that will be sent to you after the sessions have been enjoyed

(The Art of Neighboring by Dave Runyan and Jay Pathak; From Social Media to Social Ministry by Nona Jones; The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle; Desiring the Kingdom by James K. A. Smith; or God Space by Doug Pollock).



--- Leadership for Our Times ---

Presenter . . . Dr. Tim Roehl

(Fit & Flourish Ministries . . . www.fitflourish.com)

Tuesday, October 19 . . . 8:30 - 4:30

(registration at 8:00 a.m.)

The Commons, Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown PA

(121 S. College Street, Myerstown, PA 17067)

Plan to join us for a day of inspiring and challenging conversation as we consider personal and corporate leadership for the church in the world in which we live right now.

Pastors! Think about which of your leadership team members need to attend with you for this exciting workshop and conversation.



Sessions include:

Getting God's Heart and Agenda
Learning/Discerning Needs Around You
Simple Skills for Everyday Disciplemaking
Bring Out the Best in Your Team
Leading in Difficult Times
Intro to Game Plan

Cost: \$25 per person

(Includes lunch, snacks, and a copy of Tim Roehl's book, Game Plan)

Questions?

Contact Les Cool at 717-951-8433 or revlescool@gmail.com

GAMEN

Register Today (or by Monday, October 11):

(https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/EvangelicalCongregationalChur/KECevent.html)

Sponsored by the Kingdom Extension Community



FREE Book for Attending!

Do we have your attention?

The Kingdom Extension Community invites you to join your ministry peers for a morning of conversation around some of Jesus' ideals for our lives.

ZOOM Session . . . Saturday, September 18 . . . 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Zoom link provided upon registration.)

NEW TAKES ON THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

Join us for two conversations about Jesus' mission, our mission, and daily life in our everchanging world. The mission hasn't changed. The need hasn't changed. But the world and culture in which we live is in constant flux. Let's discuss ways to focus and make a difference as we live a Jesus kind of life.

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PLEASE PROVIDE your name, mailing address (for the book), and email (for the Zoom link).

And your choice of one of the following books
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The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle

Desiring the Kingdom by James K. A. Smith God Space by Doug Pollock

Questions?

Contact Les Cool at 717-951-8433 or revlescool@gmail.com



Ministerial Development Community News

Hello EC Family.

The next session of the Institute for Church Leadership begins in September. Each of our ICL courses are designed for you and your church family. Even if you live far from the seminary, the courses are now available on Zooml Take a look at the course descriptions below, and I think you'll see how they could be very formative for you and for everyone in your congregation.

Pastors and Lay Delegates, can you please inform your congregation about the courses? Perhaps your church would even be willing to subsidize some of the \$230/class tuition for students? If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to be in touch. And if anyone would like to register for a course, all the details are provided at the ICL page on the seminary website.

https://evangelical.edu/institute-for-church-leadership/

Sincerely. Joel Kime

The Institute for Church Leadership

Theology 1

September 7 - October 19, 2021: 6:30-9:15 p.m.

Instructor: Rev. Kirk R. Marks, MDiv

The purpose of this course is to equip students to understand God's nature, character and working as he has revealed himself. Students will be introduced to the world of theological study, its history, and its applicability to ministry work in today's world. Students will also be introduced to the basic tools for thinking theologically and contextually. Discussion topics will include the various ways God has revealed himself to humanity and how to understand them: the trinity, creation, and God's rule over the world.

continued on next page

Helping Leaders to Fit & Flourish



Ministerial Development Community News



... continued from previous page

Evangelism & Discipleship

November 2 - December 14, 2021; 6:30-9:15 p.m. Instructor: Lucas Ndaro, MDIV, MAR, ThM

This course focuses on the theology and practices of evangelism and discipleship. The first three weeks analyze the problems of sin and naturalness, the solution of God to both, the expected human response to God's solution, and the glorification of the new creation. The next two weeks focus on the methods and practices of the Great Commission, the Cultural Mandate, and social challenges to evangelism: and the last two weeks focus on the meaning, methods and practices of discipleship.

Instructors

Kirk Marks has been a pastor and denominational leader in the Evangelical Congregational Church for thirty years.

He is currently the chair of the Faith and Doctrine Committee for the EC Church, and he works in and teaches denominational theology for the EC Church's Ministerial Development Community. He is the pastor of Bethany EC Church in Leesport, PA and lives in Schoeneck, PA with his wife, Deborah, and two daughters.

Lucas Ndaro currently works as a Behavior Heath Technician for the Chester County Regional Education Services [CCRES]. Prior to this position, he served as the Director of Adult Ministries at Cornwall United Methodist Church. Before immigrating to America, he served at Nassa Theological College and at the Family Life Counseling Centers in Tanzania. He received his M.Div and MAR from Evangelical Seminary, and his ThM from Westminster Seminary. He is currently a PhD student at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. His research focuses on Human Dignity: A Socialist Conception of God's Image in Ujamaa Philosophy. Lucas and his wife, Limi, live in Cornwall, PA, and they have four children.



Ministerial Development Community News



Coaching Training: Getting Back to Basics

Wednesday, October 20 . . . 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Commons, Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown PA

(121 S. College Street, Myerstown, PA 17067)

Presenter . . . Dr. Tim Roehl

(Fit & Flourish Ministries . . . www.fitflourish.com)

Coaching is sometimes confusing. Get back to the basics with author and leader Tim Roehl. Join us as we learn together about the power of coaching. Bring your leadership team and staff as we learn the nuts and bolts of coaching.



Sessions include:

Live polling on coaching topics with feedback Nuts and Bolts of Coaching Hands-On Practical Experiences Leading through Listening

Cost: \$10 per person

(price includes lunch and other goodies)

Register Today:

https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/EvangelicalCongregationalChur/MDCeve nt.html

Sponsored by . . . Ministerial Development Community

Questions? Contact . . . Matt Hill matt@stpaulsreamstown.com



SHOEBOX GIFTS GO EVEN WHERE THERE IS NO ROAD

God's Word is being proclaimed in some of the world's most remote and hard-to-reach places through Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse.



To learn more, visit SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/ENDSOFTHEEARTH



Operation Christmas Child* is a project of Samaritan's Purse*.

Franklin Graham, President 1 1-800-353-5949 1 samaritanspurse.org
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Fund to: Insurance Payment to: E.C. Church Benefits Corporation 100 W. Parit Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 Myerstown, PA 17067			1	2	3 Church Center Closed	4
Day of Frayer for Kingdom Extension	6 LABOR DAY Church Center Closed	7	8	9		11 g/Buckeye or @ Comp ECCO
Allegheny/Buckeye Women's Retreat @ Comp ECCO	13	14	15 Insurance Due	16	17	18
9	20 EC Leader deadline	21 Loan & Investment Committee Mtg.	22 Church Health Community Mtg.	23		25 y/Buckeye g Camp ECCO
Allegheny/Buckeye Freen Men's Retreat @ Camp ECCO	27	28	29	30		



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Fund to: Insurance Payment to: Kingdom Extension Offering to: E.C. Church Benefits Corporation E.C. Church 100 W. Park Ave. 100 W. Park Ave. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstoun, PA 17067 Myerstoun, PA 17067 (designate: Kingdom Extensions Offering)						2 Il Retrest (Ages 18+)
	A TOUR Y SOUND TA				Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	
WORLDWIDE COMMUNION Day of Frayer for Kingdom Extension Kingdom Extension Offering	-	5	6	7	8	9
Green Camp ECCO Fall Retreat (Ages 18+)			Twin Pines Fall Fix-up			
10 Green	11 COLUMBUS DAY	12 Tuin Pines Celebration Banquet	13	14	15 Insurance Due	16
17	18	19	20 Conference Naturella Team Mrg. EC Leader deadline	Z1 Ministry Team Mtg.	22	23
Green						Comp ECCO CLOSE UP Workday
					Twin Pines V	Vomen's Weekend
Green Twin Pines women's weekend	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Red						



EC Center Staff and Associates

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Rev. Jeffrey Byerly - Ministerial Development: jgbyerly@bethesdaec.org

Rev. Leslie Cool - Kingdom Extension: revlescool@gmail.com



Know Him Better Love Him More

"We can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments...Those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him." 1 John 2:3.5



Contributors

Bishop Bruce Hill Kevin Henry Sonya Valentino Rev. J. Ted Rathman Rev. Les Cool Rev. Joel Kime Rev. Matthew Hill Faye Martin

Denise Jaramillo Editor/Art Design NC Administrative Assistant