



Community

EC Leader

FEBRUARY
2016

From the Bishop

In December I attended the National Association of Evangelicals' denominational executives' retreat. It is the only gathering I'm aware of for those who are the bishops (or whatever that denomination calls their lead position). We talked about all kinds of things that we all deal with. One of the topics is related to an opportunity that's found elsewhere in this issue of the EC LEADER—a spiritual day retreat—the need for leaders of every level to keep our own spiritual life fresh and vital.

"I'm tired of helping others enjoy God. I just want to enjoy God for myself." That statement by author Ruth Haley Barton (*Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*) describes a feeling we can often identify with. How do leaders stay close to God, maintaining a vital, personal relationship while we deal

with all the stuff that comes with ministry? It's true—ministry is hard work; it requires huge amounts of spiritual, emotional, and physical strength and stamina. So we call out to God for more power!



But is that always the best answer? I think about the prophet Elijah. He certainly received power—the rains would not return until he gave the word, he raised a boy from the dead, challenged, won a great battle against the false prophets and priests on Mount Carmel, and could outrun the king's chariot. Elijah experienced the power of God in miraculous ways. Yet when we get to 1 Kings 19 we find Elijah scared to death and worn out from working with people who didn't want to fol-

low God. He had one request: just let me die. I find God's response to the prophet's cry interesting—get away, eat, rest and meet with Me.

When God revealed Himself to Elijah, He was not in the windstorm, He was not in the earthquake, God was not in the fire; He was in the "sound of a gentle whisper." You see there are times we look for the power of God and what we really need is the presence of God. I believe what Elijah really needed was to take the time to have a fresh experience of the presence of God in his heart, mind, soul.

Do I want to experience the power of God in my life and in the life of the Evangelical Congregational Church? Absolutely. But Elijah's experience shows us that while the power gets all the attention, we must also be acutely aware of His presence in us if we're going to be the leaders He's called

us to be; if we're to be the men and women of God He desires us to be. May each of us, as followers of Jesus, make the time to meet with Him often so that He may strengthen our souls for the work of ministry.

In Christ's Service,

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Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise



1. Please continue to pray for the Stationing Committee as we seek the Lord's will in bringing pastors and churches together to build the Kingdom of God. Pray too that the many pastors who are retiring this year will finish their ministries well.
2. Pray for the new Field Superintendent (Bishop) of the Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia. He will be elected on January 29 during their Annual Conference and will take office at the close of the meeting.
3. Pray for safe travel for Randy & Carla Sizemore, Ralph Owens and Rick Sergi as they return from the trip to Liberia the first week of February.
4. Continue to pray for me as I work on implementing our planned denominational restructuring into real life; it all begins July 1.
5. Pray for my work in planning the sessions of National Conference 2016 which will be held at Messiah College in Grantham, PA on May 25-27. Once again, there will be a lot of things for us to do.
6. Praise the Lord for a mild start to the winter—it makes my travel to visit and preach in various churches around the Conference much easier and safer. I like snow—but not on Sunday morning!
7. Thank God for His blessing as I led the newly appointed Associates and Executive Director in a strategic vision retreat in early January. The Lord is at work!
8. Praise the Lord that even though our political process often seems crazy and out of control, we still have the ability to be involved and to make our voices known. Disciples of Jesus must be part of the process.
9. Praise God for the encouraging reports I'm hearing of growth, service, and outreach by many of our local congregations. And some fun ways they're using social media.
10. Thank the Lord that even though there was a serious earthquake in Northeast India, our local churches, pastors and missionaries in the E.C. of India are all safe and able to minister the Good News of Jesus.

They Drowned in the Cold, We Run in the Cold

The third annual 4 mile **Four Chaplains Scholarship Run** will be held on **February 6, 2016, 10:00am, at Evangelical Seminary's campus in Myerstown, PA.** Four U.S. military chaplains perished when the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-Boat and sank in the icy north Atlantic on February 3, 1943. Chaplains Goode, Fox, Poling and Washington gave up their life jackets, encouraged others, joined arms, sang hymns and said prayers as the USAT Dorchester sank beneath them.

The Four Chaplains Scholarship run/walk is a four mile run beginning and ending on the campus of Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown, PA. Rain, Snow or Shine Event. All runners/walkers must be off the course within 2 hours.

All race registration proceeds benefit the Four Chaplains Scholarship program which provides a tuition free Masters of Divinity degree to U.S. Military Chaplain candidates.

Online registration is available at www.evangelical.edu or www.pretzelcitysports.com

Same day registration begins at 9:00 am at Evangelical Seminary; \$30 for 4 Mile Run/Walk (T-shirts while they last); \$15 for 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk (no T-shirt).

Post Run/Walk Meal will be offered—soup or chili, fruits, snacks, drinks.

For brochure go to www.eccenter.com



3 Hour Training for EC Pastors

What: A 3 hour webinar on how to use a coach approach in ministering to the dying and the grieving. Participants will learn the basics of life coaching, and how they can be used with those facing end of life issues.

When: February 16, 2016, from 9am-12noon ET

Where: Online, using the platform Go-ToMeeting (sign in details will be sent after registration)

Cost: \$50/participant. (Anyone who attends this webinar, and decides to go on for further training with Coaching at End of Life, will receive \$50 credit toward that further training.)

Instructor: Dr. Don Eisenhauer is the founder of Coach at End of Life, LLC. He is a pastor and a Professional Certified Coach (accredited by the International Coach Federation). Author of the books Coaching at End of Life and Coach Yourself Through Grief. Don has a passion to help people live fully until they die. He enjoys teaching and equipping clergy, coaches, hospice workers, funeral directors, friends and family members to better support and care for the dying and grieving in their midst. Don serves as a Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator, is a faculty member for other coaching practices, and leads trainings and seminars throughout the world. He is also the co-founder of the Bereavement Management Group, providing software to help in the care of the grieving.

Questions: Contact Don at don@coachingatendoflife.com or 484-948-1894

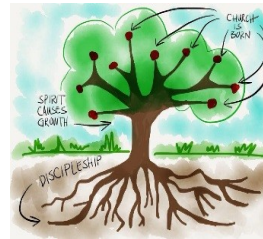
Registration: <http://coachingatendoflife.com/3-hour-webinar-for-ec-pastors/>

We all *want* to fulfill the Great Commission.

But how?

Join a Community of Learning focused on

Growing a Discipling Culture



DISCIPLESHIP + MISSION
Learning Community

- Reproducing instead of recruiting
- Multiplying instead of adding
- Leading a movement instead of having a ministry.

In this Learning Community you will experience:

- Semi-annual immersion experiences for worship, training, practical teaching and coaching.
- Small group "huddles" where trusted individuals can discern God's voice with you.
- Mid-sized social space discussions where your team can contextualize what we are learning.
- Large group sessions for considering new perspectives in discipleship and mission.
- Ongoing regular coaching to help build on what you are learning.



Sponsored by Navs / Influenced by 3DM / March 3-5, 2016 /
Ellicott City MD

Questions? Contact Al Giles / pastoral@ptd.net /
610-389-5857

OR REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.regonline.com/disciplingculture>

News from Global Ministries

Prayers, Praises & Updates:

The Global Ministries Commission is gearing up for a busy spring! Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

- Thank you for your prayers regarding the visas for our GMC Team traveling to Liberia January 21-February 3. All of our visas were approved!
- Please be in prayer for the upcoming GMC trip to Mexico for their Annual Conference, March 28-April 4.
- Continue to pray for El Retiro's transition. Because of the change in their government regulations and the concern for sustainability, the GMC will be using this year and next year to help this ministry transition. We are reducing their support by 50% in 2016 and then concluding our partnership with them in 2017.
- Please be in prayer for the GMC Team traveling to participate in the General Conference of the EC Church of India where the next General Director (Bishop) will be elected. Rev. Nobuo Abe, Tomoyuki Abe from Japan will join Bishop Hill and Randy on this trip.
- Pray for the successful launching of the newest church plant in Japan. Yoriyoshi & Emiko are planning to officially begin this new work this Easter.
- Pray for wisdom for Rev. Janga in Nepal. Now that Nepal has a new constitution, there are some who are advocating creating new states which is interrupting the government's construction of the road into the village where Janga has plans to build the Mercy Home/EC Headquarters. All construction has stopped and they are at the mercy of governing powers.



The Healthy Church

March 29 – May 10, 2016 6:30 – 9:15 p.m.
Instructor: Jeff Byerly, MDiv

In this course the student learns the many components that make up healthy congregational life. Because congregations are collectively unique from other organizations, it can be difficult to navigate the many-faceted system of congregational life in effective ways. From managing conflicts among volunteer workers to the decision-making processes of councils and boards, we are confronted with dynamics which are unique to the church. Healthy practices and solutions are essential for helping a congregation influence

its internal and external environments. When a pastor can help his congregation to assess its own health or illness, changes can be made that will promote healthier interaction and life within the culture of the congregational setting.

Jeff Byerly is the pastor of Bethesda EC Church in Southern Schuylkill County. He received his MDiv from Evangelical Seminary in 2000 and is trained as a church health facilitator. He is chairman of the credentialing agency for the EC denomination and has served on their Church Health Commission. Jeff and his wife Tasha have two children. They reside near the church in Schuylkill Haven, PA.

The Healthy Church: Online course registration deadline is March 21, 2016. On Campus course registration deadline March 23, 2016.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: www.evangelical.edu

SPRING 2016

*Tuesday Evenings
6:30-9:15*

*Evangelical Seminary
Myerstown, PA*

News from Twin Pines



Church Changing Culture Summit

March 4-5, 2016

The church should influence culture, not the other way around. Each year this summit will take a look at relevant issues and provide practical ways the local church can influence their community's culture. In 2016, the topic will be human trafficking, an issue that is present in your area; seen and unseen. It will focus on the supply and demand as well as ideas of what can be done about human trafficking in your community.

Register online at <https://tpc3.eventbrite.com> or download a brochure from our website at www.twinpines.org. For more information, contact Twin Pines office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail retreats@twinpines.org.

Craft Retreat

April 8-10, 2016

This laid-back weekend will allow you time away for relaxation as you work on craft projects and fellowship with friends new and old. Bible study will be presented in the context of crafts and creation while you experience the beauty of God's creation in the setting of the Pocono Mountains. Participants should bring their own craft projects to work on.



For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at 570-629-2411 or email retreats@twinpines.org. You can register at <https://tpcraftretreat.eventbrite.com> or download a brochure from our website (www.twinpines.org).

Summer Camp

June 19-August 13, 2016

Summer is just around the corner! It's time to start thinking about what you and your kids are doing during those school-free months.

Twin Pines will be continuing its decades-long tradition of providing quality summer camp programs that are fun and spiritually-challenging. From Elementary Igniters to Martial Arts, and beyond, we have programs for any interests. New for 2016 are Science Camp and Comic-Camp! You can check out the camp schedule on our website (www.twinpines.org) or on our Facebook page! For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail summer@twinpines.org



Now Hiring Summer Staff

Twin Pines is looking for loving, mature, and dedicated young people to serve on the 2016 Summer Staff. This will be a rewarding experience that changes lives forever. Come join us as we spread the Gospel through Bible study, fun & games, and fellowship. There are plenty of positions still available. Contact Shawn at (570) 629-2411 or e-mail shawn@twinpines.org for more information.



News from Benefits Corporation

The deadline to distribute W-2s to employees, including pastors, is February 1, 2016 with the employer filing deadline of February 29 if filed on paper or March 31 if filed electronically. Social Security Administration's Business Services Online (BSO), www.ssa.gov/bso, is an easy convenient method for producing the employee and employer copies of the W-2 on white paper, no forms, and for filing the W-2s electronically with SSA. We encourage all church treasurers that produce their W-2s in-house to use the SSA BSO services.

Reporting the cost of employer sponsored health insurance plans is not required on 2015 W-2s filed in 2016. **It has been determined that the EC Church is a small employer, thus removing the requirement to report the cost of health insurance.**

Due Dates:

- Disability Payment, \$100.00, due Jan. 15
- Annual Statistical Reports, due Jan 25. Send to Ken Wiest at EC Church Center or email to blong@eccenter.com.
- Workers Compensation Insurance Information due 30 days after receipt of the request for payroll information.
- Please remember that the EC Benefits administrative fee is due from churches on April 15, 2016, retirees are not subject to the fee.
- The 2016 disability premiums are due January 15, 2016.
- The due dates for the administrative fee and disability premium are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC website.

Please begin using the 2016 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2015 should be remitted on the 2015 Ministry Fund Forms.

The 2016 Business Mileage Reimbursement decreased to \$.54/mile on January 1, 2016.

Year end giving statements to donors must include a phrase similar to or contain the words "no goods or services were exchanged for these contributions". The IRS has resources available, www.irs.gov, to assist with charitable contributions; Tax Guide of Churches and Religious Organizations and Publication 526 Charitable Contributors.

Through numerous phone calls from retirees we have discovered problems with the Highmark Freedom Blue billings. If your Freedom Blue invoice is not correct please contact Dave King in the EC Benefits office (1-800-866-7581) or dking@eccenter.com. David is having regular communication with Highmark and Highmark has acknowledged the problem and is committed to fixing the billing errors. Contact Dave King with Freedom Blue billing issues and follow up with Dave if the error has not been resolved.

Please contact David King, Benefits Administrator, dking@eccenter.com or myself khenry@eccenter.com with any questions, 1-800-866-7581.

Kevin Henry
Controller

Dave King
Benefits Administrator



News from Evangelical

Fresh Hope for the Poor: Moving Beyond Charity

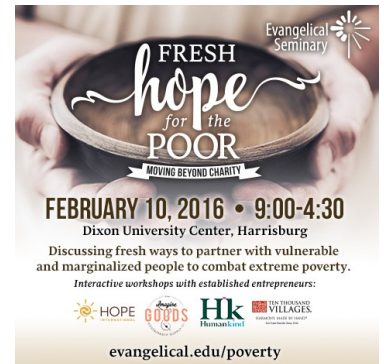
Many of us grapple with the best ways to empower those living in extreme poverty. Theories and attitudes abound, but we are partnering with some established entrepreneurs to take a deep and practical look at real world solutions. Join us for a one day seminar as Peter Greer of Hope International, Michelle Kime of ImagineGoods, TJ Foltz of Human-Kind Water, and Jo Ann Spidle of Ten Thousand Villages share their stories, practical insights and inspiration to build relationships across the lines of poverty.

Date: February 10, 2016

Time: 9 am–4:30 pm

Place: Dixon University Center, Harrisburg, PA

Register at www.evangelical.edu/poverty



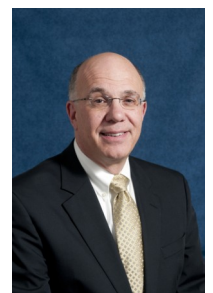
Come Apart Seminar

On Monday, February 29, Laurie Mellinger and Les Cool will present a spiritual day retreat at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA. You're invited to join others in vocational ministry for a learning experience as you retreat. In the same way Jesus took his disciples away to restore their souls, we will "get away" to attend to the work of restoring our souls. Along the way, we will learn more about how we can do this in the midst of our very busy ministry lives. Register online at www.evangelical.edu/come-apart or contact Les Cool at revcool@ptd.net

Register by January 31 for a \$10 discount. That's a good deal. But we can do even better—if you're an EC pastor or EC pastoral couple we'll offer another \$10 off for an individual, and \$15 off for a couple. So register by January 31 and the cost will be \$30 for an EC pastor and \$50 for an EC pastoral couple.

Faith in the Marketplace

On Thursday, March 17, 7:00-8:30 am, Kevin Mosser MD, President and CEO of Wellspan Health, will be our Faith in the Marketplace speaker in Zinn Commons. Invite business leaders in your network to join others in the local business community as they share ways to live their faith in the context of the workplace. Register online at www.evangelical.edu/fim-mosser If you have questions, contact Ken Nafziger at knafziger@evangelical.edu



Wesley Forum 2016

Mark your calendars for the annual Wesley Forum on April 12, 2016. Our speaker will be historian and author Justo Gonzalez. Check out our website, www.evangelical.edu for more details as they develop. If you have questions, contact Ken Nafziger at knafziger@evangelical.edu



Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. Church Center
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Phone: 717-866-7581
Web: www.eccenter.com
Email: eccenter@eccenter.com



Join 30,000 Pastors praying For America in DC

When a nation is in crisis, scripture is clear about the solution: Joel 2 states, “ Call a sacred assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders. . .” Believing that we are in a pivotal moment in the history for our nation, UnitedCry DC16 is a gathering 30,000+ non-denominational, multi-ethnic, multi-generational pastors and Christian leaders on April 9, 2016 from 10 am until 4 pm at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC to unify in the spirit of a Joel 2 Solemn Assembly.

We value the size of your heart, the courage of your convictions and your willingness to follow your Lord wherever He leads. Our prayer is that He leads you to Washington DC on April 9, 2016 for United Cry DC16. America stands in the crucible of a deteriorating culture, at the crossroads of its history, in dire need of repentance, revival, renewal, reformation and recommitment. This Nation was great once, and it can be great again. You will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with others like you who have inherited the mantle and calling of our Lord Jesus Christ to pray for God’s forgiveness and a return of His favor upon these United States. It is a cause that is dear to the heart of God, because He has seen the suffering in this land, just as He has witnessed the abandonment of His principles and the decrease in our faith. We pray it is a cause that is dear to your heart as well.

This event is free but you must reserve your spot. Reserve your spot here: <http://unitedcry.com>

February 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 Church Planting Comm. Mtg. | 3 | 4 Evangelical Seminary Board Mtg. | 5 Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church | 6 |
| 7 Day of Prayer for Church Planting | 8 | 9 StoneRidge Board Mtg. | 10 Ash Wednesday | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Church Planting Offering | 15 President's Day Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due | 16 Coaching Training Webinar | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT | 22 Leader Articles Due for March | 23 Benefits Corp. Mtg. | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Spiritual Retreat | | | | | |

Ministry Funds to:
E.C. Church
100 West Park Avenue

Church Planter's Offering to:
E.C. Church
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
(designate—Church Planter's Offering

Insurance/Pension Payments to:
Benefits Corporation
100 West Park Avenue

Supervisory Retreat

March 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|-----------|
| | Ministry Funds to: E.C. Church 100 West Park Avenue Myerstown, PA 17067 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-left: 20px;">Twin Pines Camp Church Changing Culture Summit</div> | 5 |
| 6 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Day of Prayer for Church Planting | 7 | 8 Spring GMC Mtg. | 9 | 10 NMT Mtg. | 11 | 12 |
| 13 PASSION SUNDAY Self Denial Offering | 14 National CRC Mtg. EC Leader Articles Due | 15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due | 16 Church Health Commission Mtg. | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 PALM SUNDAY | 21 | 22 | 23 Church Center In-Service | 24 MAUNDAY THURSDAY | 25 GOOD FRIDAY Church Center closed | 26 |
| 27 EASTER SUNDAY | 28 Church Center closed | 29 | 30 Self Denial Offering to: E.C. Church 100 West Park Avenue Myerstown, PA 17067 (designate—Self Denial Offering | 31 Medical/Insurance/Pension Payments to: Benefits Corporation 100 West Park Avenue Myerstown, PA 17067 | | |