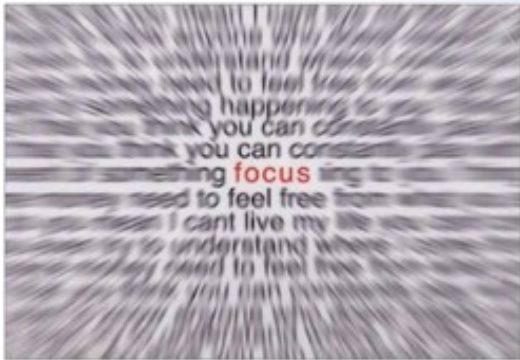


E.C. Leader



There is a verse in scripture that has always captured my attention: Luke 9:51, “*As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.*” (NLTse) As Jesus walked those miles toward Jerusalem, as he approached the end of his earthly life, he knew what he was

walking into, and he went anyway. His disciples and other followers tried to warn him, tried to stop him, but he was going to Jerusalem. It reminds me of a question Jesus asked of his parents years before his public ministry began. Jesus was only twelve years old when his parents thought he was lost, only to find him in the Temple. When they asked him what he was doing, he replied “*Didn’t you realize that I should be involved in my Father’s affairs?*” (Luke 2:49) One of the many words we can use to describe Jesus is focused. His entire life and ministry was focused on doing his Father’s will, redeeming humanity.

One of the key decisions made at our National Conference in 2010 was that the Evangelical Congregational Church would “establish disciple-making as the ultimate objective for all ministries.” That’s focus. In his book *Your Church Is Too Safe* Mark Buchanan makes a very important observation at some time in church history we stopped calling Christians “disciples” and started calling them “believers”. He writes, “A disciple is one who follows and imitates Jesus. She loses her life in order to find it. She steps in the language and culture of Christ until his Word and his world reshape hers, redefine her, change inside out how she sees and thinks and dreams and finally lives... A believer, not so. She holds certain beliefs, but how deep down these go depends on the weather or the mood. You can’t be a disciple without being a believer. But—here’s the rub—you can be a believer and not be a disciple. You can say all the right

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things, think all the right things, believe all the right things, do all the right things, and still not follow and imitate Jesus.” He later notes “The kingdom of God is full of disciples, but our churches are filled with believers.”

We all know that Jesus told us to “go and make disciples of all the nations...” We have committed to make the focus of the Evangelical Congregational Church and our ministries to develop disciples so that our churches would be healthy and those disciples would disciple others. How are we doing with that? Is that the focus of our ministries and meetings? I don’t mean to suggest that the only thing we ever do is hold discipleship classes. In fact, I would suggest that true discipleship training takes place outside the church building where real life happens probably more than it does within the walls of a church building. Do we have that Christ-like focus so that whatever we’re doing is an opportunity to be doing what God says and what we say we want to be doing, which is making disciples of Jesus? My prayer is not that we simply start more disciple-making meetings; my prayer is that every local E.C. congregation develops into a disciple-making culture. It’s not just a way of organizing the church or even “doing” church differently; culture is who we are. We are called to be disciple-makers. That truth of scripture should shape our attitudes and motives, our perceptions and behaviors, the way we interact with everyone we meet. That’s a Christ-like focus on doing our Father’s will.



In Christ’s service,

Handwritten signature of the author.



I remember reading that we should have a statement printed on our calendars that is similar to what we see every day on our car’s passenger side mirror, but instead of “objects in mirror are closer than they appear” it should say “dates on calendar are closer than they appear.” The bishop’s preaching/speaking calendar is just about full for 2012 so he’s now scheduling dates for 2013. No church is too big or too small for him to schedule a Sunday but it is first-come, first-served basis and you need to invite him. So check your 2013 church service calendar and see when it would be good to have the bishop come preach. He enjoys meeting new friends, is a pretty good preacher, and is even willing to wear socks and a tie if necessary. If you’d like to schedule a date please email your requested date(s) to his Administrative Assistant, jeahart@eccenter.com, and she will work with the bishop in developing his schedule for 2013. He hopes to see you soon!



The Bishop's TOP TEN Prayer & Praise Items

1. Please join me in praying for our strategic planning emphasis, "The Futures Initiative". Rev. Les Cool and I (co-chairs) are now in the process of designing the process and selecting members for this important work. (You'll be hearing a lot more about this in the coming months, but just start praying now!)
2. Pray for safety in travel and the Lord's leading in ministry as I spend July 7—16 visiting brothers and sisters in our EC churches in Illinois and at Rock River Bible Camp.
3. Ask the Lord to bless the ministries of those new partnerships of pastors and churches who begin ministry together on July 1.
4. Pray that the Lord will provide many opportunities this summer (when we spend more time outdoors) for us to interact with neighbors who aren't yet disciples of Jesus.
5. Pray for our denomination's camping ministries which will be reaching out to many young (and some not so young) with the Good News about Jesus during the summer.
6. Praise the Lord for his blessing during our National Conference 2012!
7. Thank the Lord for our commission and committee members who are creatively looking for new ways to help raise up healthy churches and make disciples.
8. Praise God for a wonderful experience a number of our pastors and congregational leaders had as part of the Fresh Expressions Vision Day. The Lord is doing new things in this church!
9. Thank the Lord for the opportunity to take some time off for summer vacation; relaxing, refreshing and restoring our bodies, minds, and souls.
10. Praise the Lord for the number of testimonies from individuals and churches experiencing an increasing passion for him, for his people, and for those who live, work and play all around us.



SAVE THE DATE

*Coming in the Fall of
2012:*

*A Prayer Summit on
October 8-10, 2012
at the White Hall
Camp and Confer-
ence Center in Em-
lenton, PA.*

*Everyone is invited
to this 2012 Prayer
Summit. Mark your
calendars and details
will be forthcoming.*



News from Global Ministries



Available Speaking Dates:

Randy is available to present the work of the GMC for your worship service, Sunday school or at any day/time/venue that would be beneficial. Carla is also willing and happy to present the work of missions to children in Sunday school and/or junior church when Randy visits. The following Sundays are available in 2012.

July 15
August 26
October 7, 21
December 2, 9, 16

We are now scheduling for 2013, please contact Randy or the GMC office rsizemore@eccenter.com or 717-866-7584.

You can help the New Principal of Evangelical College of Theology



Rev. Lalrosiem Songate, former General Director (Bishop) of the EC Church of India was elected the next Principal of our Evangelical College of Theology in North East India. However, he is required to earn a Doctoral Degree within the next 2 years to ensure the accreditation of ECT. We praise God that he has been offered a tuition scholarship at Concordia (Fort Wayne, IN) but he still is in need of further support for tuition, housing and living expenses. The GMC considers this a strategic investment in the future of ECT, the EC Church of India and a very gifted leader who will continue to provide excellent leadership for ECT and the EC Church of India. We are setting up a special fund to help Rev. Songate achieve this necessary goal. If you and or your church would like to help with this need please make checks payable to GMC and mark them "Songate education". If you want more information, please contact Randy at rsizemore@eccenter.com or 717-866-7584.

VBS Project

The VBS Project for this year is to raise funds to build a security fence around the women's dormitory at Evangelical College of Theology in Churachandpur, Northeast India. The current fence is a rickety wooden affair that doesn't even keep animals out. Our goal is \$10,000.



GMC Western PA/Ohio Tour

GMC Director Randy Sizemore and Carla will be traveling to the EC Churches in Western PA and Ohio September 8-17, 2012 to present the work of the GMC in a variety of settings. We will be presenting the work of your international EC churches in worship services, Sunday schools, mid-week meetings, with missionary committees and individuals. If you are in this neck of the woods and would like to be on the schedule, contact Randy at rsizemore@eccenter.com or 717-866-7584.

Missionaries on the Move



The following missionaries have notified us that they are coming home (or leaving their fields temporarily) - Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus, Rev. Dan Dixon, Gloria Smethers, Chris & Deb Bowers (to Australia for 3 months, then USA), Jim & Joan Farr, Nick & Lisa Lakatos, Ed & Val Schubert (summer only). David & Conce Roof are returning to Brazil in late July, and Jonathan, Kathy and Jonita Wilson returned to Papua New Guinea in mid-June.



School Supplies for Joe Toy's ministry

Joe Toy and Open Air Ministries are once again collecting school supplies for inner city children. Even though we're still in the thick of summer, check out the sales and stock up now! The following items are desired: crayons, notebook paper, pencils, composition books, pens, back packs, markers, calculators, rulers, small notebooks, erasers, pencil boxes, sharpeners, tablets, glue sticks, construction paper, and notebooks.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS TO THE CHURCH CENTER! Go to Joe's website for directions and for more information www.oamphilly.org/school-supplies-project.html

The Sizemore Family is Celebrating!

This is a very special summer for the Sizemore family as Randy and Carla celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on July 25. Randy is also celebrating his 20th year in ministry and the entire family is celebrating Caleb's graduation from Lock Haven University as a secondary education English teacher! To mark these milestones the family has planned an extended vacation at one of their favorite locations, Top Sail Island, NC where Randy and Carla will renew their vows on the beach and enjoy some time with family and friends. Randy will be out of the office July 21-August 11. If you need assistance with anything during this time please contact Deputy Director Pat Strain at pstrain@eccenter.com.



News from Church Health Commission



On Tuesday, October 30, 2012 the Church Health Commission will be sponsoring a seminar in "Effective Biblical Preaching."

The presenter will be Rev. Dr. Randal Pelton, pastor at Calvary Bible Church. Dr. Pelton teaches preaching at Lancaster Bible College, as well as mentoring pastors in the Haddon Robinson School of Preaching and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Location: Grace Community E.C. Church, Willow Street, PA

Time: 1:00 pm—4:30 pm

Cost: \$15 advance registration
\$20 after October 20th.

Please contact Rev. Gordy Lewis to pre-register by phone 717-866-7581 or



glewis@eccenter.com



CONGRATULATIONS to these EC men who earned the M.Div. from Evangelical on May 12: Phil Bartelt, Chris Bronico, Brad Hatter, Ted Rathman, and Charles Walker. Pastor and Mrs. Kenneth Weaver were honored with the Alumni Council's Distinguished Service Award.

THANKS to all the sponsors and golfers who participated in our 27th annual golf tournament. Net proceeds from the event totaled over \$31,000. The foursome from Manheim Trinity EC Church took top honors once again, and a special highlight of the day was a hole-in-one by Tyrone Burton from First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, PA.



THANKS, too, to all who attended The Wenger Foundation's annual Praise Dinner on May 3. Evangelical's share of the evening's charitable giving was a record \$19,635.

PRAISE GOD for all applications that are 67% over those of 2011, and pray that a good number of the accepted applicants will enroll. A new tiered financial program lowers tuition costs as students register for more credits.



INTEREST IS GROWING in the Harrisburg M.Div. program, and final approval of the new MACL is expected by the end of June. Check out all the details of these and other fall courses at www.evangelical.edu. Remember that EC pastors and senior citizens (65+) may audit any course for only \$50.

President Blair has announced these **STAFF CHANGES IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR**: Mike Sigman will become Director of EC Studies, with Affiliate Faculty rank; Ken Nafziger has been named Executive Director of the Center for Lifelong Learning (formerly Center for Leadership Impact); and Randy and Carla Sizemore will serve in a volunteer role as campus pastoral couple.

LOOKING AHEAD: Singer Steve Green will share in word and song at the annual Friends of Evangelical Banquet on October 19 at Lancaster's Calvary Church. Save the date and watch for more details in late July.

GOING FOR THE GOAL! With two weeks remaining in this fiscal year, we still need \$99,000 to reach the \$473,200 goal for the Annual Fund for Transformational Leadership, which provides most of the seminary's operational expenses. Would you pray for God's provision... and assist us if He so directs?



News from Benefits/Compensation



According to 2 Samuel the kings went off to war in the spring and in the summer EC Benefits begins the annual health insurance renewal process. You may make your own conclusions on the similarities of these two events.

Seriously, Trustees of the EC

Benefits Corp. are very aware of how the cost of health insurance affects the local church. With the change in insurers to Capital Blue Cross in October 2011 we entered the consumer driven health care market. Health insurers are pushing more responsibility for health care expenditures back on the insured or the consumer of the healthcare services. This was a drastic change for us and change can be hard. As the consumer of healthcare services it is in your best interest to discuss cost and fees with healthcare providers: doctors, hospitals, surgical centers, therapists, etc. Ask what will not be covered by the insurance, if there is a discount for cash, payment plans available, when is the payment due. I have heard instances of family physicians and chiropractors who have different rates for not billing an insurance company. Please educate yourself on your healthcare expenditures.

At renewal the shortcomings and concerns of our current healthcare plan and the HRA will be addressed. One of the main topics of discussion is benefit vs. cost. Less costly insurance is available but with lesser benefits. And the opposite is true, adding benefits adds costs. If you have concerns or suggestions on our current plan please contact Dave King or myself or any Trustee.

The HRA through PrimePay has been a rough spot for us this year. To ease some of that burden you can establish an online ac-

count with PrimePay. Instructions for establishing an online account can be found on the EC website (www.eccenter.com) under Benefits.

Retirement: As in years past Jennifer Buehler, Wells Fargo Advisors, had the most visitors during National Conference but please remember she is available for retirement planning assistance year round. Jennifer may be reached at 1-855-603-8146. We hope all our pastors are actively planning for their retirement; make consistent contributions to your 403(b) or Roth account (in addition to your church's contributions) and at a minimum spend an hour or two annually with a financial professional reviewing your investments. Please don't delay in becoming personally involved in your retirement planning.

Workers Compensation: Thank-you to all that have timely paid the worker's compensation invoices. For those that haven't the due date is July 1. Payment for the Disability and Benefit Corp Services fee were due January 15 and April 15 respectively, both fees are listed on the 2012 Treasurer's Guide available on www.eccenter.com under the EC-Center tab and forms.

If there are any questions with your benefits please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator, at the EC Church Center, 1-800-866-7581 or dking@eccenter.com. I can also be contacted at the EC Church Center or khenry@eccenter.com

Kevin Henry
Controller





Coach Training Alert

So, you're a minister or a leader in your church. Does empowering God's people through using a coach approach in your ministry work sound like something that would interest you? If you answer is yes, then consider the Two Day Basic Coach Training Event that the Leadership Commission will be offering at the E.C. Church Center on November 7 and 8. This training event is presented in cooperation with Coaching 4 Clergy and is designed to furnish leaders in ministry with basic coaching skills that will augment their natural skill sets and provide them with additional tools for leadership success. Based on Val Hasting's book *The Next Great Awakening*, those who participate will:

- Secure a working knowledge of coaching and coaching values
- Build core coaching skills impacting ministry
- Have the opportunity to connect theory and practice
- Observe LIVE coaching
- Learn a five step coaching model
- Receive a post-seminar complementary coaching session by a trained coach
- Be able to share in a 30 day follow-up group coaching call
- Have opportunity to receive CEU credit

Those who complete the seminar and participate in the complementary coach session and group coach call will receive a Certificate of Completion from Coaching 4 Clergy. The cost for this two day event is \$200.00 and includes the training, C4C resource materials, continental breakfasts, noon meals, break snacks and CEU credits.

This training event will be limited to a maximum of sixteen participants, so you will want to register early. Our trainer will be Fred Moury, who is listed in the "Find a Coach" section of the Coaching 4 Clergy website (www.coaching4clergy.com). Rev. Moury also has a collegial relationship with the Christian Coaching Alliance, a division of the American Association of Christian Counselors. For additional information or to register, e-mail Fred Moury at pas-torfred71@windstream.net or call him at 717-201-8684.



Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Joel Copeland who was promoted effective May 6, 2012 to become the new Chief of Chaplains for the Lebanon V.A. Medical Center. Joel has 14 years of service with the V.A.



News from the Evangelism & Discipleship Commission



The Evangelism and Discipleship Commission has become aware of a nation-wide evangelistic opportunity your church may want to incorporate into your fall ministries: *My Hope with Billy Graham*. This past April, over 100 evangelical leaders from the United State and Canada gathered at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association offices in Charlotte, North Carolina, to discuss an evangelistic project that could reach North America. The meeting and the evangelistic project, come at the request of Billy Graham, who in spite of his 93 years, is deeply concerned about the spiritual state of our country, and still feels a burden to reach more people for Christ. Franklin Graham is leading the effort for pastors and local churches to join this massive outreach.

November 2013, is the key date for this nationwide evangelistic effort, which focuses on local mobilization of Christians across North America. Through this campaign many people will be reached through friendly, relationship evangelism. *My Hope with Billy Graham* is expected to use wide media saturation (television, streaming internet, DVDs, downloadable programs, and mobile platforms). If you'd like more information and to receive updates about this fall evangelistic effort please go to www.MyHopewithBillyGraham.org. The Association will be developing and updating this site with fresh news, sermon material on prayer and evangelism, and other resources for pastors who want to encourage their congregations in effective relationship evangelism.



Charitable Contributions

A recent decision from the United States Tax Court disallowed a taxpayer's charitable contributions to their church due to an erroneously issued receipt from the church. The details of the case can be read here www.ustaxcourt.gov/InOpHistoric/DurdenMemo.TCM.WPD.pdf. In summary, because the phrase "no goods or services were exchange for these contributions" was not included on the receipt issued by the church the tax court ruled the charitable contributions were nondeductible and assessed tax due and penalties on the tax payer. All receipts for tax deductible gifts should include phasing similar to "no goods or services were exchange for these contributions". The IRS has resources available, www.irs.gov, to assist with charitable contributions; Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations and Publication 256 Charitable Contributions. Please contact Kevin Henry, Controller, (khenry@eccenter.com or 800-866-7581) with any questions.





WANTED:

1. Church planters/plants that could benefit from another pair of ministry hands.
2. Established churches looking to begin a new outward focused ministry venture which could use a pair of hands to make this happen.

The Church Planting Commission (CPC) would like to provide a limited number of grants as part of a 2-year-commitment to provide part time pastoral positions (planter, fresh expressions) to work with or alongside current church plants/planters or established churches/pastors. These part time positions are being arranged for and assigned by the CPC and are for church planting ministries or fresh expressions; not for associates to help the pastor maintain what currently exists.

Planters/pastors/churches interested in this offer should forward a detailed written ministry proposal to Bishop Bruce Hill by September 15, 2012. Each written proposal will be considered by the CPC for viability. Interviews will then be held with planters/pastors with acceptable proposals with the final decision being made by the CPC. This is important: this is not a handout; this is an investment in Kingdom ministry and growth.

The CPC will make all final decisions and will arrange for and assign a credentialed EC person that fits the plant/church and appropriate ministry team for each accepted ministry proposal. Please DO NOT go and propose to hire someone!

Questions? Contact Les Cool (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net) or Bishop Hill (717-866-7581 or bhill@eccenter.com)

