

E.C. Leader

Futures Initiative—Part 3

This is the third, and last, article describing the work of the Futures Initiative Work Groups. The Futures Initiative strategic planning work began with the launch meeting in August. Since then the six Work Groups have been meeting to look at the way we have functioned as a denomination in the past, to see what’s happening today, and to envision the future of the Evangelical Congregational Church. The six Work Groups are: Affiliates, Congregation-Denomination Relations, Denominational Structure, Ecclesiology, Finance, and Global Ministries. These groups will be studying their area of focus and will present written reports with specific recommendations to the Futures Initiative Core Group, which will then present a final report to the National Ministry Team and ultimately the National Conference of our denomination.

In the September issue of the EC LEADER we highlighted the Affiliates and Congregation-Denomination Relations work groups, in October we looked at the Denominational Structure and Ecclesiology work groups. This month it’s the Finance and Global Ministries work groups.

Please remember that the successful work of the Futures Initiative Team is dependent on the presence and leading of God’s Holy Spirit. Join me in prayer for the Lord’s clear leading of this vital work.

In Christ’s service,



Rev. Bruce D. Hill
Bishop



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Evangelical Congregational Church
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-7581
www.eccenter.com
eccenter@eccenter.com

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Finance



To evaluate our current financial condition and structure, anticipate our financial future and future assets and liabilities, and to propose modifications or changes to assure that the EC Church remains financially viable. We will need to keep in mind the significant issues we have encountered since the world economy changed in 2008, impacting every local congregation and the Ministry Funds they send on to the denomination. Our financial concerns are not just a matter of having enough beans to count. Let's visit our philosophy of financing our slice of Jesus' Church.

Global Ministries

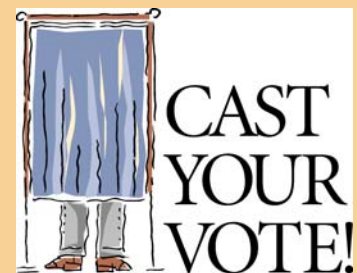


To determine the best ministry structure for our local and corporate expressions of the Church in order that we effectively carry out the Great Commission. Our Global Ministries Commission touches the lives of missionaries, local US churches, and mission conferences in Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, as well as the ECCI National Conference (India). Our GMC also interacts with other mission organizations. What is the best model for our denomination and churches?

Just a reminder that the Historical Society is planning a special day of Thanksgiving throughout the National Conference on Sunday, November 18, 2012. This celebration commemorates the 90th Anniversary of our denomination. This day of Thanksgiving will also give your church an opportunity to focus on its local history. The theme for this day is "Preserving the Best of the Past, Honor Christ through Your Service Today, and Embrace the Spirit's Vision of Tomorrow."

The Bishop's TOP TEN Prayer & Praise Items

1. Continue to pray with me for the Holy Spirit's leading of the Futures Initiative Work Groups as, together, they catch a vision for where the Lord is leading us as a denomination.
2. Pray for our country and our leaders as we hold our Presidential election.
3. November begins a significant time of traditional family celebrations with Thanksgiving and then Christmas; be sure to pray for our missionaries who are far from home and family.
4. It may be fall, but our seminary, Evangelical Theological Seminary, has begun recruitment and enrollment for the spring semester. Please pray that as the Lord calls people into His service they would consider attending Evangelical.
5. It seems like National Conference 2013 is a long way off but planning has already begun. Please pray now for the Holy Spirit's leading as plans and agendas are prepared.
6. Praise the Lord for the progress being made in the Main Street project on the StoneRidge Poplar Run campus as we continue to expand this outstanding ministry.
7. As you celebrate Thanksgiving, be sure to thank the Lord for all he has provided and continues to provide. He is good!
8. Praise the Lord for the reports of many people in our churches who are using a Bible reading program (like PS119) to study God's Word daily.
9. Praise the Lord for the wonderful season of ordination services we've had since National Conference. We were able to celebrate what the Lord is doing in the lives of six pastors and their churches. May the Lord continue to bless their ministries.
10. If you love animals stop here—if you love venison, thank the Lord that I got an eight point buck in archery season!





AVAILABLE SPEAKING DATES:

Randy would love to visit with your congregation to share the exciting things God is doing through the EC Church around the globe. He can share with your church on a Sunday morning in worship or Sunday school or both. He is also willing to come at other times that may suit your situation better. Carla is always willing to share a mission oriented junior church program when they come. Randy is beginning to schedule for 2013.

Contact Randy at rsizemore@eccenter.com or call the GMC office (717-866-7584).



News from Global Ministries

LOCATION FINALIZED FOR SUSQUEHANNA REGION MISSION LEADERS' BRUNCH

The Global Ministries Commission empowers over 500 international churches in 5 nations, facilitates 53 mission workers in 12 countries working with 20 different sending agencies, ministers to the marginalized in many of these same countries and creates global Christians through informational and educational initiatives. *All of this is accomplished through the cooperation of the local EC Churches here in the USA.* Without the prayer, financial and practical partnership of our local churches, the mission movement in the EC Church would grind to a halt. As the local mission leader in your church, you are the important link in this chain of partnership!

With such a large ministry scope there are always updates, programs, changes, challenges and exciting developments to share with our local church partners! Our first round of these informational brunches in both the Susquehanna and Delaware regions were such a success that I am excited to invite you to the second annual **Mission Leaders' Brunch on November 13, 2012 at the Dutch Way Restaurant, located on Route 422 East of Myerstown**, beginning 10:00 AM (Each person will pay for their own meal). Please join me for this encouraging and informational gathering to learn what God is doing in and through the EC Church around the globe.



Please **RSVP by November 5, 2012** to the GMC office: 717-866-7584 or ecglobal@eccenter.com

WORK TEAM BEING FORMED FOR EVANGELICAL COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY, NORTH EAST INDIA— AUGUST 2013

You may recall that the VBS project for 2012 was to raise funds that would help the Evangelical College of Theology in North East India build a security wall around their campus. We did well at raising the funds—we collected a little over \$17,000! The GMC wants to take this partnership one step further and send a work team of 10-15 people to help our brothers and sisters in the EC Church of India begin building this

wall. Actually, they know how to build a wall, they built the entire campus! Our goal is to build something even stronger than a brick & mortar wall—we want to build the relationship between the EC Church in India and the USA! So while we build the wall together, we will also be strengthening our partnership in the Great Commission. The proposed dates are August 1-13, 2013. The estimated cost will be around \$2,500 per person. If you are interested visit the GMC website at www.ecglobal.org, find the “Short Term Opportunities” tab on the left and print out the “application for work team” form and send it in to the GMC office by January 1, 2013. If you are selected you will be asked to submit the other forms and a \$500 deposit by January 15, 2013. If you have any questions about this work team please contact the GMC office.



SPAIN VISION TRIP—SEPTEMBER 2013

Global Ministries is sponsoring a vision trip to visit Ron & Brenda Anderson as well as BJ & Rachel Whitaker next fall. We will fly to Madrid and spend time with the Andersons, meeting the believers and churches with whom they work, and then travel down to Alcora to spend time with BJ and Rachel where we will do encouragement ministry and worship with their church plant. The purpose of this trip is to learn more about the work of ECMI and our missionaries in Spain, and to encourage them as they share the Good News in Europe.



Tentative dates are September 1-15, 2013. Some touring will be included with the trip, including sightseeing in Madrid and a visit to the Mediterranean while in Alcora. There will only be room for about 8-10 people on this tour, so if you are interested, please contact Pat in the Global Ministries Office now (pstrain@eccenter.com) to have your name put on the list. The final cost is not set at this time, but we are thinking it will be in the neighborhood of \$2000-\$2500. This will be a unique opportunity to see our missionaries on the field, and to join them in their ministry outreach.



News from Evangelical



Last Call for MACL Cohort! Our inaugural Master of Arts in Christian Leadership cohort gets underway October 30. A few \$2000 scholarships are still available. Interested persons should contact Dean of Admissions Tom Maiello at 717-866-5775 immediately.



Director of Alumni Relations Named. Rev. Paul W. Steel (M.Div. '81) will serve in this part-time, volunteer position. He will enhance communication with our graduates, support the work of Alumni Council, and edit the Alumni E-News. Currently pastor of Pottsville's First Baptist Church, Paul spent 24 years as an active and reserve chaplain in the U.S. Navy and held ministerial positions in four states. He is married to Ann Steel (MAR '01) and they have three adult children and one granddaughter.

“Dying Is Inevitable; Preparing Is Optional” That's the thrust of an all day seminar on Monday, October 29, for pastors, health care workers, and others who journey with those experiencing death and grief. A physician, funeral director, and pastor will present insights dealing with end-of-life issues. The event is co-sponsored by Evangelical's Center for Lifelong Learning and Lebanon's Good Samaritan Health System. Information and online registration are available at www.evangelical.edu/lifelonglearning or by calling 717-866-5775.

The 2012 Ritter-Moyer Lecture on Thursday, November 15, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm features Dr. Miroslav Volf, one of the world's most influential theologians. Author, professor, and head of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Dr. Volf has deep, rich wisdom for the Church in turbulent times. The lectures are free, with CEUs available for a \$10 fee.



Faith in the Marketplace Breakfast on Tuesday, November 20, at 7:00 am presents Ron Hostetler, a former All-American linebacker and captain of the Penn State football team. Ron ministers in the areas of personal leadership, teamwork, and life balance. Details and registration are available on the Evangelical website.





Cost: \$25 per person for preregistered groups, \$30 at the door.

Payment: Checks for preregistered groups must be handed in by November 16th payable to "EC Youth Network." Cash only at the door.

Registration: To register email your total numbers to Kim Warner at akgec@dejazzd.com or call (717) 859-2700. All registrations are due by November 16th.

Adult Leaders: All adult leaders participating in the Ozzy's Lock-In, youth pastors or otherwise, must have a current (2009 or newer) PA background check and child abuse clearance. In addition, the overseeing pastor or lead pastor must sign the Adult Screening Verification Form and send it to Akron Grace E.C. on or before November 16th. Leaders who are not listed on the verification form will not be allowed to attend the lock-in. (Adult Screening Verification Form will be sent to groups when they register.)

Arrival: Groups can arrive at Ozzy's beginning at 11:45pm on Friday night November 23.

Food: The snack shop will be opened for you to purchase food throughout the night. Groups can also bring in unopened Coke products and unopened bags of chips and other snacks. No homemade or non-purchased food items are allowed.