

TIME TO FISH

Gloria and I recently had a great weekend of fun and ministry in Ohio and western Pennsylvania. I was scheduled to preach at the Cottage Grove E.C. Church in Akron, OH on Sunday morning and



to preach and officiate at the ordination of Lewie Bennett in Grace E.C. Church, Knox, PA that afternoon. Since we were so close to Lake Erie, Rick Glauthier invited us to join him and a few others in a day of fishing for walleye. It was one of those picture perfect days; a beautiful sunrise, calm water, and good friends. Nine hours later we arrived back at the marina with our limit of walleye. It was a great day!

During our time fishing we discovered a number of things. It's always good to spend a day with friends, old and new. Hospitality and fellowship shared are something very special. A turkey sandwich just seems to taste better in the middle of a lake. A boat captain can fall overboard. And last but not least, some of us are better fishermen than others. (I'll not take a lot of time to describe my wife Gloria's abilities other than to say she out-fished us all!) The fact that Gloria caught more fish than anybody else didn't stop the rest of us from fishing, it was a great day and it was why we were there, so we all kept fishing and we all caught some.

During the course of the day there was quite a bit of talk about the disciples and their fishing abilities. There was mention of the "throw your nets on the other side of the boat" account in John 21, since one side of our boat was much more successful than the other. (That's my story and I'm stickin' to it.) As I've thought about some of the experiences of that day I am reminded that as "fishers of men", some of us are better at it, more gifted, than others. Certainly, there are individuals who have the gift of evangel-



ism and seem to do it easily and naturally. I am thankful for those people in the Body of Christ. But the reality is that while we may not all have that particular gift; we are all commissioned to be witnesses. Just because one person seems to have an easier time of fishing doesn't mean the rest of us stop and watch.

So how's your fishing been? Paul gives us a glimpse into his strategy in 1 Corinthians 9:22 "...I try
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The Bishop's TOP TEN Prayer & Praise Items

1. Pray for all those who are returning to school this fall: students, faculty and staff. May the Lord bless each one with the wisdom needed as they study, teach, and serve.
2. Pray for the resumption of many programs and ministries in our churches after the summer break in activities.
3. Pray for the Futures Initiative Team as they study the results of the recent survey of National Conference members and look to the Lord for his leading of our denomination.
4. Pray for the Lord's guidance as we move closer to finishing up last year's stationing assignments even as we hear of potential retirements and other stationing opportunities for the coming year. (Further evidence that the traditional "stationing season" is a thing of the past!)
5. Thank the Lord for the lives that were impacted during the summer camping season at ECCO, Rock River, and Twin Pines. Pray that those who were touched by God will continue to grow in discipleship in their local churches.
6. Praise God for a wonderful ordination service for Lewie Bennett in Grace E.C. Church, Knox, PA in August and pray for the two ordination services in September: Matt Hill and Pat Strain.
7. Praise the Lord for the ministry done by so many short term mission teams who went out from our congregations to share the Good News about Jesus and work all around the world.
8. Praise God with me for the gracious hospitality Gloria and I receive when we travel to visit and preach in our local congregations. (She does the visiting, I do the preaching.)
9. Praise God for a recent report I received that this past year 50,000 new house churches were planted in Cuba! (And pray that the Holy Spirit would move powerfully in our country!)
10. Thank the Lord for new opportunities to engage with our culture, our family, friends, and neighbors with the Good News of God's wonderful grace. Get out and get involved in the lives of the people around us every day!



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to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some." Christians are called to build bridges, not walls, and repeatedly in the Bible, we're told to reach out, to engage our culture. So while a few of us may have the gift, we're all to be out there trying. You never know, it might be in the middle of a very normal conversation on a beautiful day when the Holy Spirit starts to move and you get that first exciting bite. Time to fish!

In Christ's Service,



**You are invited to attend the
2013 National Conference Ordination Services**

The ordination of **Rev. Matthew A. Hill**
Community Evangelical Church
Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 15, 4:30 p.m.



The ordination of **Patricia M. Strain**
Zion Evangelical Congregational Church
Myerstown, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 29, 4:00 p.m.



The Bishop's preaching/speaking calendar is full for 2013 and a few dates have already been booked for 2014. If you are interested in having Bishop Hill speak at your church, now is the time to start thinking about it. No church is too big or too small for him to schedule a Sunday but it is first-come-first-served and you need to invite him. So as you plan your congregation's 2014 church service schedule 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 or call (1-800-866-7581) your requested date(s) to his Administrative Assistant, jeanhart@eccenter.com, and she will work with him in developing his schedule for 2014. He hopes to see you soon!

News from Evangelical



Fall classes for Evangelical's 61st year begin August 29...and there's still room for you!

Check out the course offerings at



at www.evangelical.edu and register now, either for credit or audit. The Tuesday evening **Institute for Church Leadership** also offers credit-free lay classes in world missions and the Gospels, and for the first time this year, those classes can be accessed online. Evangelical has something for everyone... let us help you with vocational preparation and spiritual enrichment.

Celebrate Homecoming and Fall Convocation with us on Tuesday, September 10! Alumni are welcome to join other grads and faculty (past and present) in a 5:00 cookout under tents on the lawn. It's free, but advance reservations must be made with Marsha Conley at 717-866-5775, ext. 2130 or mconley@evangelical.edu by September 3. Then **EVERY-ONE** is invited to the 7:00

Fall Convocation in Dech Chapel. Dr. James Yoder, a founding professor of the seminary, will bring the **Wittmaier-Sailer Lecture, and Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, Dr. David Dorsey will be honored upon his retirement** after 34 years of service to Evangelical. An **ice cream social in Zinn Commons after the Convocation** will give everyone opportunity to share rich memories and fellowship.



The Center for Lifelong Learning kicks off its ninth season of **Faith in the Marketplace** with a 7:00 a.m. breakfast in Zinn Commons on Thursday, September 19. **Special guest is Gil Stricklin, CEO of Marketplace Ministries, Plano, TX.** More information and online registration are available on the seminary website (www.evangelical.edu).



Women in Ministry: Stories of Leadership is an

October 1 seminar for women who have heard the call to lead and for those (men and women) who serve along with them. Keynote speakers are UMC Bishop Peggy Johnson and BIC Bishop Pauline Peifer, and four breakout sessions offer varied perspectives on women and their leadership journeys. CEUs are also available. Again, check the website for complete details and registration.

New Faculty: President Tony Blair has announced that Dr. David Dorsey's daughter and son-in-law, Sarah Dorsey Bollinger and Philip Bollinger, will be filling in this year as mentored faculty in the Old Testament classroom. Both are finishing their PhD programs in Old Testament.



News from Global Ministries

1. **GMC Sponsored Short-Term trip return with multiple praises!**

- ◆ The Japan team led by Pastor Mike Snedeker reports a productive time with 12 known decisions for Christ!
- ◆ The Brazil team to visit EC missionaries David & Conce Roof led by Director Randy Sizemore returned praising God for the spiritual and physical growth of the church plant in Belem. Five new Christians were baptized during their visit!
- ◆ Both Alaska work teams returned with reports of accomplished projects at the camps, spiritual victories, and strengthened relationships!
- ◆ The India team praises God for the opportunity to build a wall, train students on laptop computers, teach women’s classes, worship in churches and for the opportunity of being the first ever GMC work team to visit North East India!



2. **Yoriyoshi and Emiko** have returned from Japan as newlyweds and will spend the next year working with Grace Community Church, Willow Street and finishing up classes at Evangelical Seminary before returning to Japan to work with the EC Church there.

3. **Rev. Lalrosiem Songate** has returned from Evangelical College of Theology in NE India to continue his PhD program at Concordia Seminary in Indiana. (Required for his current position as principal of ECT). He may transfer to Dallas Theological Seminary in the spring to take advantage of larger student scholarships.



4. **Rev. Nobuo & Keiko Abe**, director of the EC Church of Japan will be in Myerstown, PA September 27-October 7 to meet with the Global Ministries Commission, denominational leaders and for strategic planning sessions with the Japan Committee. Rev. Nubuo will also participate in Deputy Director Pat Strain’s ordination service.

5. **Kurt & Nancy Graff** have returned to Michigan for about 3 months of recovery therapy after Kurt’s knee surgery. Thanks to all who donated extra funds to fly them home on such short notice!

6. Congratulations to **Deputy Director Pat Strain** who will be ordained as a Deaconess in the National Conference of the EC Church in conjunction with her role as Deputy Director of Missionary Care on September 29, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at Zion EC Church, Myerstown.



News from Benefits Corporation

We received our initial health insurance renewal quote and it was higher than anticipated. Quotes from other health insurance companies will be reviewed as well as alternative plan designs. While our initial renewal quote was a double digit increase, our quote was not the highest that our insurance broker has experienced this year. Please keep the E.C. Benefits Board members on your prayer list as they wrestle with the cost of health insurance.

At the E.C. Benefits Board meeting in early September we will have the legal opinion from our human resources attorney who is determining our status as either a large or small employer per the Affordable Care Act. The early indication that we are a small employer is still holding true. Being a small employer is a good thing.

As we are currently in our open enrollment period, 60 days before the start of the new plan year of October 1, you can make changes to your coverage, join the plan, add dependents, etc. outside of change of life events. Please contact Dave King if changes to your health insurance coverage are needed.

Please remember to submit all of your deductible and coinsurance claims to PrimePay on a timely basis. PrimePay will track all of your covered out of pocket healthcare expenses, including the first \$500 that is the responsibility of the pastor. Timely submission of claims helps EC Benefits monitor and assess the cost efficiency of the health insurance plan. Also, covered deductible and coinsurance claims must be incurred by September 30, 2013 and submitted to PrimePay for reimbursement 90 days from the end of the plan year which is December 29, 2013.

Please contact Dave King (dking@eccenter.com) or Kevin Henry (khenry@eccenter.com) with any questions or problems.

Kevin Henry
Controller

David King
Benefits Administrator

REMINDERS:

- ◆ The Evangelism & Discipleship Commission recommends for your consideration a nation-wide evangelistic opportunity your church may want to incorporate into your fall ministries: My Hope With Billy Graham. November 2013 is the key date for this nationwide evangelistic effort, which focuses on local mobilization of Christians across North America. The goal of this campaign is to reach people through friendly, relationship evangelism. If you'd like more information and to receive updates about this fall evangelistic effort, please go to www.MyHopeWithBillyGraham.org.
- ◆ The Church Health Commission is sponsoring a Seminar "**BE STILL**" on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at the Zion E.C. Church, Annville, PA. The purpose of **BE STILL** is to provide a discipline for the pursuit of knowing God. **BE STILL** simply provides a tool and a discipline for you to hear directly from God Himself.

Cost is \$15 advanced; \$20 after September 9th. Checks should be sent to Rev. Dr. Gordon R. Lewis, 100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067. Should you desire to register by email or phone, please contact Rev. Lewis at glewis@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581.

2013 National Conference Journals Are Ready!!!!

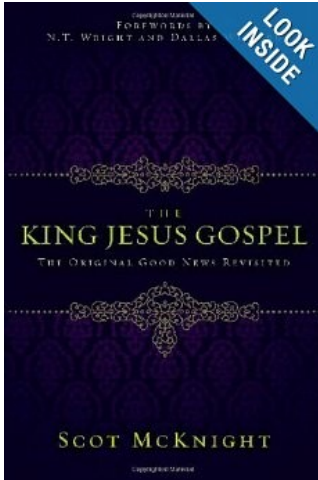
Each church is provided with the Journal on CD FREE of charge. Additional binders, indexes, contents and CDs are available.

Call Brenda at the EC Church Center

(717-866-7581)

Or email blong@eccenter.com

Read a great book lately?



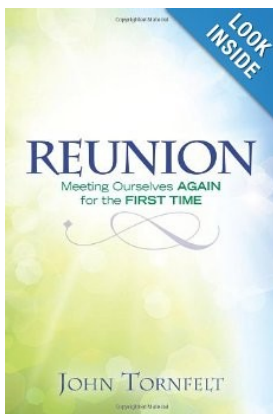
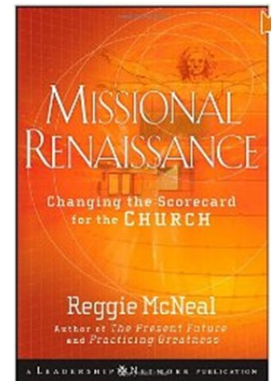
In an earlier issue of the EC LEADER we asked people to submit books they had found helpful to their spiritual growth and ministry. We are not recommending each of these books but are providing some information for those who are looking for something to read. If you have a book or two you'd like to suggest please let us know. Email Brenda Long at Church Center (blong@eccenter.com) Thank you.

The King Jesus Gospel by Scot McKnight poses a challenging question if contemporary evangelicals have built a 'salvation culture' but not a 'gospel culture'. Have Evangelicals reduced the gospel to the message of only personal salvation? This book makes a plea for us to recover the old gospel as that which is still new and still fresh. The book stands on four arguments: that the gospel is defined by the apostles in 1 Corinthians 15

as the completion of the Story of Israel in the saving Story of Jesus; that the gospel is found in the Four Gospels; that the gospel was preached by Jesus; and that the sermons in the Books of Acts are the best examples of gospeling in the New Testament. *The King Jesus Gospel* ends with practical suggestions about evangelism and about building a gospel culture.

Missional Renaissance by Reggie McNeal examines three significant shifts in thinking and behavior that churches need to make that will allow leaders to chart a course toward being missional; (1) from an internal to an external focus, ending the church as exclusive so-

cial club model; (2) from running programs and ministries to developing people as its core activity; and (3) from professional leadership to leadership that is shared by everyone in the community.



Reunion, Meeting Ourselves Again For the First Time by John Tornfelt asks, have you ever wanted to know a person at a deeper level? Something invites you to get closer. However you are uncomfortable, unsure, even fearful. Why? That other person is you. Over the years you

have become a stranger to yourself because of personal issues, relational challenges and circumstances. While it can be a challenging task, it can also be liberating as we peel away the layers of our histories and come face-to-face with ourselves. We're not the first people to walk this road. Countless men

and women from biblical times have faced trials and ordeals. By delving into their accounts, a bond is created that links the present to the past, in hope of building a bridge to the future.