



March 14, 2008

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

A NEW RELATIONAL UNITY AMONG PASTORS & CO-LABORERS

*Then you will come and pray to Me (a vital necessity),
and I will hear and heed you (pay close attention to you). Jer. 29:12-13 (AB).*

*The winds of God's call for unity among pastors and co-laborers
are blowing across our Denomination!*

Joining Together in Unity of Purpose

*My prayer is... that all of them may be one, Father,
...so the world may believe that you sent me. John 17:20-21 (NIV)*

God has one prayer He must answer and that is the prayer of His Son (John 17:20-21). God wants to reveal to us as pastors and co-laborers His heart and plans for our churches and communities in **making disciples and reaching the lost**. But first, He desires that we experience a deeper relational *unity* with Him, each other, and our local churches through prayer enabling us to

join together in

Closing the Gap between Community Needs and the Impact of Our Churches

Robert Lewis, author of *The Irresistible Church*, notes that no matter how large a church is within a community no *one* pastor or church, as *one* small part of Christ's body, can effectively reach a whole community. **How can we begin to close the gap?** Through two Relationships:

Networking of Pastoral Prayer Groups

It was exciting to hear of two EC pastors who have answered God's call for unity by praying together with local pastors. May you be encouraged as you read about their *prayer groups*:

I came to Calvary as a prayer warrior and felt God's call to pray with local pastors. I have been connected with ten pastors in the Reading House of Prayer to pray monthly for each other, our churches, and communities. Recently the Birdsboro Community BRIDGE Network of Churches was formed to pray for our youth and children. I believe God is calling us to rejoin in prayer with like-minded pastors and local churches for revival and a harvest of laborers to disciple others and to reach our communities to the glory of God.

Pastor Don Kerns, Calvary EC Church, Birdsboro, PA

I have been meeting every Wednesday morning with a group of "praying pastors" since September 2001. We began praying for and have worked to promote evangelistic efforts in our area while offering each other encouragement for our ministries. We began to see a need for discipleship as we discovered people coming to Christ with no church background. I'm blessed to have the support of local pastors and EC colleagues. God is breaking down denominational barriers and reminding us there is ONE CHURCH for all Christians and we should work together to help it grow. I strongly encourage any pastor to find a group of like-minded pastors and begin to pray for God's work in your community.

Pastor Jeff Martin, Ephrata Grace EC Church, Ephrata, PA

Encouraging United Prayer Among Co-Laborers

May God who gives encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves...so you may glorify...the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)

In Matthew 9:38a, Christ encouraged his disciples (co-laborers) to pray before sending them into the harvest fields. As pastors and leaders, we can encourage our co-laborers to pray along with our EC leaders, the Navigator intercessors, Pastor Runkle (Lancaster Tapestry Church) and their discipling steering team any or all of the heartfelt requests in the enclosed prayer letter.

**The Lord of the Harvest Is Moving!
Let's Join with Him – Lift our prayer sails and
Catch the winds of His Call to unity
by:**

Participating in the 2008 Prayer Gatherings

It is a wonderful thing when God's people dwell and work together in unity. (Ps 133:1).

God is waiting to pour out His blessing of unity upon our lives as pastors, leaders, and laity as we join together to:

enjoy God

experience a new relational unity and intimacy with Him, and

embrace this "new wave of prayer" moving through our churches.

Your presence will **enhance** our unity in prayer and rich fellowship with each other.

Let's develop expertise in using this powerful weapon. T. Jacobs, EC Prayer Leader

That the world will know that God has sent His Son!

Carolyn Boussum

Carolyn Boussum, EC Discipleship Associate, the EC Evangelism and Discipleship Commission and the Prayer Mobilization Team

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Enclosure

A Discipling Others Seminar (DOS) will be offered at the Community EC Church, Sinking Spring on Saturday, October 25, 2008. Invitations and materials for this seminar as well as the 2008 Prayer Gatherings will be forthcoming to all EC Churches in the Delaware and Susquehanna regions.

Spiritual Co-laborers Prayer Letter
in
Pursuit of Reaching the Lost and Discipling Others
Week of Feb. 18 – Week of May 5

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (Matt. 9:37).

The great harvest for souls and disciples will be reaped as laborers are raised up.

As prayer co-laborers with the EC Churches (involved in discipling and interested in becoming involved) pastors, leaders, and the Navigator Staff, we have the privilege in this **collaborative effort** to ask the Lord to send out workers into our harvest fields as we pray for the following Spirit-directed requests:

Monday - EC Churches and Co-laborers in Becoming Discipleship Communities

Pray that pastors and co-laborers will be united in thought and mind preventing divisions.
Pray that God will raise up pastors and workers with God's passion for people, a desire to want to be disciplined and to disciple others, and a love for reaching the lost.
Pray for steering teams to launch and keep the discipleship process going while modeling discipling among the church leaders and laity.

Tuesday - Leadership Co-laborers and the Discipling Vision

Bishop Sigman, EC Church

Pray that a quest for disciples would replace a quest for decisions among the EC pastors.
Pray that pastors would prioritize and model a disciple making lifestyle.
Pray that pastors would embrace the vision for multiplying disciples by training and releasing others for disciple making.

Wednesday - Developing Discipleship and Co-laborers Amidst A Plentiful Harvest

Tom Brey, Facilitator - Illinois District EC Churches

Pray that groups formed to learn discipleship principles in the Illinois Churches would advance into mature individuals to disciple new believers and those young in the faith.

Pray for an orderly transition of leaders to keep our eyes focused on what God has called us to be about: *knowing Christ and making Him known.*

Thursday - Co-laborers Becoming People of Prayer

Terry Jacobs, Prayer Leader - EC Denomination

Pray that the EC Denomination will answer the Call of the Holy Spirit to become prayer warriors.
Pray that prayer would be the first thing we do and not something we turn to only in crisis.

Pray that conflict resolution and physical, emotional and spiritual healing will be resolved through the power of prayer. Let's become skilled in using this powerful weapon.

Friday - Raising up Co-laborers in Missional Communities

Jay & Melisa Cull, Nav Staff Members Initiating Missional Communities

Pray that God will continue to direct the Cull's to co-laborers who have God's heart for reaching the lost and making disciples and together may they be led to non-believers with whom they can connect relationally and share the Gospel.

Upholding Nav Staff Co-laborers

Godly Leadership - Don and Marilyn Graybill

Pray for wisdom and stamina to lead the Navigator Staff with humble boldness. Pray for new Staff who are passionately committed to helping church leaders mobilize disciplemakers.

Pray for the ability to relationally connect with our neighbors in a redemptive way and the necessary resources to make the ministry happen.

Coping with Illness - Diane Lamb

Pray that God continues to give us strength and peace through a difficult time with Myasthenia Gravis, an immune disease that my husband has for ten years. Pray that we will be a testimony to God as we go through this test.

May we and those for whom we are praying be encouraged knowing that at the proper time we will reap a harvest of souls and disciples if we do not give up (Gal. 6:9).

To the Lord of the Harvest we lift our praise!

Diane Lamb & Carolyn Boussum

Note: Regarding the above requests, you may desire to pray for one request of each day in the first week, another request for each day in the second week or all requests for each day in the twelve weeks depending on what works best for you.