



Oh, to Be a Child Again



Have you felt stressed lately? 'Tis the season to be busy! Pastors diligently prepare Advent and Christmas Eve messages. Worship teams, choirs, and Sunday Schools practice for special programs. Organizations of all kinds send out their year-end appeals. Calendars are crowded with social



events, and shopping, decorating, and cooking still need to be done. For others, the stress at this season comes not so much from busyness, but from sickness, sadness, and loss. As we attended Reading Community's Blue Christmas service and, more recently, the funeral of a dear friend, I was reminded again of just how painful Christmas can be. Whether from busyness or

other stressors, many of us are struggling to find a few peaceful moments to reflect on the real reason for the season.

Yet there is another perspective to consider: Can we make room again to engage in the "wonder of it all" that makes the birth of the Christ Child so special? As Miriam and I shared in the Sunday school program at Lititz, we saw the Christmas story afresh through the eyes of our grandchildren. Dressed as some of the animals witnessing His birth, they proudly wore their sheep, dove, and cow head-pieces. They



sang with enthusiasm, and their eyes danced with innocence, wonder, and anticipation. I was reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew

19:14 when He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Unlike adults, children don't usually let the cares of life dampen their optimism, transparency, and exuberance; they tend to be trusting and hopeful despite the circumstances. Like children, we too need to be filled with that faith and hope. As we celebrate the birth of the Child who came to make possible our salvation, let's become like children again!

On behalf of the National Conference and the Church Center staff, I wish you a wonder-filled Christmas and a joyful new year in Christ!

In Him,
Fred Moury
NC Chair

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National Conference Chair Prayer & Praise



• Christmas can be a difficult time for many who have recently lost loved ones or are experiencing physical struggles or personal loss. In light of that, I want to praise God for the “Blue Christmas” program hosted by our Community Evangelical Church in Sinking Spring on December 5. It was a wonderful service that focused on the theme: “Where Joy and Sorrow Meet.”

- Please remember the Leibensperger family in your prayers as they continue to grieve Bishop Kevin’s death this Christmas. Remember Deb and the children, Kevin’s mother Marilyn and sister Anne Kern.
- John Lee, Lay Delegate for 18 years at Bethel Church, Dixon, IL, and Tom Jackson, Lay Delegate at St. David’s, Weigels-town, both passed away this



month. Keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

- Ruth Ludington, wife of the late Rev. Charles Ludington, also exchanged time for eternity recently. Keep her family in your prayers as well.
- Rev. David Bailey, pastor at our Hooppole Church has been hospitalized at University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, 200 Hawkins Drive, Iowa City, IA 52242. Please remember him and his physical health concerns right now.
- Praise God for the many E.C.ers who went down to Boone, NC, earlier this month to help prepare the Operation Christmas Child “shoe box” gifts for overseas shipment.
- All application information for Bishop nominees has been submitted to the Episcopal Nominating



Committee. Please pray for Jim Price and his committee as they review the material and prepare for their candidate interviews in the new year.

- Pray for the pastors and churches that will experience pastoral assignment changes in 2011.
- Pray for those who will be assessed and those who will serve on the assessment team during the Pastoral Assessment Center from January 19-22.
- Please start praying now for our upcoming National Conference at Messiah College. The dates will be May 25-27 and will feature the election of our next Bishop. Our theme for the 2011 National Conference is “Focused on Jesus, Our Refuge, and Firm Foundation” and our featured guest speaker will be Rev. H. B. London.



Prayer & Praise from Evangelical



Registration is underway for Winterim and spring semester classes. Remember that alumni, pastors, senior citizens, and trustees may audit one course per semester for only \$50. Check the Evangelical website (www.evangelical.edu) to see if there’s something for you.

Leadership Contact courses for spring will be Theology I (Discovering Who God Is) and Preaching I. These Tuesday evening classes are open to anyone interested in spiritual enrichment and leadership development. Check www.center4li.org for information and online registration or call Katie at 717-866-5775.

Prayer Points: The presidential search committee is currently reviewing the applications, contacting references, and interviewing candidates for Evangelical’s next president. Pray for them as they seek God’s direction. Also, pray for the United Methodist Church’s University Senate, as it considers our appeal to continue training UM pastors during its January 25-26 meeting in Augusta, GA.



Praise the Lord! Our day with Dr. Henry Cloud on November 18 was a special blessing, both for the 112 business people attending the Faith in the Marketplace Breakfast and the 260 who participated in the all day Fall Leadership Forum.

Center for Leadership Impact has announced dates for upcoming events. Faith in the Marketplace breakfasts are set for March 3 (a panel discussing transferring the family business) and May 3 (Glenn Eshelman of Sight and Sound). Note the corrected date for the Wesley Forum—April 14—with Drew Williams, senior pastor of Trinity Church, Greenwich, CT. More information will arrive early in 2011.

Evangelical—“a place where the Word lives” sends you warmest Christmas greetings as you celebrate again the transforming reality that “*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*”





1. Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? An updated GMC Giving Catalog is included in the just-released fall issue of Window on the World. Please help GMC get this into the hands of our members and friends. If you need multiple copies contact us at 717-866-7584.

2. Have you checked out the Global Ministries Commission Facebook page? This page is open for anyone to share what is happening in your church/life/group in relation to missions!

3. The GMC needs to replace the van used for missionaries on home assignment and for transporting groups/guests to and from the airport and other ministries. At this point we do not have the funds to replace this vehicle so we are looking for someone who may want to donate a good quality van. Contact Randy for more information (rsizemore@eccenter.com) or 717-866-7584



4. Please continue to pray for the group planning to visit the EC Church of Liberia January 21-February 1, 2011. Some specific requests:



- That we obtain all the necessary entry visas in time.

- That we all connect in Brussels and fly into Liberia together:

- General Director Rev. Lalrosiem Songate traveling from the EC Church of India.



- Rev. Elias Martinez traveling from the EC Church of Mexico.



- Rev. Salvador Cardoso travel-

ing from Illinois to PA to travel with Randy.

- DGM Randy Sizemore traveling from PA with Salvador to Brussels.
- That once we land in Monrovia, Liberia we are allowed entry into the country
- Rev. Matthew Gueh and the leaders of the EC Church of Liberia as they prepare for the logistics of their Annual Conference and our visit (lodging, transportation, food, etc.) in a country that has very little resources.



- Pray against the “evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). Liberia is a spiritually dark place and Satan will not let the Church present the Gospel in word and deed without serious opposition both inside and outside of the church.



In need of prayer

- Pray for the safety and physical health of the visiting group.

- Pray for clear direction as we transition into the next phase of the “Launch Liberia” strategy from village

church planting, relief and development work to intentional discipleship and training for the new church plants.

5. I would love to share with your congregation in a combined Sunday School or worship, presenting my 20-30 minutes fast-paced, engaging, multi-media presentation describing where the EC Church is working and how your congregation is a vital part of this amazing story! My priority will be for those EC Churches I have not yet visited

but my schedule is open to all.



Give me a call or send an email to learn more. Available Sundays January –June, 2011:

- January—none
- February 6, 20, 27
- March—none
- April 3, 10, 17
- May 8, 22, 29
- June 5, 19, 26

6. Global Ministries is once again sponsoring three teams to Alaska during the summer of 2011. The dates for Victory Bible Camp (Anchorage) are May 14-28. The dates for Camp LIWA (Fairbanks) are July 16-30, and July 30



-August 13, 2011. The cost is primarily that of airfare. Applications can be downloaded at the GMC website—www.ecglobal.org.

Go to the Short Term Opportunities tab and click. The deadline for applications is January 31st.



The words “Thank you” seem so inadequate to express the gratitude and appreciation I have for the EC Church family and your outpouring of love in the recent death of my dad. Your expression of sympathy, prayers, cards and attendance at the viewing and funeral continue to bring comfort to me, and my entire family. We rest assured in the knowledge that dad is now home with God.

In Christ,
Shirley Long

News from Benefits Corporation/Compensation Committee



Effective December 31, 2010 Ken Wiest will be leaving his position as Benefits and Compensation Administrator and devoting more time to his family and Trinity Evangelical Fellowship in Womelsdorf. Ken served in this position for almost four years and provided valuable and necessary expertise and skills to the Benefits Corporation and the EC denomination when it was most needed. Thank you Ken for your service and may God continue to bless the work of your hands.

David King, a member of Mohn's Memorial EC, will be replacing Ken as Benefits Administrator and Human Resources Coordinator. Dave brings talent, knowledge and many years of experience in leading small and mid size businesses. We are excited to have Dave join the staff of the EC Church Center and please pray for Dave as he assumes his new duties.

Effective on January 1, 2011 reimbursement from your FSA funds for over the counter (OTC) medications will require a doctor's prescription. This is a mandated change from the Affordable Care Act of March 2010. Insulin, medical devices (i.e., blood sugar, blood pressure monitors) and items such as crutches, bandages and contact lens solutions can still be reimbursed without a prescription. As with most regulations from the Affordable Care Act, this regulation is also not clear and definitive. A list of common items that are or are not reimbursable from your FSA will be available on the EC Benefits page of the EC website (www.eccenter.com). If you have a specific question on an item for reimbursement, please contact the Benefits office and we will do our best to find an answer.

Important Due Dates:

Annual Reports	January 25, 2011
December Ministry Funds	January 15, 2011
Workers Compensation Forms	February 15, 2011
Pastor's Compensation Forms	January 15, 2011
Disability Insurance Payment	January 15, 2011



Please contact Ken Wiest kwiest@eccenter.com, Dave King dking@eccenter.com or Kevin Henry khenry@eccenter.com or 1-800-866-7581 with any questions.

Merry Christmas,

Kevin Henry
Controller



Disciplemaking "Cross-Talk"

This is to invite you and your team to a "Cross-Talk" interaction designed to pool our "lessons-learned" in life-to-life disciplemaking. The Navigators will facilitate this for us and may also invite other non-EC leaders to join us in this time of sharing.



**January 11, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Grace Community E.C. Church,
Willow Street**

Simply call the Church Center (1-800-866-7581) to let us know which of these meetings you will attend and how many people are attending. A registration form is also available online at our website: www.eccenter.com

Keep
in **Christ**
Christmas



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