

September 2011

Recapturing the Heart of Jesus for HIS Church



EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

E.C. LEADER

You've heard it said, "The Evangelical Congregational Church is connectional." I believe this is one of great strengths of being part of a denomination; we have the ability to work together, to cooperate with each other in order to accomplish things no one pastor or church could do by themselves. Think of some of the ministries you and I participate in because of our connection to the E.C. Church: Evangelical Seminary, our Global Ministries Commission, the StoneRidge campuses, and the camping ministries of Camp ECCO, Rock River, and Twin Pines, just to name a few. We need each other and depend on each other. It's the way the Lord of the church designed it.

Not only do we have the ability to work within the structure of the E.C. Church, but we have opportunities to minister to the greater Kingdom of God and to receive ministry from others in the Kingdom.

Just prior to National Conference, the E.C. Church entered into an agreement with New Church Specialties (NCS) to work together to strengthen the E.C. Church and provide services we could not experience by ourselves. New Church Specialties exists to assist in the starting and strengthening of churches worldwide. One of the things I really like about them, is their definition of church health: "Recapturing the Heart of Jesus for HIS Church." I know you'll be hearing more about that in the coming year. Last year NCS worked with the Great Lakes Region to provide Transitional Interim Pastors Services (TIPS) at Cedarville, IL. This year we are working with them to provide a TIPS pastor for Community Evangelical Church in Sinking Spring. But NCS offers much more than trained interim pastors. NCS provides coaching, consulting and training for churches in three main settings: NewStarts, ReStarts, and ReFocus. NewStarts is pretty much what it sounds like; training and resources for new church planting. Their ReStart resources include training for churches who desire to partner with the denomination to ReStart. NCS has also developed tools for existing churches to use to ReFocus their ministry through a process of assessment, renewal, planning, and implementation.



I am very thank for the team of leaders we have developed within the Evangelical Congregational Church. We have great people with wonderful gifts and graces. I am thankful for partners like New Church Specialties who can help us when we ask. Because of our denomination's relationship with NCS you now have access to many of their resources and information. If you would like to learn more about what NCS has to offer your church you can check out their

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

website at www.newchurchspecialties.org. Two simple tools they have developed to help local churches evaluate their health are the Church Health Survey and the Church Lifestyle Survey. If your church is interested in working with NCS you can contact them directly (make sure they know you are an E.C. pastor/church) or you can contact your Conference Minister who will help you make the proper connections.

I pray that each of us, as pastors, lay leaders, and churches, desire to recapture the heart of Jesus for His church. I am thankful that we can walk with this path together and that we can partner with others, to tell people the Good News about Jesus and build His Kingdom.



In Christ's service,
Bruce

Bishop's TOP TEN Prayer & Praise Items

1. As Fred Moury completes his service to our National Conference, praise the Lord for Fred's willingness to serve as the Chairman for the past year.
2. Praise the Lord for a smooth transition between Fred and Bruce.
3. Praise the Lord for the sense of team that is developing between the Conference Ministers and Bishop; pray that it will continue to grow strong in the Lord.
4. Praise the Lord for the reports of changed lives coming from our camping ministries at Camp ECCO, Rock River Bible Camp, and Twin Pines Camp.
5. Praise the Lord for the faithful stewardship of God's people even in times of economic turmoil.
6. Pray for the Conference Ministers, Stationing Committee, and a number of churches and pastors as we make some mid-year stationing appointments.
7. Pray for wisdom for the Benefits Corporation as they face some challenges and very difficult decisions concerning health insurance.
8. Pray for understanding to be able to balance the urgent issues while at the same time being able to develop the strategic vision and direction for our church.
9. Pray that I continue to make progress in learning the position of Bishop and the work of our commissions and committees.
10. Pray for all of our pastors, lay leaders, and churches as we move into new programs and new ministries for the Fall.



Stationing Items

It may have been Summer, but the Stationing Committee has been busy with some stationing issues:

- **John Miranda** will complete his church planting ministry at Bethany E.C. Church, Sunbury, PA on August 31.
- **Mark Brownson** will be leaving the Trinity E.C. Church, Shamokin, PA and become the pastor of Bethany E.C. Church, Ashland, PA on September 1, 2011.
- **Jared Rabold** has resigned his position as pastor of Ebenezer E.C. Church, Jim Thorpe, PA effective August 28, 2011.



News from Benefits Corporation /Compensation Committee

Our health insurance policy renewal continues to be the main focus of attention. To date we have spoken with four health insurance brokers and have received mixed results. It does appear that there will be a couple of health insurance plans that the Benefits Corporation can choose from that, by necessity, most of us will be able to live with. The E.C. Benefits Corporation is aware that there are churches in financial difficulty and that any increase in health insurance premiums will cause havoc within budgets and limit ministry opportunities. As mentioned in last month's EC Leader a change in plan design is inevitable with participants assuming more of their healthcare expenses. The EC Benefits Corp will release information on the health insurance renewal when a decision is made.



The mandatory participation in the group health insurance plan is for pastors only. A pastor's spouse and children are not mandatory participants in our group health plan. The spouse and children of the pastor can seek health insurance coverage elsewhere. The local church is still responsible for covering the cost of health insurance for their pastor and family but the total cost of coverage could be less. A cooperative spirit between the pastor and church board may provide some creative ways to reduce the church's overall health insurance benefit.

Some examples of other healthcare options; children in Pennsylvania can be covered under CHIP, a state run program for uninsured children, I would assume other states have similar programs. A pastor's spouse and children could join one of the faith-based healthcare cost sharing programs available. A younger family (pastor's spouse and children) may find traditional health insurance coverage less expensive than ours. If you do investigate other healthcare options for your spouse and children please do so prayerfully and carefully. Ask lots of questions and read the small print. Contact Dave King (dking@eccenter.com) or myself (khenry@eccenter.com) at 1-800-866-7581 with any questions or to discuss your options.



AllOne Health is again providing our wellness program. We encourage all pastors and spouses to complete their online health assessment, complete two coaching calls with their health coach and a wellness physical from their doctor. Sorry, no incentives this year but your participation will ultimately help the EC Church to be a healthier church.

The Internal Revenue Service increased the standard mile-age reimbursement for business travel to \$.555/mile effective July 1, 2011. Per the compensation committee report we strongly encourage the churches to reimburse pastors at the IRS rate for business miles driven using their personal vehicles.



Kevin Henry
Controller





“Spend-A-Day” Becomes “Missionary Prayer Partners”

Of all the ways the EC Church facilitates and encourages our missionaries, the “Spend-A-Day” prayer initiative always scores near the top with our missionaries! **Beginning January 1, 2012 the “Spend-A-Day” program will become “Missionary Prayer Partners.”** The concept of connecting individuals and missionaries to mutually pray for each other on specific dates will remain the same but we will initiate a few changes to make this important ministry more accessible and user-friendly.

- Coordination of the Missionary Prayer Partners will be from the GMC office (Carla Sizemore).
- You will be able to select from the participating missionaries, available months and download the needed information from the GMC website or by calling the GMC office.
- We will no longer collect the \$1.00 donation with each participant’s prayer slip.
- An informational/instructional brochure and DVD has been produced to guide interested participants through the new Missionary Prayer Partners program. Contact the GMC office to find out how to get yours!



The remaining months of the original 2011 Spend-A-Day program will be handled by Carla Sizemore at the GMC office. We will do our best to navigate this transition smoothly but please do not hesitate to contact Carla with any questions or concerns. Our ultimate goal is to have even more of our members partnering in prayer with our EC missionaries!

MISSION LEADERS BRUNCH

The Global Ministries Commission is constantly working on improving the ways we keep our local churches informed and engaged in the Great Commission. This Fall we are introducing a Mission Leaders’ Brunch.



These informational gatherings will be scheduled for each region’s local church mission leaders/pastors and will give us an opportunity to inform, update and educate our local churches on the exciting things God is doing through the EC Church both here and abroad. ***Our first Mission Leader Brunch is scheduled for the Susquehanna Region on November 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM at Dutchway Restaurant in Myerstown, PA.*** Each person will pay for their own meal. Please RSVP to the GMC office by November 1.

Japan Disaster Relief Update

Dear Randy,

Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Tomoyuki and I went to Tohoku from July 25th to 27th and visited churches, Christian groups, and a refugee camp. We gave the funds to several churches, which had a great need of restoring their buildings, and to two Christian networks, which had been working for and supporting churches and refugee camps in Tohoku region. We are planning to send more people from our churches during this summer to help those who have been living in difficulties. We visited the world’s largest tsunami wall in Iwate. Although we were amazed by the length, width, and height of



the wall, we lost our words when we saw that the whole town behind it had been completely swept away by the tsunami of March 11. It will take years to restore those towns along the coast and we believe that the people need the hope that will help them stand up and guide them into the right way.

One of our pastors in Iwate told us that when he was distributing food to people, they asked him why he was so kind to them. The pastor said that he was living out God's love which he had received from Him. The pastor found out that they had never heard about the Lord. He did realize the need of spreading the Gospel but he also acknowledged that there was a lack of workers who could bring spiritual food to unsaved people. There are many towns and villages without a church. Please pray for this mission in Japan.

*Blessings,
Nobuo*

GMC Training Seminar for Illinois EC Churches

The Cedarville EC Church will be hosting a GMC Training Seminar by DGM Randy Sizemore on Saturday, September 24, 2011 for the Illinois EC Churches. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the day will conclude by 3:00 pm. Topics include:



**GMC
TRAINING**

- Building Missions Into Your Congregation's DNA
- Money, Missionaries & Missions

For more information contact Jean Schubert, Cedarville's mission coordinator at danjeanschubert@aol.com or 815-275-7335.



coaching⁴ clergy

As a pastor, how could a coach be a valuable asset for you? How would a coach approach to ministry enhance your overall effectiveness?

Nine participants dealt with these questions during the Aug. 16-17 Basic Coach Training Clinic sponsored by the Church Health Commission at Evangelical Seminary.

The clinic was based on Coaching 4 Clergy materials, as developed in Val Hasting's book, *The Next Great Awakening*. Participants will share in a 30 day follow-up teleconference call and also are urged to schedule a personal complimentary coaching session with one of the coaches listed on the Coaching 4 Clergy website. In addition for the CEUs for the event, those involved will also receive basic certification from Coaching 4 Clergy after completing the follow-up components.

Anyone interested in having or becoming a coach, or in developing a coach approach to ministry, can contact Fred Moury at 717-627-2810 or by email at mourys@dejazzd.com.





FALL FAMILY MISSION RALLY: OCTOBER 14-15, 2011
Salem EC Church: Lenhartsville, PA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

Pastors' Appreciation Luncheon 11:30-2:30

Missionaries David & Conce Roof

El Retiro Representative Mr. Juan Porto

DGM Randy Sizemore

Appreciation gift for each pastor attending

Pastors' wives are invited!!

RSVP to GMC office by **September 30**: ecglobal@eccenter.com or 717-866-7584

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

MISSION SESSIONS FOR ALL AGES 8:30-3:00

Children's program K-5th grade

Youth program 6th-8th grade

Adult program

Missionaries: Dave & Conce Roof, Joe Toy, Kitty Miller, El Retiro- Juan Porto

DGM Randy Sizemore

RSVP to GMC office by **September 30**: ecglobal@eccenter.com or 717-866-7584

Cost: We are requesting a donation of \$3.00 per child and \$5.00 per adult to cover lunch expenses

Project:

The youth will be stuffing Christmas stockings for missionary Joe Toy. You can help by bringing some of the following items:

BOYS:

Games
Cars/trucks
Trading cards
Handballs
Socks
Watches

GIRLS:

Butterfly clips
Jewelry
Watches
Jump ropes
Coin purse
Socks

ALL KIDS:

Candy
Puzzles
Small games
Pencils
Crayons
Stickers

The National Conference Journals are ready!!!

Call the Church Center (1-800-866-7581) or email (blong@eccenter.com) to place your order for the 2011 National Conference Journal.

The cost is:

- Binder w/cover & spine insert \$7.00
 - Section Dividers \$4.00
 - Printed Contents \$14.00
 - Additional CD-WORD format \$5.00
- (One (1) copy of the Conference Journal on CD will be sent to each church FREE of charge.)



News from Evangelical



Fall Classes begin August 25, but there's still time to register for one of our many courses, either for credit or audit. Check the website at www.evangelical.edu for details. Also, the Center for Leadership Impact is offering Old Testament Survey on seven Tuesday evenings, beginning August 30. This non-credit course is open to anyone interested in spiritual growth and leadership development. Check www.center4li.org for more information.



Congratulations to Dr. David A. Dorsey, who will be named Distinguished Professor of Old Testament during our Fall Convocation on August 30. Everyone is welcome to attend the 11:00 am service in Dech Chapel, at which Dr. Dorsey will present the annual Wittmaier-Sailer Lecture.



Faith in the Marketplace begins its seventh season with a September 29 breakfast featuring Scott Heintzelman, the "exuberant accountant." Check www.center4li.org for details and registration information.



HOLD THE DATE: The 2011 Friends of Evangelical Banquet is set for October 21 at Calvary Church. Our speaker will be Gordon MacDonald, well known author and pastor. Watch for more details.



An ATS and Middle States team will be on campus from September 18-21 as part of the regular 10 year re-accreditation process Evangelical experiences with these two groups. Pray for God's favor during the interactions that take place.

