

SPRING ~ 2014

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.....WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



Sharing the One We Love

*A Message From
The Rev. Jim Barnes, National Minister*

There's a story told of a world famous jewel merchant. One day he watched one of his salesmen show a beautiful diamond to a rich shopper. The customer listened thoughtfully to the expert description, but eventually turned away, saying, "It's a wonderful stone, but not exactly what I want."

The famous jewel merchant stopped the customer on his way out and asked, "Do you mind if I show you that diamond once more?" The man agreed. The owner took the stone in his hand. He did not repeat anything the salesman had said. He simply talked about the gem as an object of deep beauty. Abruptly the customer changed his mind and bought the diamond. While he was waiting for it to be brought to him, he turned to the jewel merchant and said, "Why did I buy it willingly from you, though I

had no difficulty saying no to your salesman?"

The owner answered, "That salesman is one of the best men in the business. **He knows diamonds - but I love them.**"

A similar principle applies to our relationship with Jesus.

If we as Christians hope to share the Good News of Jesus with an uninterested and unbelieving world, the first step involves looking into our own hearts and asking the question: **Do I simply know about Jesus or do I really love Him?**

As a pastor, I have spent years challenging Christians to share their faith with others so that people might come to the knowledge of who Jesus is and what He has done for them and be saved. But no matter how much any of us are challenged to go out

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U.C.C. Files Lawsuit Challenging North Carolina Marriage Law

According to their own website (ucc.org), the United Church of Christ "filed a landmark lawsuit in U.S. District Court on Monday, April 28, 2014, arguing that North Carolina marriage laws restrict freedom of religion." The U.C.C. is the lead plaintiff in the case and is a Protestant denomination with 5,154 congregations nationwide and 155 churches in the state of North Carolina.

In 2012, North Carolina voters approved Amendment One, which essentially defined marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The U.C.C. is arguing that North Carolina marriage laws limit ministers' choices, violate the principle of "free exercise of religion" upon which the church is built, and restrict the freedoms of religion and expressive association guaranteed in the First Amendment.

This example of yet another assault on marriage being waged in the judicial system, now by an entire denomination, serves as a reminder of why the Evangelical Association continues to affirm the biblical guidelines for human sexuality: marriage as the union of one man and one woman, fidelity and holiness in marriage and chastity outside of marriage for the sake of the Kingdom. Please be in prayer for all believers in the Evangelical, Reformed, Congregational and Christian churches whose congregations are now implicated as being supportive of this lawsuit because of their association with the U.C.C. denomination.

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GREETINGS FROM THE EA PRESIDENT

The Rev. Bill Miller, President of the Board of Directors

Spring is finally here! For many of us this has been a tough winter, but the Easter season is upon us and hope is alive! The scriptures tell us "Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season..." (Timothy 4:2a). This season and every season is the right time to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord. Let me encourage you to get the word out -- this spring and in every season of the year. Let's tell the world that hope is alive and well because Jesus rose from the dead. Have a blessed springtime.

Welcome New Affiliates

During the past few months the following churches and pastors have chosen to become new affiliates of the Evangelical Association:

True Worship Christian Church
Burlington, North Carolina

Rev. Kirt W. Anderson
Shelocta, Pennsylvania

Immanuel Church
Clarington, Ohio

Rev. Dara LaVoie
Easton, Pennsylvania

Rev. Paul T. McHenry, III
Cottonport, Louisiana

Relevant Worship Center
St. Clairsville, Ohio

Bethel Church
Edwardsport, Indiana

Rev. Jonathan Schell
Salisbury, North Carolina

St. Jacob's Church
Payne, Ohio

**Community
Congregational Church**
Naples, Florida

**St. John's Evangelical
Protestant Church**
Wheeling, West Virginia

Rev. David B. Riley
Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

PRINT DEADLINES FOR THE NETWORKER

Summer 2014 Edition:
July 15, 2014

Fall 2014 Edition:
October 15, 2014

Winter 2015 Edition:
January 15, 2015

Website Offers Resource Center and Online Giving

The website of the Evangelical Association serves as both a place where new people can learn about the EA and as a hub where current affiliates of the association can share resources. If you or your church are affiliated with the Evangelical Association, please visit evangelicalassociation.org, click on the "Resource Center" and apply for a log in and password. Once you are able to access this private part of our website, you will be able to interact and share resources online with others across the country who are part of the network.

In addition to the Resource Center, the new website also allows people to **make online donations**. If you would like to contribute to the ongoing work of the association by joining the National Minister Fund support team or by making a one time or monthly recurring donation, you can now do all of that by clicking the "donate" button on our website. Please be advised that about two percent of every electronic donation is used to pay for credit/debit card processing, thus for large contributions, we still recommend that you mail an old fashioned paper check so that one hundred percent of your donation is made available to be used for the Lord's work through the Evangelical Association.

Sharing the One We Love

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and “spread the word” about Jesus, the only way we will be effective is if we are sharing Jesus because we **love Him** and want others to experience the benefit of a deep and abiding relationship with Him as well.

During the past several months I’ve been leading a seminar in various locations around the country called *New Life for Old Churches*. In virtually every session, someone will share with me how they are frustrated with the lack of growth in their church. A question we all need to ask is, how do we measure the success of a church? Is it based on attendance figures? Is it based on financial statistics? Is it based on how willing people are to volunteer? While all those things may seem important, ultimately, the success of a church is measured primarily by discovering if the people who are a part of the church are **loving Jesus** and letting **Jesus love them**.

The theme of the Evangelical Association this coming year will be *Advancing the Kingdom*. As those of us who are a part of the EARCCC seek to do our part, my prayer is that we will all discover more about what it means to **truly love Jesus** - because as we love Him more, we will be able to share Him more effectively with people **we love** who need to know **His love!**

Upper Midwest Regional Seminar on Church Renewal



Small group discussion during New Life for Old Churches seminar.

This year the Upper Midwest Regional gathering was organized by several EA churches that are within driving distance of each other in and around Fort Wayne, Indiana. Each church made a donation so that the event could be offered free to all participants. Jim Barnes, EA National Minister had the platform most of the day as he gave his *New Life for Old Churches* seminar. One participant commented, “I’ve been to many church growth and church success seminars, but this is one

of the best because it is grounded in the truth of Scripture.” (If you would like to host Pastor Jim’s seminar in your church, please contact the national office.)

Participants came primarily from Indiana and Ohio, with one pastor and his wife driving about six hours from the northern tip of Michigan, which is where, according to host pastor Mike Wertenberger, “they manufacture cold and import it down to the rest of us.” The day concluded with a time of worship and praise in the sanctuary of the host church, St. Luke in Decatur, Indiana.

Singing praise during closing worship



Is It Time for You (or your Church) to Join the Evangelical Association?

Affiliation with the EA is open to entire congregations as well as to individual pastors, students and lay people. Perhaps you’ve been reading and hearing about the EARCCC for a while, but you’ve never stepped across the line to actually affiliate with the association and become a part of the network. The EA is only as strong as those who choose to affiliate with us each year, so if you have never signed on, please visit our web site (www.evangelicalassociation.org) where you can download and print an application form. If you need to know more about the EA or if your church would like to have an informational presentation, please contact the national minister’s office at natmin@evangelicalassociation.org or 877-424-1472.

BULK COPIES OF THE NETWORKER ARE NOW AVAILABLE

If you would like a bulk shipment of ten copies of each edition of the Networker to make available to the members of your church, just contact the national office at~

**natmin@
evangelicalassociation.org**

or toll free at
877-424-1472

KNOTS IN THE NET

*Getting to know the Congregations,
Clergy, and Laity of the Evangelical Association*

God Kept Turning Him Back to the Ministry

The Rev. Greg Way—Friedens Reformed Church, Tripp, South Dakota



Greg Way grew up as a church going guy. As a young man in college in the 1970's, he was majoring in African Studies and had plans to move overseas to be a missionary. Two of his professors who were from Africa suggested that he might be better suited to be a minister here in the United States, so he headed off to seminary.

It turns out the seminary he chose was a Methodist school which Greg says ran him through the “buzz saw” of liberal theology. During seminary and after, Pastor Greg served several Methodist congregations over a period of a few years and decided that ministry was not for him.

For the next ten years, Greg had a variety of secular jobs ending with a four year stint in the Infantry. “You don’t realize how hard it is to join the Infantry at age 33 until you start going through training with a bunch of guys who are 18-19 years old!” says Greg Way reflecting back on his decision.

Although he spent a decade away from active ministry, the Lord kept working on him until finally Greg realized that even away from the church, he was still “ministering” to the people with whom he was working. Upon his release from the military, Greg enrolled in the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary where he says he was taught solid, biblical theology and where his commitment to the Lord was finally made firm.

He then returned to the ministry, serving a series of UCC congregations in upstate New York and Illinois, finally arriving at a church in South Dakota in 1993. In 2000 he was called as the pastor of Friedens UCC in Tripp, South Dakota as the first non-German speaking pastor in the church’s history.

Friedens Reformed Church was founded in 1901 in Tripp which had a large German population and many small German speaking country churches.

Over time, several of these smaller congregations folded and merged with Friedens. Like many German Reformed churches, Friedens joined the Evangelical and Reformed denomination and later the UCC.

In 2005, the people of Friedens drafted a resolution defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman (as recognized by South Dakota law) and decided to take it to the UCC conference meeting in Rapid City. Thinking it would be an easy resolution to pass, the delegates from Friedens were surprised to find that their resolution was anything but non-controversial at the meeting of the UCC. According to Pastor Way, the people from Friedens were treated very badly at the conference meeting by those in opposition to their resolution.

Following this event, Friedens UCC began discussions regarding their affiliation with the denomination. According to Pastor Way, a UCC official came to one of their meetings and told the congregation that the Bible was a book of “myth, fairy tale and legend.” Shortly thereafter the members of the church voted to depart from the denomination which they determined no longer reflected their theological beliefs.

Since their departure from the UCC, things have been going well at Friedens with the church experiencing health and vitality. In 2007, both Pastor Greg and the congregation joined the Evangelical Association.

Just recently, the people of Friedens, in partnership with the Lutheran church in town, rented out the local



KNOTS IN THE NET

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theater to show the film “God is Not Dead.” In a rural town with a population of about 500 people, Pastor Way says, “We filled the local theater (which seats about 300) to overflowing four times over the course of the weekend. People came from neighboring towns and I can say I haven’t seen that many people in Tripp all at the same time in years!”

Pastor Way says, “God brought me into ministry sort of like He did Jonah. I kept running away, but He kept bringing me back.”

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From Selling Groceries to Making Disciples

Pastor Calvin L. Covington—True Worship Christian Church, Burlington, North Carolina



As a young man in the mid 1980's, C.L. Covington had started a promising career in the grocery business. He had risen to the rank of co-manager and was on track to be manager of his own store. The Lord, however, had other plans.

According to C.L., “I had grown up attending church, but in 1988 the Lord began dealing with my heart and letting me know I needed to be saved.” This realization led him to make a decision to be baptized. Shortly thereafter he was invited by a cousin to visit the Green Level Christian Church where he began serving the Lord in various capacities.

As he continued to grow and mature in his faith under the leadership of Senior Pastor Coslow Holt, C.L. was eventually licensed as a minister and sent out to serve as pastor of a church. “In order to accept the call to preach, I had to give up my career as a grocery store manager,” states C.L. “I had a plan, but God had a detour.”

After serving eight years at the Patilla Congregational Christian Church, God called C.L. to plant a new congregation, the True Worship Christian Church in 2012. As a part-time pastor, the Lord had provided a new job for C.L. that made his responsibilities as a pastor easier to accomplish. Working for Nabisco, he now sets up displays in grocery stores for Oreo cookies and Triscuit crackers. This allows him to work four days a week with Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays off.

The True Worship Christian Church just recently joined the Evangelical Association. According to Pastor C.L., “Our goal at True Worship is to preach the Word of God and have a church where we worship in one accord where discipleship is key and we can spread the Word of God in all areas of our lives.”

The church is getting its start in a Methodist church building in Burlington, North Carolina. The members of the Methodist church who own the building have decided to share their facility with the new congregation of True Worship.

Recently the members of True Worship engaged in a “grocery outreach” into their community. The congregation purchased and donated groceries which they then bagged up and distributed to needy families. The former grocery store manager is now leading ministry efforts to provide food to those in need.

C.L. is married to his high school sweetheart, Wendy. They currently reside in Yanceyville, North Carolina with their three sons.

Ministry Opportunities

ALABAMA – St. John’s Evangelical Protestant Church, Cullman Alabama is seeking a full-time Senior Pastor who has a heart for serving our Lord. If you base your messages on Scripture, have a heart for ministering to the lost and hurting, teaching and providing for the spiritual growth of His children, then submit your application. We are seeking a dynamic Senior Pastor with a minimum of five years experience, an accredited seminary degree and a testimony of personal faith in Jesus Christ who places a priority on evangelism and missions. Our normal attendance revolves around 500 in three services on Sunday. Cullman is a city of 15,000 with an outstanding school system, award winning park facilities and an ideal environment for raising children. We are located on I-65, one hour from Birmingham or Huntsville. Compensation will be commensurate with experience. Interested applicants can check our website at www.sjepc.com or contact Karen Hassell at 256-734-0344 or karen.hassell@sjepc.com for more information.

NORTH CAROLINA – Boger Reformed Church is seeking a full-time pastor who will passionately teach/preach the Word of God and present the Gospel. We are looking for a pastor who will provide vision and guidance to the church. Boger Reformed Church is located in a rural community located outside of Concord, NC in Cabarrus County. There is a parsonage, playground, fellowship hall, barbecue hut and a traditional sanctuary located on approximately a fourteen-acre campus. There are 80 active members. Interested applicants should email questions and resumes to mike@tridenteng.us

PENNSYLVANIA – Grace Church, 12 Dromgold Road, Shermans Dale, PA is seeking a part-time pastor (perhaps a retired pastor who lives in our area). Our web site is www.graceatdromgold.org Exact duties and time could be determined after discussion and would depend on your desires and our ability to pay. Initial contact can be made to Dr. Bob Gasull at 717-582-8671 or bgasull@embarqmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA – Swamp Christian Fellowship of Reinholds, PA www.swampef.org is seeking a part-time Music Director to lead worship through music in blended services. The candidate must enjoy and be able to lead both traditional hymns and contemporary praise, working with both choir and worship band. Other responsibilities include oversight of special music events. Please contact Ted Reimel at 717-203-8620 or tedreimel@gmail.com

WEST VIRGINIA – Timber Ridge Christian Church of High View, West Virginia is seeking a permanent part-time pastor. The church was formerly associated with the United Church of Christ, but is now an independent church (that just joined the Evangelical Association) with an average attendance of 35 persons, who are mostly members of the church. We have a 200 year history in our community. We are looking for a pastor, who shares our traditional conservative philosophy and who can lead willing parishioners to their full potential. We would like to grow our church, not only in size, but also in service to God and our community. Our vision for ministry includes a pastor who can relate to others, especially young people, is secure in his/her relationship with God, can accept and promote the doctrine and statement of faith that we hold to be true, is an organized leader, can prayerfully encourage others in their daily faith and relationship with God, and can seek to bring others to salvation, by accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The candidate should preferably be a graduate of an accredited seminary or equivalent. We offer a \$33,000 package of salary and benefits and require a minimum of 20 hours per week. To obtain a full profile of the church or to submit an application, please contact Alan Brill, Search Committee Chair, PO Box 66, High View, WV 26808, phone (304) 856-3635, or timberidgechristian-church



The EA Is Now on Facebook!



Want to connect with other EA members around the country? Check out the EA's "Group" and "Fan" pages on Facebook. Just search for ~

Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches

And check us out!!

North Carolina Regional Gathering Focuses on Worship

Hosted by the Rev. C.L. Covington at the True Worship Christian Church in Burlington, the North Carolina gathering of the Evangelical Association began and ended with inspiring times of worship. Between the two services, participants were able to attend workshops with such titles as *The Invasion of Other Gods*, *The Sacrifice of Worship*, *Spiritual Renewal*, *The Use of Technology in the Church* and even a nutrition and health workshop called *Taking Care of God's Temple*.



Loretta Lawson teaches on healthy living.

Powell Sykes leads a workshop on the invasion of other gods in our society and in the church.



Bill Chapman offers a workshop on spiritual renewal.

Is a Witness the Same as an Evangelist?



Salem Church hosts regional gathering in Waynesboro, PA.

faith with others.

Dreisbach has since developed a simple course called "Fruitful Witness" that can teach any believer how to be a witness for Christ. The course videos are free and available online at fruitfulwitness.org to be viewed by individuals or small groups. Student workbooks are also available and can be purchased for \$4.95 each.

Bruce Dreisbach leads the Healthy Harvest Church seminar.

According to Bruce Dreisbach, keynote speaker at the Mid-Atlantic Regional gathering of the Evangelical Association held recently in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, a great mistake made by many Christians is to think that every believer is called to do evangelism. While he does not underestimate the importance of evangelism, Dreisbach argues that most Christians don't have the gift, and that is why, when they try to evangelize others, they often become frustrated and feel as if they have failed.

In his many books, Bruce Dreisbach teaches that most Christians are not called to "do evangelism," but rather to "be witnesses" to and for Jesus Christ. As a layman working in the business world, Dreisbach says that coming to the realization that God was simply calling people to be witnesses for the Lord was a liberating idea that changed the way he and his wife thought about sharing their



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Important Dates

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Advancing the Kingdom will be Convocation Theme

Mark your calendar and plan to be at First Reformed Church in Landis, North Carolina (just 35 miles northeast of the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport) September 19-21, 2014 for the annual convocation of the Evangelical Association. Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Dr. Billy Graham and the founder of *AnGeL Ministries* will be the featured speaker on Saturday. The weekend will be filled with inspiring worship, informative workshops, warm fellowship and excellent food – so bring your whole congregation! Registration information will be published this Summer.



Anne Graham Lotz, who will be the keynote speaker for the EA National Convocation in 2014, pictured here, with her father, Billy Graham.