

...WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



A Message From The Rev. Jim Barnes, National Minister

Contending for the Faith

In one of the shortest letters of the New Testament, Jude begins his epistle to his fellow Christians with these words:

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,

To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. (Jude 1-4, NIV)

As I read those words, I was reminded of what I witnessed here in St. Louis a few months ago as the United Methodist denomination held their international General Conference at our convention center. At this meeting, the delegates were voting on the long standing prohibition against self-avowed practicing homosexual clergy and same sex weddings in the denomination. Although the vote was to maintain and strengthen the bans, it was only by a slim margin due to the fact that most of the delegates from **outside the United States** still hold to an orthodox view of scripture.

With this assembly of the Methodists, I was reminded of what is still happening in so many of the historic Protestant churches in America. In fact, had only the Methodist delegates **from this country** been voting, the denomination surely would have caved in on the issue as we have seen in the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church (USA), Evangelical Lutheran Church, Episcopal Church etc. Thus, I believe the words of Jude still have merit today as he states, "I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints."

Welcome to the Association!

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

Zion United Church Clifton, Texas

Congregational Church of Friend Friend, Nebraska

Zion UCC *Metropolis, Illinois*

Femme Osage Church Augusta, Missouri

Lakeside Community Church
Norton Shores, Michigan

St. Paul's Reformed Church Newton, North Carolina

Rev. Bradley S. Smith Hatfield, Pennsylvania

Rev. Craig Yoder
Berne, Indiana

Rev. David C. Webster Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Rev. James O. Williams *Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania*

Brad & Patti Seitz Alexandria, Nebraska

Rev. Nathan D. Randall Cullman, Alabama

Networker

SUMMER—2019 **Publishing Staff**

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continued from page 1

The truth is, truth is still under assault in our society. In the historic mainline denominations of America, out of which many of our churches and pastors have come in the Evangelical Association, biblical truth is being challenged as secular and pagan values continue to worm their way into the church. Jude reminds us to be on guard, realizing that there will be "godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord" secretly slipping in among the people of God looking to deceive and lead Christians away from the truth. While this deceit is having a huge impact on the liberal mainline denominations, it can even impact our local churches as people in our congregations are pressured to adopt the moral relativism so prevalent in secular culture.

Although many of us in the Evangelical Association have chosen to cut ties to denominational structures that have abandoned allegiance to the authority of the Bible, this does not mean that our churches no longer need to be concerned with drifting toward cultural accommodation. It can happen in our youth groups, our adult Bible studies and our fellowship groups. As our society becomes more accepting of unbiblical teachings and moral values, those same teachings and values can begin to slip into our local congregations in the name of "open mindedness," "responding to the changes in our culture," or even "being progressive." While many conservative congregations have chosen to adopt firm positions on some of the controversial issues of the day by affiliating with groups like the Evangelical Association, there will be moments when even the most orthodox of independent congregations have to determine where they stand on the various challenges to traditional Christian theology and morality that face us these days.

I would leave all of us to consider the charge that was given to the increasingly liberal Presbyterian Church (USA) a few years ago by someone from outside their denomination and from another part of the world. Siarhei Hardun, a priest in the Orthodox Church and ecumenical delegate to the Presbyterian meeting from Belarus spoke these words of evaluation to the assembly - he said, "I was really struck while listening to your discussion about homosexuality, same-sex marriage, civil unions and other moral issues. Christian morality is as old as Christianity itself. It doesn't need to be invented now. Those attempts to invent new morality look for me like attempts to invent a new religion - a sort of modern paganism. When people say that they are led and guided by the Holy Spirit to do it, I wonder if it is the same Spirit that inspired the Bible... My desire is that all Christians should contend earnestly for the faith, which was once for all delivered to the saints, as St. Jude calls us to do. And my advice as an Ecumenical Advisory Delegate is the following: 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'" (The Layman, Vol. 43, #6, page 5)

Welcome to the Association!

(Cont. from Page 1)

Rev. Jeffrey Willey Houston, Texas

Rev. Zachary J. Hall Lexington, North Carolina

Rev. James E. Millman

DeSmet. South Dakota

Rev. Dr. Zawdie Abiade Muskegon, Michigan

> **Homer E. Puckett** Clifton, Texas

Rev. Ben Greene Lexington, North Carolina

Rev. Bradley E. Schultz Shelbyville, Indiana

Rev. Dr. Andrew K. Underhile

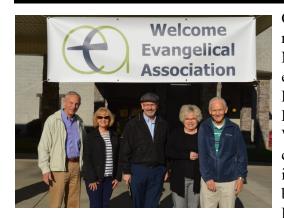
Sycamore, Illinois

Rev. G. Wayne Clapier Mt. Joy, Pennsylvania

Stephen & Karen Dux Fairbury, Nebraska

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North Carolina Regional Gathering at Shiloh Reformed



Members of St. John's Reformed in Kannapolis arrive for the regional gathering.

On Saturday, April 27, around a hundred people gathered from across the region to share in a day of worship, fellowship and study. Pastor Richard Myers and the people of Shiloh Reformed Church in Faith, NC hosted the event which opened with praise music led by Pastor Jeff Chewning of First Reformed in Landis and a message from national minister Jim Barnes on the importance of scriptural authority in this day and age. Workshops covered topics such as: teaching biblical doctrine in the local church, dealing with the wounds people inflict on one another, persevering through difficult times and building strong marriages which were led by pastors Lee Evans, Ben Greene, Allen Tyndall and Shane Roberts. Rev. Coslow Holt of Green Level Christian Church in Haw River shared the afternoon message and Rev. David Bitler of Rodgers Park Reformed Church officiated the Lord's Supper.



Praising the Lord in song at Shiloh Reformed Church



Rev. Ben Greene of Beck's Reformed Church leads workshop on dealing with the wounds people inflict on one another



Rev. Ron Regular of Rowland Chapel Christian Church leads morning prayer

Ministry and Employment Opportunities

First Congregational Church

Buena Park, California Part-time Pastor

Sherman Church

Sherman, CT Full-time Pastor

First Congregational UCC

Decatur, IL Full-time Pastor

Femme Osage Church

Augusta, MO Full-time Pastor

Zion United Church

Clifton, TX Full-time Pastor

Zion Congregational Church

Cheyenne, WY Pastor

AFRICA - Chingola, Zambia

Missionaries needed as Primary and Secondary School Teachers, Dorm Parents & Support Staff

To learn more about these ministry & employment opportunities, please visit our website:

evangelical association.org



21ST ANNUAL CONVOCATION

of the Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches

E Q U I P



EPHESIANS 4:12

St. John's Christian Church Archbold, Oh September 20th-22nd 2019 E M P O W E R



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EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION

"Equip & Empower" – "To equip God's people to do the works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:12

Schedule of Events

Friday, September	20, 201	9		
9:30 AM	to	1:30 PM	The Company Retreat (see page 8 for further information)	
1:00 PM	to	7:00 PM	Registration	
2:00 PM	to	4:00 PM	Pastors Seminar with Keynote Speaker, Nathan Rittenhouse	
4:00 PM	to	5:00 PM	Small Group Follow Up Discussions	
5:00 PM	to	6:00 PM	Fellowship and Free Time	
6:00 PM	to	7:00 PM	Dinner	
7:00 PM	to	8:30 PM	Worship with Keynote Speaker, Nathan Rittenhouse	
8:30 PM	to	9:30 PM	Fellowship and Refreshments	
Saturday, Septembe	er 21, 2	019		
8:00 AM	to	9:00 AM	Registration / Breakfast Refreshments	
9:00 AM	to	9:30 AM	Gathering Worship	
9:30 AM	to	10:30 AM	Keynote Speaker, Nathan Rittenhouse	
10:30 AM	to	11:00 AM	Break	
11:00 AM	to	12:15 AM	Workshop Session #1	
12:15 PM	to	1:30 PM	Lunch	
1:30 PM	to	2:45 PM	Workshop Session #2	
2:45 PM	to	3:15 PM	Break	
3:15 PM	to	4:30 PM	Workshop Session #3	
4:30 PM	to	6:00 PM	Fellowship / Free Time	
6:00 PM	to	7:00 PM	Dinner	
7:00 PM	to	7:15 PM	Gathering Worship	
7:15 PM	to	8:15 PM	Keynote Speaker, Matt Pardi	
8:15 PM	to	9:00 PM	Fellowship and Refreshments	
Sunday, September	22, 20	19		
9:00 AM	to	10:00 AM	Education Hour	
10:15 AM	to	11:30 AM	Worship - Jim Barnes, National Minister, preaching	
11:45 AM			Chicken BBQ Dinner	

^{**}Please be aware that the speakers and presenters at Evangelical Association events come from a variety of traditions. There may be differences in points of theology, polity and application. Each of our speakers and presenters shares with us a common passion for Jesus Christ, the authoritative Scripture, and the work of advancing the Kingdom.

(Board of Directors, Evangelical Association, Approved March 8, 2013)**

Keynote Presenters

Nathan Rittenhouse is an Itinerant Speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. He graduated from Bridgewater College in Virginia with a double major in Physics and Philosophy & Religion, and a minor in Mathematics before attending the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. He holds a M.Div. from Gordon -Conwell Theological Seminary. Nathan has interests in topics of science and religion, church history, and systematic theology. He grew up in an active church and Christian family and developed an enthusiasm for Christ that has intensified with his academic studies. Nathan spent the last three years traveling and speaking in universities throughout New England, and is currently focusing on the Mid-Atlantic region.

Matt Pardi is a Network Director of the H2O Church Network, which is a collection of college churches (currently 12) that seek to bring the timeless message of Christ to the university setting. Matt was impacted by God in a big way when he gave his life to Jesus his freshman year of college. As hard as it was, he's loved the dramatic change that God brought into his life as his intimacy with Him grew. Being changed at that age has made college church near and dear to his heart. Seeing college students surrender their lives to Jesus and become leaders for Christ is amazing. Matt loves the mission of planting churches. They are a great catalyst for increased outreach and leadership development.

Workshop Sessions

Session #1 – 11:00am to 12:15pm

1. The Evangelical Association: Who We Are

Jim Barnes, National Minister of the EA

Liberal theology has been influencing the mainline churches for nearly a century and is now translating into policy decisions in many denominations which are forcing evangelical, conservative congregations and pastors to question their affiliations. In this workshop we will consider the Evangelical Association as a post denominational alternative for believers who want to take a stand for truth. This workshop is particularly helpful for those wanting to learn more about the EA or who are considering affiliation with the association.

2. Global Advancement

Wink & Glyn Kelso, Servants of Servants Ministries

Captivating mission stories in an interactive format to empower your church with a greater global vision and impact in your local community.

3. The Evangelical Association Mission Network (EAMN)

Pastor Steve Darr, First Congregational Church, Torrington, CT

The EAMN is the missions arm of the Evangelical Association. The workshop will focus on establishing and maintaining direct links between the local church, the missionary, and the mission field. Information presented will prove helpful in developing direct personal relationships with missionaries and making the choices of which missionaries and mission projects to support financially.

4. Equipping Church Leaders

Pastor Gene Bell, First Reformed Church, Bluffton, IN

Discover insights into establishing and maintaining annual leadership retreats for the purpose of equipping church leaders, as well as for annual church program planning.

5. Personal Evangelism

Thad & Monique Bergmeier

ABWE (Association of Baptists for World Evangelism) International in North America. Working with a new church planting initiative called EVERYETHNE, Thad & Monique come alongside churches to help them reach people groups by planting churches and multiplying leaders. They minister with churches, helping them advance, mobilize and multiply as they seek to own the lostness of their communities.

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6. Stephen Ministry

Pastor Alex Young, St. John's Christian Church

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers — called Stephen Ministers — to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people going through tough times.

7. Proclaiming Life! Amidst End of Life Issues

Chris & Carolyn Thurow

Welcome to a "vision casting" workshop! With the aging of the American population, how can the Church minister faithfully to individuals and their families who are facing the realities of declining health, chronic illness, or a terminal diagnosis? As many people contend with these issues while not having the support of an evangelical community, how can the Church best step into that situation with a witness that is bold in proclamation while being gentle and compassionate in shepherding? How can the Church become a center for education regarding end of life issues, at a time when the "right to die" movement is rapidly gaining momentum in our culture? Ideas for equipping the local congregation will be presented.

Session #2 - 1:30pm to 2:45pm

1. The Evangelical Association Mission Network

Pastor Steve Darr Pastor Gene Bell

2. Equipping Church Leaders

Chris & Carolyn Thurow

3. Proclaiming Life! Amidst End of Life Issues

Pastor Alex Young

4. Stephen Ministry5. Personal Evangelism

Thad & Monique Bergmeier

6. Tattoos: Telling the Story Pastor Dave Bitler, Rodgers Park Reformed Church, Kannapolis, NC

Looking at the effectiveness of evangelism in our current culture, Dave and Al Dayhoff have found that tattoos give a vital clue into the hearts and minds of their owners. For many, the soul (the image of God) is desperate to speak that it is writing on the canvas of the skin, in permanent ink... wondering if anyone is listening.

Session #3 - 3:15pm to 4:30pm

1. This Is Us

Wink & Glyn Kelso, Servants of Servants Ministries

Equipping and empowering local churches to impact their communities and the world with a fresh perspective of the Kingdom of God through the Tree of Life.

2. Equipping Church Leaders

Pastor Gene Bell

3. Proclaiming Life! Amidst End of Life Issues

Chris & Carolyn Thurow

4. Stephen Ministry

Pastor Alex Young

5. Personal Evangelism

Thad & Monique Bergmeier

6. Tattoos: Telling the Story

Pastor Dave Bitler

Transportation

- By Air flying into Toledo Express Airport (50 minutes from Archbold) OR Fort Wayne International Airport (60 minutes from Archbold) OR Detroit Metro Airport (90 minutes).
- AMTRAK serves Bryan, OH (30 minutes from Archbold)

About the Area

St. John's Christian Church is located in the town of Archbold, situated 45 minutes west of Toledo and 30 minutes north of Defiance, about 30 miles from Indiana and 15 miles from Michigan. Established in the mid-1800's, Archbold sits in the flatlands resulting from the draining of the Great Black Swamp. Archbold is known for both its agricultural and industrial heritage – home to Sauder Woodworking and Sauder Manufacturing.

St. John's Christian Church – www.stjohnsarchbold.org

Organized in 1852, St. John's Christian Church (SJCC) is in its fourth building, with its fourth name, and reflects a Reformed Evangelical heritage. Since 2006, SJCC has been a non-denominational congregation with membership in the Evangelical Association. An educational and missional oriented congregation, SJCC is involved in Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Christian education ministries and offers a Christian Preschool five days a week. The congregation currently supports thirteen overseas and campus missionaries.

Lodging Information

Defiance, Ohio:

Hampton Inn (30 rooms reserved, 9/1 cut off) 1037 Hotel Drive, Defiance, OH 43512 1-419-784-1515 – mention EA Convocation \$128 + tax per two queen or one king room (17 miles, 24 mins from St. John's)

Holiday Inn (20 rooms reserved, 8/26 cut off) 1148 Hotel Drive, Defiance, OH 43512 1-419-784-0782 – direct 1-888-HOLIDAY – use Block Code EAC \$129 + tax per two queen room \$124 + tax per one king room (17 miles, 24 mins from St. John's)

Wauseon, Ohio:

Holiday Inn (25 rooms reserved, 9/1 cut off) 8135 State Route 108, Wauseon, OH 43567 1-419-335-1177 (need to call for this rate) \$105 + tax per room, for 2Q or 1K (13.5 miles, 19 mins from St. John's)

Archbold, Ohio - Campground:

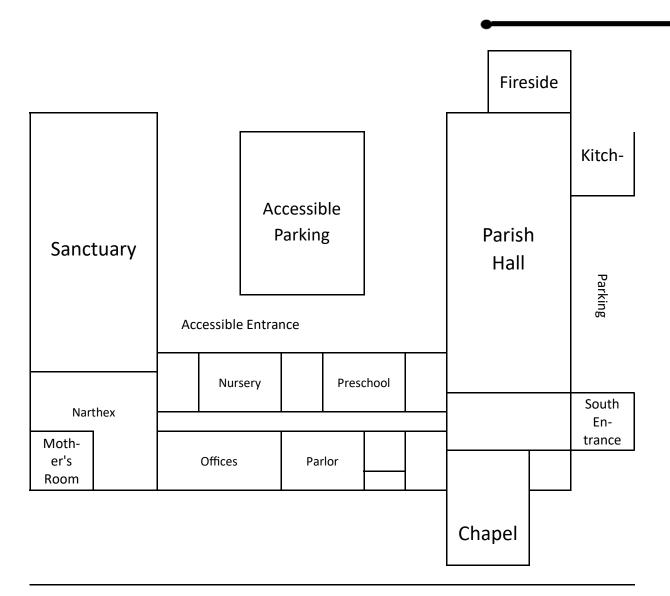
Sauder Village Campground 2261 State Route 2, Archbold, OH 43502

1-800-590-9755 saudervillage.org (3 miles from St. John's)

Area Attractions and Points of Interest include:

- Al-Meda Chocolates 1 mile north of Archbold
- Field of Memories Antique Mall 1 mile north of Archbold
- Fulton County Historical Museum located in Wauseon
- Goll Woods State Nature Preserve 2 miles north and 1 mile west of Archbold
- Historic Sauder Village Barn Restaurant, Bakery, Retail Shops 1 mile north of Archbold
- Ten Thousand Villages within walking distance of the church
- Tuttle Museum located in downtown Defiance
- Grand Rapids Ludwig Mill, Canal Boat Rides 35 minutes east of Archbold on St. Rt. 24
- Independence Dam State Park east of Defiance
- Area Golf Courses
 - ♦ Ironwood, 1015 W Leggett St, Wauseon, OH (15 minutes from Archbold)
 - ♦ White Pines, 1640 Co Rd 2, Swanton, OH (30 minutes from Archbold)
 - ♦ Eagle Rock, 211 Carpenter Rd, Defiance, OH (30 minutes from Archbold)
 - ♦ The Legacy, 7677 US-223, Ottawa Lake, MI (1 hour from Archbold)
- Area Restaurants
 - ♦ Mom's Diner 50's & 60's retro diner located in downtown Archbold
 - ♦ Barn Restaurant home style food located just 1 mile north of Archbold
 - ♦ Casa Vieja excellent Mexican restaurant just south of SJCC
 - ♦ Samuel Mancinos Italian eatery located in downtown Archbold
 - ♦ Sullivans fine dining located in nearby downtown Wauseon

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South Defiance Street



2019 EA Convocation – Registration / Information Form September 20-22, 2019

Please duplicate this form for each registration needed

Registration Cost – \$70

Name:	Phone:	
Address:		Zip:
E-mail:		
Church Position (Pastor, Youth Pastor, Minister of	Music, Laity, etc.):	
Workshop Choices:		
1 st Session (11:00am)		
2 nd Session (1:30pm)		
3 rd Session (3:15pm)		
Please Check All Areas That Apply To Your Regis	tration:	
Registration – Friday & Satur	day	
Registration – Saturday Only		
Registration – Youth $(6^{th} - 12)$	th grade) – Saturday only	
Registration – Children (K-5 th	grade) – Saturday only	
Staying through Worship and	Chicken BBQ on Sunday	
Childcare – Ages Infant to 5 \	Years Old – Free	
Pastors Seminar (Friday After	rnoon)	
The Company Retreat (See pa	age 7)	
Total Amount Enclosed		
Please indicate any dietary needs		

Please make checks payable to St. John's Christian Church We would appreciate receiving your registration before September $10^{\rm th}$.

Mail your registration form and check to: St. John's Christian Church, 700 S. Defiance Street, Archbold, OH 43502

If you have any questions about any area of the Convocation, please contact:

Pastor Erich Christman, St. John's Christian Church

Office - 419-446-2545

Cell - 419-551-0401

Email - pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org

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Display/Exhibitor Application

If you want to display info or merchandise (books, resources, music, art, etc.) that you would like to offer at the Convocation, display tables will be available. Please provide the following info by 8/30:

Name:	e: Church							
Contact Info:								
		Table (4' or 6' or 8')	Display Monitor					
Other Requirements:								
	т	The Comment Detreet						
A G		The Company Retreat	CD /					
A Sma	ill Group Exper	ience Sponsored by the EA Com	pany of Pastors					
and the congregation yo know for our souls, min	ou serve? Join istries, and conf we are to impl	n us for our first Company Re agregations to be revitalized we ement and reproduce healthy mi	? Want prayer for your ministry treat at Convocation 2019. We need the encouragement of one nistries we need to share with one					
	9:30 on Friday	morning and conclude by joining	hare our stories, and pray for one ng with one another for lunch in a					
-		ng in The Company Retreat, plea, copy and return with your re						
Name:								
What best describes your	What best describes your role in your congregation/ministry?							
Seni	or/Lead Pastor							
Pasto	oral/Ministerial	Staff						
W	hat is your posi	ition(s)?						
Adm	inistrative Staff	f						
Cong	gregant							
Н	ow are you acti	ve in the congregation?						

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Other ____

What aspects of ministry interest you?



Contact Information:

National Minister

Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational **Christian Churches**

9051 Watson Road #241 St. Louis, MO 63126

natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

www.evangelicalassociation.org

Toll Free Number 877-424-1472

If you are no longer interested in receiving the Networker Newsletter, please tear off this address page and return it to: **Evangelical Association** 9051 Watson Road #241 St. Louis, MO 63126

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Desk and Digital Calendars Now Available

The Evangelical Association 2019 - 2020 Desk Calendar & Ministry Planner is the official desk calendar of the Evangelical Association. The 17 month calendar (August 2019 through December 2020) features useful tools to enhance your church's ministry including lectionary readings for Sundays and major Christian holidays, liturgical colors, a pictorial listing of missionaries in the EA Mission Network, a listing of valuable ministry resources, along with contact information to connect you with EA officers and ministries. The EA Calendar is a great ministry tool not only for pastors but also for church council leaders, mission committees and worship planning teams. Make sure you order enough copies for all of the ministry team leaders in your congregation.

The calendars are priced as follows:

\$15.00 each for 1-2 / \$13.00 each for 3-5 / \$12.00 each for 6 or more

(Prices include packing and shipping at no extra charge)

The EA also offers a 2019-2020 Digital Calendar & Ministry Planner that can be utilized on a iPad or other mobile device. The Digital Calendar is a PDF version that contains the same information as the spiral bound print edition, but also allows the user to read the lectionary readings powered by Bible Gateway, and add notes and appointments to editable calendar dates. A free Adobe Acrobat Reader App needs to be downloaded on your mobile device for full functionality.

The "digital only" version is \$10.00

You can order the EA Desk Calendar by:

- 1. Sending an email to natmin@evangelicalassociation.org or calling toll free 877-424-1472. Be sure to indicate quantity and the address to which you want the calendar(s) shipped. No advance payment is required. We will enclose an invoice with your order from which to pay – we trust you!
- 2. Visiting the online store found on our website http://evangelicalassociation.org. There you can place your order making a secure payment with a credit/debit card through PayPal and we will then send the calendar(s) to you and/or you will receive the required link to download your digital copy.

