



.....WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



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

Should Your Church Become a Greenhouse?

Planting new churches is usually not something that gets much attention in most older churches. This is particularly true if the church itself is experiencing numerical or financial decline. In fact, if the topic of church planting comes up in many typical church board meetings, the response will often sound like this, "We can't fill up our own sanctuary, why would we want to plant a new church?"

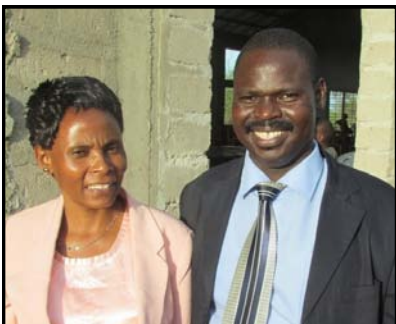
The truth is, while most older congregations don't have the energy and resources to start a new church, God is constantly raising up leaders to plant new congregations all over the world for the purpose of advancing His Kingdom. Yet

in many communities, these new churches have a difficult time finding a place to meet as the new church gets started. On the other hand, what most older churches have are buildings, some of which only get used a few hours each week.

What if older churches, that have often been blessed with debt free buildings, were willing to open those buildings at various times throughout the week as "greenhouses" where new church plants could meet as they begin their ministries?

This idea of an established church opening its facilities for use by a new church plant is beginning to

continued on page 6



African Pastor Ordained in EA Church

Saturday, October 5th, was a day of great excitement and celebration at Salem Church in Waynesboro, PA, as Mr. Josephales Mtebe was ordained to the Ministry of the Gospel in a ceremony conducted by the Rev. Lin Smalec, pastor

continued on page 2

Welcome to the Association!

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

Rev. John-Thomas Rosenberry
Bluffton, Indiana

Grace Family Church
Minot, North Dakota

Rev. Steven E. Regan
Lexington, North Carolina

Timber Ridge Christian Church
High View, West Virginia

Rev. Gene C. Zeller, Jr.
Bernville, Pennsylvania

Rev. Chris Lenhart
Quarryville, Pennsylvania

Heart of Christ Church
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Mr. David McClintock
Pleasant Garden, North Carolina

Rev. Krista L. Keisling
Tower City, Pennsylvania

Rev. Josephales S. Mtebe
Magu, Tanzania, Africa

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PRINT DEADLINES FOR THE NETWORKER

Winter 2014 Edition:

January 15, 2014

Spring 2014 Edition:

April 15, 2014

Summer 2014 Edition:

July 15, 2014

Fall 2014 Edition:

October 15, 2014

MMBB Continues Health Insurance Program

A few months ago we reported that the MMBB had canceled its health insurance program effective at the end of 2013. According to representatives of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, the uncertainty surrounding the current status of the Affordable Health Care insurance exchanges has caused them to reconsider the matter. As a result, the MMBB plans to continue offering comprehensive medical insurance at least through the end of 2014.

African Pastor Ordained in EA Church *(continued from page*

of Salem Church, and attended by friends, family, Salem Church members, and representatives from local churches and a sister Evangelical Association church. The Rev. Hartford Inlow, co-founder of Lion of Judah Academy, brought the message and the charge to the ordinand. Guests included several long time friends of Mtebe and his wife Pili, who traveled from Connecticut and eastern Pennsylvania, as well as Mtebe's son Tungalaza, who is studying this year at The King's Academy in Mohrsville, PA.

Rev. Mtebe (pronounced mmm-teh-beh) is school director of the Lion of Judah Academy in Bulima, Tanzania (www.thelionofjudah.info). This outstanding Christian school, founded in 2001, provides kindergarten to secondary school advanced level education to almost 700 students. Pastor Mtebe leads the educational programs of the school, oversees ongoing construction work, recruits and supervises new staff, interacts with the government on behalf of the school, leads chapel services and ministers to students, teachers and their families.

Pastor Mtebe is a man of deep faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is active in the Africa Inland Church Tanzania, having served as a youth minister and church elder. He is often called upon to participate at church conferences, seminars and crusades. As a graduate of Nassa Theological College with an advanced diploma in theology, Mtebe's ministry is now focused on Lion of Judah Academy. Because his ministry is centered upon



the school, ordination in the Africa Inland Church Tanzania was not possible. Nevertheless, he felt strongly called to ordained ministry. As long-time sponsors of the Lion of Judah Academy, it was the joy and privilege of Salem Church to be the ordaining authority. Mtebe is married to Pili, and they have four children ranging in age from 21 to 9 years old. He represents the first "international" pastor to receive ordained ministerial recognition in the Evangelical Association.

Knots in the Net

Getting to Know the Congregations, Clergy and Laity of the Evangelical Association

A Place of Rest Along the Road

The Rev. Ezekiel McCabe III - Pilgrim Rest Christian Church - Havelock, North Carolina



Less than twenty miles up the road from the Atlantic coast is the town of Havelock, home to the Cherry Point Marine base and the Pilgrim Rest Christian Church. The church was founded many years ago when most of its members traveled by foot. Since the location of the church was on the road between two towns that many people walked to for jobs and commerce, it became known as “Pilgrim Rest” or “the place where the pilgrims stopped to rest” as they made their journey.

Ezekiel McCabe III is the current pastor at Pilgrim Rest which joined the Evangelical Association this past year. His roots in the church go back all the way to his grandfather who served as a leader in the congregation for many years. Although Ezekiel grew up in the church, like many young men, he drifted from his faith as a young adult. When he was in his mid-twenties, he suffered a case of severe asthma which the doctors thought was pneumonia. At this critical moment, the Lord healed him and shortly thereafter, he rededicated his life to the Lord.

Pastor McCabe holds a full-time job with a company that produces veneer products and serves the church “part time.” He began working in church leadership as a deacon, and then, during the last pastoral vacancy, was asked to serve as pastor of the church.

Ezekiel and his wife Clementine have suffered quite a bit of loss in recent years. In 1999, Ezekiel’s sister died and in 2006 his brother also passed at a relatively young age. His wife has also bid farewell to close loved ones in recent years. Through it all, however, Ezekiel and his wife remain faithful to the call of the Lord. “You may be up today but you may be down tomorrow,” go the lyrics of a choir song says Pastor McCabe, “but through it all Jesus is faithful.”



I Never Wanted to Be a Lead Pastor

The Rev. Andrew Bowen - Lebanon, Indiana

One of his early ministry positions was to serve as a youth director at Jerusalem Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio. When the members of that Evangelical Association congregation decided they wanted Andrew to preach and lead worship whenever the Senior Pastor was unavailable, they thought it best that he be ordained. According to Andrew, “I never had any interest in getting ordained or doing anything other than youth ministry.” Nevertheless, at the urging of the congregation, he was ordained and received recognition of standing with the Evangelical Association back in 2002. “When you tell God you have no interest in doing something, that’s when He often says, ‘Okay, let Me put you on that track then,’” says pastor Bowen who now serves as the solo pastor at Countryside Christian Fellowship in Lebanon, Indiana.

Andrew’s call to ministry came after his conversion as a young man in high school. “I attended a youth group primarily for the free food and a girl,” states Pastor Bowen, but then while on a mission service project in Chicago with the same group, he gave his life to Christ. Through a developing personal prayer life and the mentoring he received from his youth leader, Andrew began to see ministry as his calling.

For the past several years, Andrew has served as the pastor of a growing independent church just outside of Lebanon, Indiana. He and his wife, Jess, have two children and are very involved in home schooling activities in their community.

CONVOCATION 2013

First Reformed Church, Bluffton, IN

September 27th—29th



Percy McCray



Convocation Choir



Ordination of John-Thomas Rosenberry

“Five Ladies In A Mini Van Go To Convocation”

by Roberta Seaton, Loyal, Oklahoma

(the following is a condensed and adapted version of the original article found in the newsletter of Loyal Evangelical Church)

Five ladies in a mini-van can make for an interesting six-day adventure. The trip from Loyal, Oklahoma to Bluffton, Indiana is about 950 miles and included diversions to garage sales (like the one in Illinois where we gained a bushel of free apples). We arrived at First Reformed church just in time for dinner Friday evening. After we enjoyed a great meal, we renewed some friendships and made new ones as we registered and settled in for the evening worship service. We were inspired by the music of Don Francisco for nearly two and a half hours with songs he had written based on stories from the Bible, including his Dove award winning single “He’s Alive,” which was later rerecorded by Dolly Parton.

Saturday morning we were again treated to breakfast and our guest speaker was Robert Rogers who told the story of losing his wife and four children in a flash flood near Kansas City in 2003. Coping with that inspired him to spread the message of hope in Christ, which sustained him through it all. He now devotes all of his time to speaking and starting orphanages all around the world, naming them after his wife and children who were taken to heaven in the flood.

We then attended numerous workshops dealing with such topics as the use of music technology in the church,



Tell us what is happening in your ministry!!!

E-mail articles to ~ natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

CONVOCATION 2013

First Reformed Church, Bluffton, IN

September 27th—29th

“Five Ladies In A Mini Van Go To Convocation”

(continued from page 4)

discipleship in a Postmodern culture and developing a rotating Sunday school model. Several other workshops on prayer, church planting, small groups and other topics were also offered.

Saturday evening the keynote speaker was the Rev. Percy McCray who is the director of pastoral care at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America. He hosts a Chicago based radio program called “Health According to Your Faith” and spoke extensively on the power of the “light” when it shines in the world. He repeatedly challenged us to let the light of Christ shine through us.

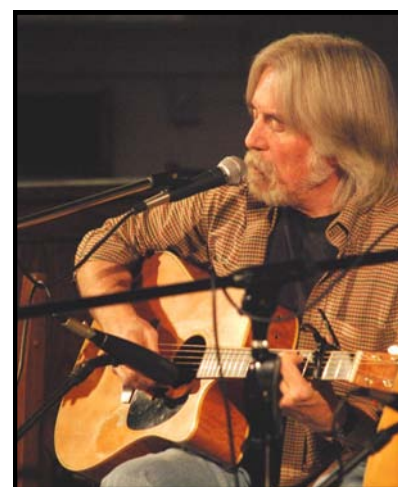
On Sunday morning, we heard a message by our National Minister, the Rev. Jim Barnes who reminded us that Jesus has rescued us from the dominion of darkness. He talked about how Jesus’ death not only forgives our sins, but also defeated the principalities and powers in the heavenly realms. We often have no idea of what Jesus has really done for us and what freedom we have because of His light.

The Convocation concluded with the ordination service for Rev. John-Thomas Rosenberry at the Bluffton church. This was followed by a luncheon in his honor.

The journey home was as much fun as the journey to the convocation with stops to shop and just enjoy time with each other. My wish is that we could charter a bus next year and take the whole church to Landis, North Carolina for the next EA convocation!



Church Planting Workshop



*Don Francisco
in
Concert*



Robert Rogers

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natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

You will begin receiving your *Networker* via e-mail with the next edition this winter

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 namin@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@](mailto:natmin@evangelicalassociation.org)

evangelicalassociation.org

or toll free at

877-424-1472

Should Your Church Become a Greenhouse? (cont. from page 1)

take root in the Evangelical Association. At Church of the Valley in Santa Clara, California (in the heart of Silicon Valley where property values are outrageously high), this older EA congregation has opened up its debt free property to be used by as many as five new churches at the same time. Their sanctuary and hall are buzzing with activity all weekend long as not only their church holds worship, but also the many new congregations that are using space in their building.

As stated by the pastor at Church of the Valley, Rev. Dr. Pat Novak, "The new church plants that are meeting in our facilities are reaching people in our community that our congregation would never reach. Several of them are reaching specific ethnic groups and another is reaching the 'twenty something age' crowd." Dr. Novak goes on to point out that while none of these church plants will ever "fold into" the Church of the Valley, what matters is that hundreds of people are being reached for Christ and Church of the Valley is playing an important role in that process by serving as a greenhouse where these new churches can begin to grow and flourish.

A similar story is beginning to unfold on the other side of the country at First Reformed Church in Landis, North Carolina. Pastor David Franks attended a church planting workshop at the EA national convocation in Louisville a year ago where he was introduced to the idea of existing churches serving as "greenhouses" for new churches. He took the idea back to his leadership team and they began thinking and praying about the matter. Within a couple of months, a pastor came knocking at the door asking if First Reformed would consider providing some space where a new church he was starting could meet. According to Pastor Franks, "I had been the pastor at First Reformed for more than twenty years, and in all that time, no one had ever approached me asking if they could use our building to house a church plant. Within two months of our beginning the discussion - a random pastor showed up asking if he could use our building!"

When churches are struggling, it's often hard to convince people to take risks. Many older churches get caught in "survival mode," trying to do whatever it takes to keep people in the pews, funds in the offering plate and bills paid. For many churches, the idea of opening the building to a new church plant, knowing that the people coming to the new church will never join yours, sounds like a waste of resources - but is it?

If new people are coming into the Kingdom through a church plant meeting in your building, God is pleased - and in my experience, whenever a church takes risks for Christ, He is the one who blesses the endeavor. In going back to the Church of the Valley in Santa Clara, according to Pastor Novak, "Ever since we began opening our building as a greenhouse for new churches, we have not had a single financial need that we haven't been able to meet. Our congregation is actually pretty small. In fact, one of the new congregations meeting in our building has grown to be twice as big as our group, yet the Lord continues to meet every need of our church even as we host all of these new churches in our building."

Dear friends, we serve an awesome God who has plans to advance His Kingdom even in the ever changing society in which we live. If you would like to learn more about how your church could become a greenhouse, please contact Pastor Pat Novak (docnovak@aol.com) 408-248-1050 or Pastor David Franks (frchurch@charlotte.twcbc.com) 704-857-7119.

Ministry Opportunities

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

NORTH CAROLINA ~ Pilgrim Reformed Church in Lexington, NC is seeking a full-time pastor. A copy of the detailed church profile may be found on the church's website www.pilgrimreformedchurch.com. To submit an application, please contact Jim Neese at jeneesejr@gmail.com or 336-830-0642. Mail may be sent to: 388 Hege Drive, Lexington, NC 27295.

ALABAMA ~ St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church, Cullman, Alabama is seeking an individual who appreciates and understands the variety of ways God can be worshiped vocally and instrumentally. We seek to invite a devoted follower of Christ who can provide creative musical and worship leadership within the context of the larger church's ministry and theological tradition and who can provide direction and guidance for multiple worship styles. Full-time and part-time inquiries are welcome. To apply for this position, please submit a current resume along with a CD or DVD if available. 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.

OHIO ~ Associate Pastor of Family Life Ministries at Jerusalem Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio. We are looking for an individual who loves children and youth and has a desire to introduce, lead and disciple them in their relationship to Jesus Christ. This is a full-time position. Please feel free to check out our web-page for information about the church www.jerusalemchurchnp.org. If interested please contact and/or send resumes to: Search Committee at Jerusalem Church 1417 Stonecreek Rd SW New Philadelphia, OH 44663 jerusalemchurch12@yahoo.com.

OHIO ~ Gomer Congregational Church, Gomer, Ohio is seeking a full-time Pastor who is an effective speaker, planner, and leader of worship. We are a multigenerational Welsh Heritage Church located near the city of Lima, Ohio. Average weekly attendance is 67. We believe in infant baptism, the Trinity, the Holy Sacraments and biblically based teaching. For a complete church profile including salary package, visit our website www.gomercc.org or contact James Schwartzengraber at secretary@gomercc.org or 419-642-2681.

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 ~ www.sjepc.com. For more information please contact Karen Hassell at 256-734-0344 or by e-mail at karen.hassell@sjepc.com

KENTUCKY - St. John's Congregational Church of West Covington, Kentucky (across the Ohio river from Cincinnati, OH) is seeking a part-time Pastor. We are an independent Congregational church with an average attendance of 35 members, friends & guests. Our church is committed to traditional Protestant worship. While standing within the Reformed tradition, the congregation includes people from a variety of theological viewpoints. St. John's was one of 25 small congregations selected nationally in 2007 to receive a Summer Collegium grant funded by the Eli Lilly Foundation. We are now in our 122nd year of Christian service to the community. Bachelors degree required, M.Div. preferred or related masters degree. Prior pastoral leadership required or similar experience. Salary: approx. \$10,000. Contact: Dan Dilts, Council President at (859) 261-0385 (Home) or email djilts@fuse.net



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DESK CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

The Evangelical Association 2013-2014 Desk Calendar is the official desk calendar of the Evangelical Association. The 16 month calendar (September 2013 through December 2014) 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 Mission Renewal 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. Those who purchase the printed calendar also receive exclusive access to our downloadable digital desk calendar powered by BibleGateway.com for use on personal computers, iPhone, iPad and other mobile devices.

The Calendars are priced as follows: \$15.00 each for 1 - 2, \$13.00 each for 3 - 5 and \$12.00 each for 6 or more. Prices include packing and shipping at no extra charge. To order the EA Desk Calendar, send an email to natmin@evangelicalassociation.org or phone toll free 877-424-1472. Be sure to indicate quantity and the address to which you want the calendars shipped. No advance payment is required. We will enclose an invoice with your order from which to pay - we trust you!



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