

Summer ~ 2026

networker

.....WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



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

Gaining a New Perspective In Difficult Times

One time I was driving with the radio on and the announcer gave the weather report and said the skies were “mostly cloudy.” Now at the very moment the guy was saying that, I was looking out the windows of my car through sunglasses at the bright, clear and sunny sky around me! In other words, what I was seeing didn’t match with what the guy on the radio was telling me.

The reason for the discrepancy probably had to do with the fact that the guy on the radio had spent the last few hours in some dark radio station with no windows and all he could do was read the weather report someone gave him. He probably didn’t have the opportunity to see for himself what was really going on.



Welcome to the Association!

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

**St. Matthew Church
of Lynnvile**
Lynnvile, Indiana

Rev. Matthew Myers
Hebron, North Dakota

Terry & Cynthia Gibson
New Braunfels, Texas



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Networker

Summer - 2026
Publishing Staff

Editor: Rev. Jim Barnes

Design Editor: Leslie Spanyer

Networker is published periodically as the official newsletter of the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches. Inclusion of an article or advertisement does not indicate endorsement by the Evangelical Association.

Subscription:

Networker is a free publication. To receive a copy of the *Networker*, e-mail circulation at:

natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

Printed in the United States.

To reprint any *Networker* content, contact the editorial office by e-mail:

natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

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Missionaries Participate in Global Impact Celebration

by Stephanie Ford, EAMN Team Leader

This past winter I had the pleasure to attend the “Global Impact Celebration” at Immanuel Church of Spring in Spring, Texas. The event lasted from Thurs, Jan 29th with an evening Kick-off Worship Service through Sunday, February 1st with a GIC Commitment Service and Missionary Sendoff during their morning Sunday worship. The missionaries that were presented included Ben Ford (Reformed University Fellowship – Mississippi State University), Rob Rugloski (Lahu Living Word – Chang Mai, Thailand), and Brian and Melody Whitaker (US Intercultural Missionaries – Dearborn, MI). The featured speakers were Charlie and Sharon Steffler (World Indigenous Missions – Livingston, TX) and Chris Briles (World Indigenous Missions – New Braunfels, TX). It was such a treat to engage with both national and international missions through one-on-one opportunities and large group settings. Local missions were represented at the Saturday brunch and round table as well. The worship services were both meaningful and impactful. Immanuel Church did an overview of their past missions’ giving and service plus engaged in forecasting future plans. The church opened their hearts and homes to us, making all feel connected with their mission celebration. I would highly recommend reaching out to Immanuel Church of Spring (Rev. Phil Brown, Pastor) if you are interested in knowing more about a “Global Impact Celebration”. Sending a special thanks to Rev. Brown and Immanuel Church for their hospitality and continued blessings on their mission endeavors.

The EA is 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!!

Missionary Prayer Requests

Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

For Joel and Jen Martin in Pennsylvania:

Joel and Jen Martin serve with DiscipleMakers, a campus ministry in Pennsylvania. Last Fall, Joel became ill and it wasn't determined until February of 2026 that he had contracted not 1 but 4 different strains of Bartonella, a tick-borne illness. He was started on an antibiotic treatment immediately, and will continue receiving treatment for up to 6 more months. The doctors have told him that the healing is slow and some never see the symptoms fully resolved. Joel has made some dietary changes and uses some OTC antihistamines to help with the symptoms. He is beginning to see some improvement. Praise the Lord.



Joel & Jen Martin Family 2026

Please pray that the underlying infection be completely resolved and that Joel will be in good health.

From Zack and Bethany Firsick in Missouri:

Zack and Bethany Firsick serve in a campus ministry in Missouri with CRU-St. Louis Metro Team. They have seen much fruit this year as more and more young people have joined their Christian community. They also take students on short term mission trips to the Middle East during the summer. They ask that we pray:

- For the many missionaries impacted by the conflict in the Middle East.
- For continued growth for young believers on campus as they get more deeply connected to their ministry
- For students to put their faith in Jesus through their outreach efforts on campus

For Kingdom Investment International:

Jean-Paul Tiendrebiogo reports for **Kingdom Investment International** (an EAMN mission project.) Please be in prayer for the people of Burkino-Faso who face many daunting obstacles:

- Millions fear their very lives due to Jihadists slaughtering scores of innocent Christians.
- Ongoing political instability is crippling the government so an already-weak economy grows weaker.
- The weak health-care system is overwhelmed by the sick and dying, especially the hungry children.

But many know that God loves and cares for them. The Lord is faithful to provide vital help for them through Christians like the EA affiliates who send prayers and support. So, for that we say, "Thank you!"

Spring Regional Gatherings in Indiana, North Carolina and Pennsylvania

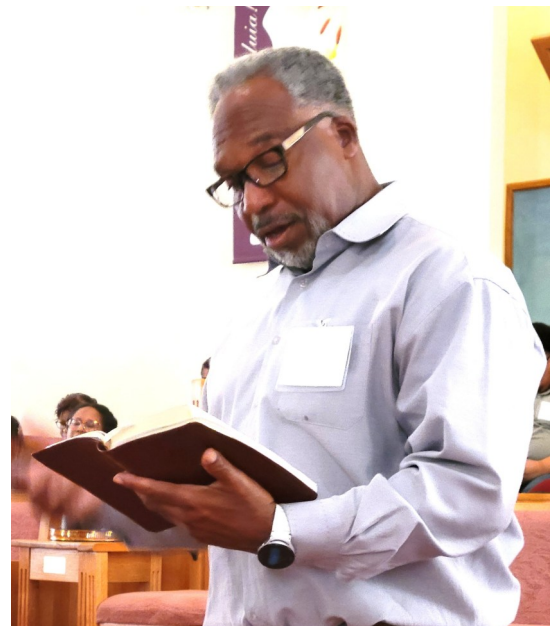
The Gateway Regional was hosted by the Rev. Shane McGrath and the people of Zoar Church in Evansville, Indiana. The theme of the gathering was *Contending for the Faith* and included an opening message by the Rev. David Peterson. Throughout the day participants had the opportunity to attend workshops on apologetics and evangelism, preaching and worship as well as the history and heritage of evangelical churches. EA pastors and lay people from Indiana, Illinois and Missouri came together for a day of good food and fellowship.

In North Carolina, Pastors Lee Evans and Coslow Holt with the congregations of Eagle Rock Christian Church and Green Level Christian Church hosted the regional event at Eagle Rock in Wendell, North Carolina. Opening worship included music by the Eagle Rock choir and a message from the Rev. Dr. Steve Disher. The theme of the day was *In Christ, We are More than Conquerors*. Panel discussions were held throughout the day and closing worship included communion with several local EA pastors participating.

For the first time since prior to the COVID pandemic, the Mid-Atlantic Regional of the EA was held at The Heart of Christ Church in Jonestown, Pennsylvania. A wonderful day of worship, teaching and fellowship included people from EA churches in the Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia area. The theme of the day was *Love God, Love Others, and Go!* Host pastor Rich Dubbs stated, “The hope is that everyone departed from the event with Jesus in their hearts knowing we are part of God's plan for making disciples for His Kingdom... and just a thought, if you have other EA Churches in your area, please pray about hosting a regional of your own. These events encourage both those who attend and those who host.”



*Pastor Mick Allen offers the benediction at the Mid Atlantic Regional
(also pictured Dave Webster and Jim Williams)*



*Pastor Bennie Poteat shares from scripture
at the North Carolina Regional*

Spring Regional Gatherings in Indiana, North Carolina and Pennsylvania



Praying at the North Carolina Regional



*Rev. David Peterson delivers keynote at
Gateway Regional*



*Host pastor Shane McGrath welcomes guests at the
Gateway Regional in Evansville, Indiana*



*Christopher Dande from the local sheriff's department leads work-
shop at the Mid Atlantic regional on responding to an intruder*

Cont. from page 1 - "Gaining a New Perspective In Difficult Times"

And that's a problem we humans often have don't we? As mortal creatures, we live our whole lives without the benefit of being able to see the big picture from God's perspective. And sometimes, because we don't always see things the way God sees them, we have a tendency to get depressed.

That was the condition God's people may have been in when the Lord spoke to them in Isaiah, chapter 40. They were in a bad situation and they were probably getting depressed and they figured that the future held no hope for them. They were likely thinking to themselves, "God doesn't care. God has forgotten us. If God cared for us we wouldn't have all these problems."

Now when we find ourselves in that same kind of spiritual wasteland, it may well have to do with the fact that we do not have the perspective on things that God has. God sees the "big picture" while all we usually see is the difficult or scary step right in front of us. As we struggle with our limited perspective, God says through the prophet in Isaiah 40:

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:26-31)

My friends, when we start feeling depressed - and we start saying to ourselves, "My life is dark and cloudy and it's gonna rain - I just know it's gonna rain," we need to look out the window and start focusing in on the One who created us - the One who paid for our sins on the Cross - and the One who offers us eternal life. He's still in charge!

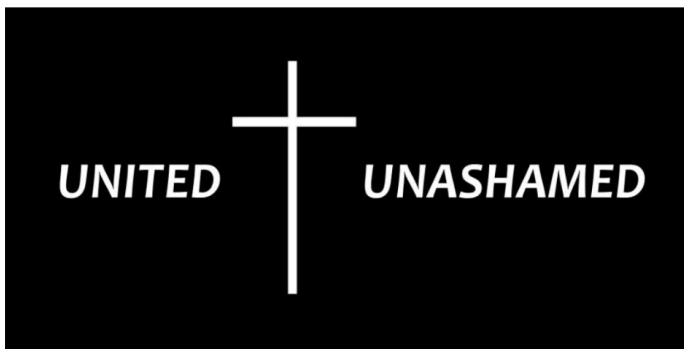
And although the weather report we write for our life may be dark and miserable - all we need to do is lift our head and look out the window so that we can be reminded that the picture we paint for ourselves is often wrong. The only picture of our future that is accurate is the one which God himself paints for us.

As we are reminded in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ministry & Employment Opportunities

*To learn about ministry & employment opportunities,
please visit our website: evangelicalassociation.org*

EA CONVOCAATION 2026



We hope you will join us for the 2026 National Gathering of the Evangelical Association at Jerusalem Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio. As you may already know, the EA's vision is to revitalize churches as we seek to reproduce disciples and healthy churches for the advancement of the Kingdom. This year's theme, "United and Unashamed," aligns with that vision. Our goal is to provide opportunities for participants to strengthen unity and deepen their commitment to unashamedly proclaim Jesus as revealed in the Scriptures. Biblical unity enhances revitalization, and standing for and proclaiming the Gospel truth always yields a good harvest among individuals and churches. We believe everyone who participates will be blessed and encouraged, and we pray that each one will return to their home church spiritually revitalized, more committed to biblical unity, and emboldened to continue proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ during these perilous times.

As a united gathering of pastors, ministry leaders, and friends, we will worship, learn, laugh, eat, and fellowship together. Workshops and general sessions include: *Building the Ministry Team*, *Reaching Those in the Shadow of the Steeple*, *Church: Heritage and Renewal*, *Engaging the Culture of Today*, *Uniting the Congregation through Worship*, *Uniting the Congregation through the Gospel*, *Addressing Addiction: The Effectiveness of Faith in Recovery*, *Helping the Hurting (e.g., trauma, PTSD, and more)*, and *Authentic Ministry: Understanding and Navigating AI in the Church*. We will also host two EA Missions panels: Global and US missions. Come expecting to be blessed as God further unites us through His Word and Spirit, and encouraged as we unashamedly embrace and declare His powerful gospel.

Scan to Register:



Click on the Link to Register:

<https://jerusalemchurch-oh.subspla.sh/pypzj52>

Visit www.jcnp21.com to see the full schedule with speakers and workshops, as well as lodging recommendations.

Is It Time for You (or your Church) to affiliate with 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 website at ~

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 314-347-9994.

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:

natmin@evangelicalassociation.org
or at 314-347-9994



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New Desk Calendars Shipping End of July

The *Evangelical Association 2026-2027 Desk Calendar & Ministry Planner* is the official desk calendar of the Evangelical Association. The 17 month calendar (August 2026 through December 2027) 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:

\$18.00 each for 1-2 (plus shipping)

\$16.00 each for 3-5 (plus shipping)

\$14.00 each for 6 or more (plus shipping)

You can order the EA Desk Calendar(s) by:

1. Visiting the store on our website at <https://evangelicalassociation.org/store/>
There you can place your order making a secure payment with a credit/debit card and we will then send the calendar(s) to you.
2. Sending an email to natmin@evangelicalassociation.org or by calling 314-347-9994. 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!

