

Summer ~ 2024

networker

.....WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



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

Churches Must Make Sure They Do “Not Let the Old Man In”

There’s a quote that is generally (although I can’t verify that all of it came from him) attributed to Clint Eastwood (who is now in his nineties) that goes something like this: *“Every day when I wake up, **I don’t let the old man in.... I’ve had to drag him out because he was already comfortably settled, bothering me all the time, leaving no space for anything other than nostalgia. You have to stay active, alive, happy, strong, and capable.... We must learn to fight to not let the old man in. That old man awaits us, stationed and tired by the side of the road to discourage us. I don’t let the old, critical, hostile, envious spirit in—the one that scrutinizes our past to tie us up with complaints and distant anxieties, or relived traumas and waves of pain. You have to turn your back on the old murmurer, full of rage and complaints, lacking courage.... Aging can be pleasant and even fun if you know how to use your time, if you’re satisfied with what you’ve achieved, and if you still maintain enthusiasm.”***

The substance of that quote has inspired a lot of people over the past few years, including country singer Toby Keith who even wrote a song about it. But while most people read those words and apply them to the aging process in people, what I’d like to suggest is that they also apply to the **aging process in churches.**

In the Evangelical Association we have a lot of old churches. There are several EA churches that have recently celebrated their 275th anniversaries and we have a small handful of German Reformed and Congregational churches in the EA that are getting very close to celebrating their 300 year anniversaries. Even the “younger” churches in the Evangelical Association are often 50 to 100 years old. Need I remind you that the *Declaration of Independence* was signed just a mere 248 years ago!

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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:

Long Grove Christian Church
Long Grove, Iowa

Rev. Mario Madden
Richland, Pennsylvania

Rev. Doug Reeves
Wolverine, Michigan

Rev. Bryan Taylor
Edwardsport, Indiana

Rev. Tanya Schmitz
Wadesville, Indiana

Agapa Mercy Bible Fellowship
Greenwood, Delaware

Rev. Ben Michaels
Louisville, Kentucky

Randall Tobey
Marble Falls, Texas

Blake Tetro
Cullman, Alabama

Networker

Summer - 2024
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

Order:

To order back-issues or additional copies of the *Networker* e-mail:

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MISSIONS - Encouragement for EA Pastors & Churches

by Hart Inlow (EAMN team member)

Maranatha! 1 Corinthians 16:22 proclaims the heart-cry of followers of Christ for nearly 2000 years...***"O Lord, come!"***

We are told to be expectantly and eagerly looking for the imminent return of our Lord! Not by donning white robes, climbing nearby hilltops, and looking heavenward. Not only by packing our local church on Sunday morning, attending Bible studies and committee meetings (though those are, of course, important!)

But also, we are to be actively engaging in the work of the Body of Christ: serving ... making disciples...going...sending...baptizing...feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned (Matthew 25). Spreading the love and good news of Jesus Christ, in word and deed – in all kinds of ways -- to our own “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). That’s how Jesus told us to be “waiting”! The word the Church often uses for this work is **Missions**.

How are you, personally, involved in missions? How is your local congregation involved in missions?

Pastors, are you challenging (and guiding) the members of your congregation to engage the world in this important work? People of God, are you responding to the call of Christ?

Churches...

- are you helping your members pray for missions and missionaries? If not, you can start helping them this Sunday!
- are you encouraging your members to give to missions, and designating part of your budget for missions? If not, you can begin as you plan your 2025 budget!
- are you providing opportunities for your members to serve right in your own community? If not, you can look around for unmet needs...they are all around you...and start thinking today about what you and your church can do
- does your congregation have a missions committee or team? If so, the EAMN is here to help you take ‘next steps’...if not, the EAMN can help you get started.

The Evangelical Association Missions Network (EAMN) exists to assist you in your work, as we eagerly await and anticipate His return. **Maranatha! O Lord, Come!**

EAMN Prayer Requests

by Shirley Briggeman, Vicki Jarman, Roger Yuengst, and Hart Inlow (EAMN team)

1. One of the new EA Mission Projects is **Grace Children's Ministries**, which includes a residential children's home, a school, and a church, located in Myanmar, SE Asia. This effective Christian ministry among non-Christian tribes is endorsed by EA Pastor Johnny Boggs and Mt. Hope Church in Salisbury, NC. Here is a recent prayer request from Rev. Elvis SaDo, the CEO, Pastor, and Director of Grace Children's Home and School.



“Despite many challenges and unusual circumstances, now our Gospel Outreach team is on the way to Thauk kyat law for our annual gospel outreach program which includes teaching Bible to the Mission children and showing practical ways of concern for needy children. Please pray for their safety and the for the outreach programs. Sadly, there is no sign of peace in Myanmar as the civil war is growing across the regions resulting in many people being displaced! We are in a most critical time and Myanmar needs your continued prayers for peace and healing, but we are thankful to be safe! Thank you for praying.”

2. Another EA Mission Project is **Kingdom Investment International**, which is serving in East Africa. Here is their recent update with prayer requests from the EA missionary/CEO, Jean-Paul Tiendrebigo, who grew up in Burkino Faso and is now helping his people by organizing support in many ways from the Columbus, Ohio area:

“We pray that the power through the Holy Spirit will fill your church in Burkina Faso and reflect the Surpassing Greatness of God! Pray with us to endure any and all afflictions and pray against despair from circumstances that affect churches, pastors, and the community. Pray for the School of Leadership & Development ministry of KII. We ask for increased resources and sponsorships for the children who are in need, to the Glory of God..”

3. Update from Lion of Judah in Tanzania: Rev. Mtebe's younger brother was to have a kidney transplant in May, so pray for his recovery and finances to cover the expenses. The students have a month of vacation in June, so pray for their safe travels and reunions with family & friends as well as for generosity of food offerings to come for the next school year (about \$60,000 per term). Pray for trip preparation, health and safety for the Work Team leaving on June 26th from the USA. Email: hartinlow@gmail.com

Receive Your Networker Via E-Mail!

To sign-up, all you need to do is e-mail your name and e-mail address to ~

natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

You will begin receiving your Networker via e-mail with the next edition.

Regional Gatherings in Missouri and North Carolina



Rev. Aaron Long leads workshop on basic theology for laypeople at NC Regional

This Spring EA regional gatherings were held in North Carolina and, for the first time ever, in Missouri. The event in North Carolina was hosted by Rev. Aaron Long and the people of Paul's Chapel in Lexington, North Carolina. Participants gathered for a day of worship and fellowship as well as workshops on topics dealing with evangelism, youth work, theology and the movies and others. A lunch of North Carolina barbecue was provided by the church.

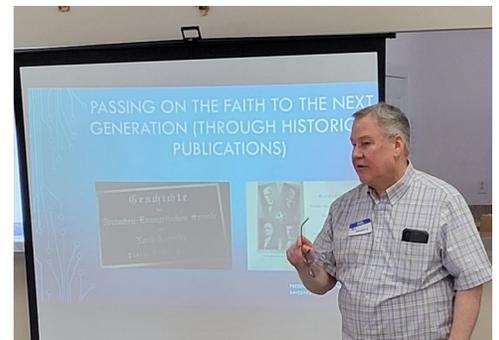
In Missouri, Pastor Jeffrey Willey organized the first ever "Gateway Regional" event at the Femme Osage Church (the oldest German Evangelical church west of the Mississippi) near St. Louis. Participants came from as far away as Iowa, northern Illinois and Indiana as well as several from Missouri. The theme of the day was "Disciple the Next Generation" and workshops focused on children's ministry and how we can effectively pass our faith on to children and young people. One popular workshop dealt with practical ways that grandparents can be involved in discipling their grandchildren. Worship was led by local EA pastors and lunch provided by the members of Femme Osage Church.



Host pastor Jeffrey Willey shares a message during opening worship at Femme Osage Church.



Praising the Lord during opening worship at the Gateway Regional.



Rev Bill Savering speaks during Gateway Regional workshop on using historical documents to pass on the faith.



Helping Kids Fall Deeply In Love with Jesus was the topic of this Gateway Regional workshop.



Enjoying fellowship during the Gateway Regional.

2024 Evangelical Association National Gathering

September 20-22, 2024



“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9



Eden Church invites the Pastors and Churches of the Evangelical Association to come together in Edwardsville, Illinois (near St. Louis) on the third weekend in September 2024 for the EA National Gathering. The theme this year is “Blessed Are the Peacemakers” and the focus of this gathering is bringing the skills of peacemaking to the Evangelical Association. Our keynote speaker, workshops, and worship will speak to the desperate need for peace in today’s culture. The Church is uniquely poised to bring the

Gospel and its message of peace to a culture in conflict. Come and join us as we seek to strengthen the Church and bring God’s grace to a world in need. Join us in September. Pastor John Roberts Eden Church of Edwardsville, IL.

Go to www.edenchurch-edw.org/EA2024 for more information and to register. If you cannot access the website, please contact the church at 618-656-4330 and ask them to mail you the information.

Our Keynote Speaker for the Weekend: Dwight Schettler



Dwight serves as President of Ambassadors of Reconciliation and the Institute for Christian Conciliation. He joined the staff of Ambassadors of Reconciliation in February 2014 as Vice President for Advancement. He also served on AoR's Board of Directors. Prior to joining Ambassadors, Dwight served four years as Director of Training & Certification for Peacemaker Ministries. In this role he oversaw many facets of ministry delivery, including all foundational and advanced training courses, Peacemaker seminars, the annual Peacemaker Conference, the Certification Program, peacemaker field support, and Peacemaker University–Peacemaker Ministries’ new online e-learning portal. He teaches reconciliation

seminars and training events around the world. Dwight was introduced to biblical peacemaking as a party in a conflict where Ambassadors of Reconciliation led an intervention in his home church. He credits that experience as a turning point in his life. He is passionate about teaching and equipping others to be peacemakers who apply the power of the Gospel in their everyday lives. Prior to joining Peacemaker Ministries, he was with Hewlett Packard for more than 22 years, holding a variety of leadership positions, most recently being Director of Engineering in their Imaging and Printing business. Dwight and his wife Ruth have two children and two grandchildren.

Ministry & Employment Opportunities

These churches and organizations are seeking to fill the following positions:

Sherman Church

Sherman, CT

Pastor

www.shermanchurch.org/applicant-page

St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church

Cullman, AL

Associate Pastor

www.sjepc.com/job-opening-associate-pastor

Cross Community Church of Berne

Berne, IN

Full-time Senior Pastor

warrenwillie446@gmail.com

Zion Evangelical Church

Shelbyville, IN

Full-time Pastor

Zionshelby7025@gmail.com

First Reformed Church

Bluffton, IN

Full-time Senior Pastor

firstref@adamswells.com

The Fort Branch Yoked Parish

Ft. Branch, IN

Full-time Pastor

ftbranchucc@gmail.com

St. Paul's of Holyrood

Kansas

Part-time Pastor

maxineradenberg@gmail.com

St. James, Charlotte and St. Paul's of Cooper Hill

Rural Missouri (1 hour west of St. Louis)

Full-time Pastor

karen@whitemulebnb.com

Amber Congregational Church

Syracuse, NY (rural community just outside Syracuse)

Pastor

gailfrary@gmail.com

Shiloh Reformed Church

Faith, NC

Full-time Director of Children/Youth/Young Adult Ministries

pastor@shilohreformedchurch.com

St. John Church

Hebron, ND

Full-time Pastor

stjohnhebronnd@gmail.com

Christ Reformed Church at Indian Creek

Tellford, PA

Full-time Director of Family Ministries

office@crctelford.org

Jacob's Church

New Tripoli, PA

Part-time Youth Leader

<https://jacobschurch.org/careers>

Historic Host Church

Bernville, PA

Pastor

hostchurch@outlook.com

St. Thomas Church

Bernville, PA

Senior Pastor

stthomaschurchsearch@gmail.com

Congregational Christian Fellowship Church

Winchester, VA

Part-time Pastor

alexanderjeanie@gmail.com

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

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!!

Cont. from page 1 -

Churches Must Make Sure They Do "Not Let the Old Man In"

One of the great things about our association is that so many of our churches provide living examples of the fact that the Gospel message has resilience and can be effectively transferred from generation to generation if the Christians who are part of old churches remain young at heart and refuse to "let the old man in" as Eastwood says. In applying the quote to churches, congregations that continue to thrive even though they are old, are churches that refuse to give in to discouragement and actively fight against the tendency to become overly nostalgic and focused only on how great things "used to be."

The leaders of old EA churches that are still thriving now will generally point to the fact that their church members continue to be enthusiastic about their future and about the possibilities God has for them up ahead. When churches refuse to "let the old, critical, hostile, envious spirit in" - the one that can tie a congregation up with "complaints and distant anxieties," that's when being part of an older church can be "pleasant and even fun."

In Deuteronomy 31, Moses says this to Joshua and all Israel, "***Be strong and courageous....The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.***" For those who are part of "old" churches, let us continue to "turn our back on the "old murmurer, full of rage and complaints, lacking in courage." We serve a God who goes with us - even as our old churches seek to discover His plan for our future!

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 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



EVANGELICAL
ASSOCIATION

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New Desk Calendars Shipping End of July

The *Evangelical Association 2024-2025 Desk Calendar & Ministry Planner* is the official desk calendar of the Evangelical Association. The 17 month calendar (August 2024 through December 2025) 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

\$16.00 each for 3-5

\$14.00 each for 6 or more

(Prices include packing and shipping at no extra charge)

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!

