

EVANGEL VOICE

EVANGEL Theological Seminary

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EVANGEL: Where Do We Go From Here?

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Inside this issue:

2007 FALL SCHEDULE	3
SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL MINISTRY	4
2007 GRADUATION!	4
ALUMNI NEWS	5
PRAYER NEEDS	5
GOLF CLASSIC	6
WE NEED YOUR HELP!	6

Last month's graduation service marked the end of the 25th academic year at EVANGEL. Over those 25 years some amazing things have happened. To some extent, the story of EVANGEL is reflected in the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. When faced with an overwhelming crowd of hungry people and unbelieving disciples, Jesus took five loaves and 2 fish from a young boy's lunch and blessed it. To everyone's amazement that small amount of food was miraculously multiplied to feed the entire crowd with 12 full baskets left over.

In September, 1982 with only the faith and vision of my Dad and a handful of courageous students, EVANGEL was launched. Some would say it was an impossible venture. There weren't enough students. Financial resources were few. Yet God was faithful. He took those meager things and multiplied them exponentially. Now, 25 years later, EVANGEL has touched the lives of hundreds of students who are involved in many different kinds of service for the kingdom. Some are pastors. Some are involved in missions. Three graduates have become authors. Others are walking in their giftings and callings fulfilling their God-given destiny.

At milestones like this, we tend to get stuck in the past, reflecting back on the good old days. That's when we need to remember the words of Solomon in Eccl. 7:10. *Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.* We need to celebrate the successes and analyze the failures. However, we need to keep looking forward to what lies ahead.

That brings us to the question, "Where do we go from here?" I believe that there are very good things ahead for EVANGEL. However, there are issues that will need to be addressed. The 21st century has brought with it a changing attitude in the Church towards theological education. There appears to be less value attached to a seminary degree and a greater desire to receive training. The result of this attitude has been declining enrollment. So, we are faced with the task of determining how we continue to offer quality, academic programs but also serve the local church by providing training for ministers and laity.

One part of the answer was to develop and implement an innovative new program. The School of Practical Ministry was launched in February and opens up the EVANGEL experience to a whole new group of students. These individuals aren't interested in earning a degree. Most don't feel a call for full time ministry. Rather, they just want to learn and be better equipped to minister within their local church context. It is a unique atmosphere that combines learning and ministry, teaching and prayer, fellowship and encouragement. Each class session gives students an opportunity to inti-

(Continued on page 2)



EVANGEL: Where Do We Go From Here?

(Continued from page 1)

mately encounter God. They are hearing Him speak and seeing Him heal and provide. Students are exploring and discovering their giftings and callings with the goal that they will confidently do the work of ministry. Now, the Lord is opening an opportunity for the School of Practical Ministry to participate in training pastors, evangelists, and church planters in Kenya during the summer of 2008. The program has far exceeded both ours and students' expectations. We are excited that a 3rd group will begin in September. If you're interested in learning more please refer to page 4.

A second part of the answer is the updating of degree programs. We are examining each degree program to determine how we can best add a greater practical element to the requirements. We are also endeavoring to structure programs so that students will have the option to take individual components or work towards a degree. These newly designed programs will also allow students the flexibility to custom design parts of their chosen field of study to fit their interests. The goal is to assist students in developing leadership and ministry skills that will make them much more effective. We are hoping to roll out the first of these newly designed degree programs for the 2008/09 academic year.

The 2007 Fall Semester course schedule reflects this shift. The course, P-511 Project Management for Ministry Leaders is being offered. This new course will introduce students to concepts that will help them become more effective participants in the work of the Kingdom. Many time students come to EVANGEL with the desire to plant a church or begin a ministry. They know how to pray but don't really know or understand what else they need to do. Through this course they will learn what practical steps are needed to begin living out their God given dream. They will learn how to develop a plan that incorporates all the necessary elements for the successful completion of a ministry project. For further information on this course refer to page 3.

Another significant change in the future will be the leadership transition. My Dad has faithfully served EVANGEL and followed God's calling. He has taken this institution from the realm of theory to reality. He has developed an extensive curriculum that allowed us to be creative in how we operate. It was his vision that developed teaching formats that allowed non-traditional students the opportunity to pursue the education they desired without sacrificing their families or their service to their church family. It was also his desire that theological education remain affordable. To that end, he and my Mom have sacrificed above and beyond what others would have done. They have poured their hearts and spirits into EVANGEL and its students. Every graduate and each student have benefited in ways that can't be determined by earthly standards. Everyone connected with this work would like to see him continue on forever but the reality is that at some point in the not too distant future he will need to relinquish his duties as president.

It will be the job of the administration and Board of Trustees to make this leadership transition as seamless as possible. It will be important to recognize that the new president will bring a different set of giftings and abilities to EVANGEL. This transition will also require the development of a team approach to leading. No one person will be able to do everything that Dad has done. We will need to be looking for and inviting the best people to help further the vision and ministry of EVANGEL.

The new president will also need to expand the vision of EVANGEL. We need to develop ways in which we can participate globally in the building of the Kingdom. The opportunity to go to Kenya is the obvious first step. The question remains, what other steps can we take? In addition, we also need to better serve the local church. The School of Practical Ministry is a good first step but again the question is what else can we do?

To accomplish these things, the new leadership team will need to dramatically increase revenue. Evangel has always operated on a very limited budget. Because of financial pressures we have had to pass up opportunities. At other times we have not met our staff salary obligations. We need to do a better job of recruiting new students. We need to

(Continued on page 5)

2007 Fall Semester Schedule

The 2007 Fall Semester Course Schedule has been released. Listed below is the information for each course. In addition, several courses are being offered through the Directed Study program. Please see the web site or contact the office for the complete list of those courses.

AUGUST

T-101 Basic Christian Doctrines I

A systematic study of theology beginning with the Doctrine of Scripture (Definition, Canon, Inspiration, and Authority of Scripture) and continuing on through the Doctrine of God (Attributes of God), the Doctrine of Christ, the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the Doctrine of the Trinity, and ending with the Doctrine of Providence. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **ETS Offices**
- ❑ Professor: Victoria Rocco
- ❑ Dates: **Monday evenings: Aug. 27 through Oct. 15 (excluding Sept. 3).**
- ❑ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

OCTOBER

T-101 Basic Christian Doctrines II

A systematic study of theology beginning with the Doctrine of Creation and continuing through the Doctrine of Man, the Doctrine of Sin, and concluding with the Doctrine of Salvation. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **ETS Offices**
- ❑ Professor: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- ❑ Dates: **Monday evenings: Oct. 29 through Dec. 10.**
- ❑ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

NOVEMBER

P-511 Project Management for Ministry Leaders

This is an introductory course on how to manage people and resources in order to begin, execute, and complete a ministry project. Included are conceptual and practical phases for planning, delegation, communication, quality control, etc. (3 hrs.)

- ❑ Location: **ETS Offices**
- ❑ Professor: Russell Haws
- ❑ Dates: **Weekends – Nov. 16, 17 & Dec. 7, 8.**
- ❑ Time: Weekend classes are comprised of three sessions.
 - ❑ Friday evening: 7:00 p.m. through 9:45 p.m.
 - ❑ Saturday morning: 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon.
 - ❑ Saturday afternoon: 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m.

The start of the 2007 Fall Semester is just a few weeks away. Don't delay! Register today! Become a part of the EVANGEL experience.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Col. 3:16,17 NIV



This week Group 1 of the School of Practical Ministry will complete Module 5, Spiritual Giftings. Group 2 has just completed Module 3, Faith Foundations. God is doing some amazing things in each group. In each class session His presence permeates everything we do. He gives students insights as the material is taught. During the fellowship time He is causing relationships to develop. In the prayer and ministry time He is answering in ways that dramatically exceed individual students' expectations.

We are now preparing for the start of **Group 3** in September. See the opposite column for the complete schedule. You can also visit the website to obtain a copy of the catalog and application.

www.esopm.org

Prayerfully consider enrolling and plan to encounter God, explore the unique person God has created you to be and become better equipped to do the work of ministry within your local church.

2007 Graduation

On June 10, 2007 the annual Graduation Service was held in Harrisonburg at Heartland Christian Fellowship. Dr. Steve Paulus, the pastor of Staunton Grace Covenant Church was the graduation speaker. The highlight of the evening was the awarding of 2 degrees and 1 diploma. The graduates were:

Russell M. Haws - Master of Theological Studies

Sethia Johnson - Master of Theological Studies

James G. Eckard - Biblical Studies Diploma

We are blessed that these graduates are part of the EVANGEL family. We pray for God's abundant blessing to be theirs as they conclude this chapter of their lives and move into the next exciting steps He has prepared for them.

We want to thank Dr. Paulus for coming and blessing us with his challenging and inspiring words. We also want to thank Heartland Christian Fellowship and Pastor John Senters for hosting this event and making us feel very much at home. **THANK YOU!!!**

Module 1 – Life Foundations

Weekends

- Sept. 14 (7:00 p.m. – 10 p.m.)
- Sept. 15 (9:00 – Noon, 1:00 – 4:00)
- Oct. 6

Module 2 – Biblical Foundations

Saturdays

- Oct. 20
- Nov. 10

Module 3 – Faith Foundations

Saturdays

- Dec. 1
- Jan. 5

Module 4 – Communication Foundations

Saturdays

- Jan. 26
- Feb. 16

Module 5 – Spiritual Giftings

Weekends

- March 7, 8
- April 5

Module 6 – Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Weekends

- April 25, 26
- May 17

Module 7 – Ministry Essentials

Weekends

- June 6, 7
- June 28

EVANGEL: Where Do We Go From Here?

(Continued from page 2)

identify additional partners to stand with us and support this work financially. Ultimately, we need to more effectively and passionately communicate the vision that God has given.

Some would say that these challenges are too difficult and we should just give up. I'm not one of those people. Yes, there are significant obstacles ahead but we can say with certainty that God is able. Jeremiah writes in Jer. 32:17, *Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for you.* God, the creator of the universe, the Almighty One, has unlimited power and resources to cause obstacles to disappear from the path of His people.

As those who have been blessed and benefited from this work we can stand in agreement together and believe what Solomon wrote in Eccl. 7:8, *The end of a matter is better than its beginning.* We believe that in the coming years we will look back and see that he is totally correct. The next 25 years at EVANGEL will truly be better and greater and more fruitful than the first 25.

Alumni News

Will Kenlaw (2002 M.T.S. graduate) has had a 2nd book published. It is entitled [A Father's Guide to Raising Daughters: For Women](#). It can be ordered through [XulonPress.com](#), [Amazon.com](#), [BarnesandNoble.com](#), [Borders.com](#) and [Target.com](#).

We are always thrilled to receive updates from alumni. To submit information please send us an email.. The deadline for the next issue of the Voice is Aug. 31, 2007.

Prayer Needs

We want to share with you a testimony. **Will Kenlaw**, a 2002 graduate shared that God is healing him from cancer surgery. He has experienced a rapid recovery and is completely cancer free. He shares, "GOD IS SO GOOD!!!" Thank you Lord!

We also have some prayer needs to share with you. Please join with us in bringing them before the Father who is able to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine.

Current Students: Pray for God to prepare them for the Fall Semester. Pray that He would provide their every need. Pray that He would anoint them afresh with the Holy Spirit for the coursework that lies ahead.

Future Students: Pray that God would draw new students to EVANGEL for the Fall Semester.

Board of Trustees Meeting (8/24/07): Pray that the Holy Spirit would give wisdom to make needed decisions and reveal Kingdom strategies for accomplishing the vision that He has given.

Faculty/Staff: Pray that the Holy Spirit would bring refreshment over the summer. Pray for fresh anointing to teach and serve.

Future of EVANGEL: Pray that God would abundantly bless with financial resources. Pray that God would quickly identify the person to assume primary leadership. Pray for wisdom as degree programs are revised.

Golf Classic

On June 4, 2007 the 1st annual Clubs for Christ Golf Classic was held at Jackson's Chase Golf Course in Front Royal, VA. God blessed us with a gorgeous day for golf and 41 players participated. At the end of the day it was announced that \$2,800 had been raised for EVANGEL.

We want to thank **Mr. Jim Hall** (Vice-Chairman of the ETS Board of Trustees), the Event Chairman, and **Mr. Brian Taylor**, the Event Director for their hours of work and tireless commitment to make this event a success. We also want to thank the players. Their afternoon of golf was an investment into the lives of each student. We also want to thank all of those who sponsored holes or donated prizes or services..

Mr. G. W. Adams
Appleland Sports Center
Blackwell Engineering
Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Course
Bowling Green Country Club
Bobby Chestnut
Corbin Construction & Excavating Corp.
Eastgate Ministries
F & F Properties
Grace Covenant Church
Greater Atlantic Bank
Integrity Home Mortgage Corporation
Larry's Paint Body & Sign

The Marathon Bank
Marlow Motor Company , Inc.
Martins Food Market
Patriot Collision Center
Patton, Harris, Rust, & Associates
Rock Harbor Golf Course
Rotz Pharmacy
Shenandoah Paint
Shenandoah Valley Golf Club
Victory Church
Winchester Golf Center
W-L Construction & Paving

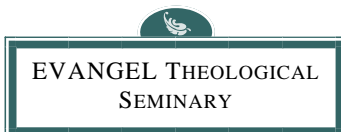
Stay tuned for information about the 2008 Clubs for Christ Golf Classis. We hope to see many more of you out on the links.

We Need Your Help!

Summer is a strange time for EVANGEL. It means a well deserved break for the faculty. It allows the staff time to relax and refresh themselves. It gives students an opportunity to rest from their academic endeavors. It also means that there is very little tuition revenue available to help meet the continuing expenses of operation.

Would you prayerfully consider making a special gift to EVANGEL during this time. Your gift would be a blessing to us and would help us meet our financial obligations. More than that, you would be investing in the work of training men and women for service in the Kingdom. As always, your gift is tax deductible.

I want to thank you in advance for your response and for standing with us during this time.



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 difference*



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