



TEACHING

MINISTERING

SERVING

The EVANGEL Voice

August, 2010

In the past few days we turned the calendar page and discovered that August, despite our protestations, was here. With that flip of the page our thoughts, despite the searing heat, turn to the start of school and fall. That's how it is here at Evangel. In just a few short weeks, our 29th academic year will start. We are in the process of finalizing student rosters and making the final arrangements for each class. We're really excited about this upcoming semester and are believing that it will be our best ever.

Fall Semester

The 2010/11 academic year will kick off on Thursday, August 26 with two courses being offered, one that morning and one that evening. Later in October a third course will start. Listed below is information about each of these courses.

August:

P-546 The Ministry of Preaching

This course is designed to investigate the mandate for Biblical preaching. The course material will challenge students to boldly proclaim the distinctive message and benefits of God's Word to the people of God with the result that the Kingdom would be advanced.

- ◆ Professor: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- ◆ Dates: **Thursday mornings: August 26 through October 7**
- ◆ Time: Class session begin at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 12:00 noon.

N-301 New Testament Greek I

This course is designed to provide a basic knowledge of New Testament Greek for the purpose of enabling the student to effectively study and exegete the New Testament.

- ◆ Professor: Dr. Victoria Rocco
- ◆ Dates: **Thursday evenings: Aug. 26; Sept. 9, 23; Oct. 7, 21; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2**
- ◆ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

October:

C-101 The Church: Pentecost to the Reformation

This course will examine the events, movements, and individuals that shaped the Church during the time frame of Pentecost to the Reformation.

- ◆ Professor: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- ◆ Dates: **Monday evenings: October 25 through December 6**
- ◆ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

For further information or to register for one of these courses, just give us a call or drop us an email.

School of Practical Ministry

Group Five of the School of Practical Ministry will begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2010. The SOPM, a certificate program, is a six month learning journey. Its purpose is to provide students an opportunity to encounter God in a deeper, more intimate way, to explore the unique person they've been created to be, and finally to become equipped to do the work of ministry within the context of their local church. The curriculum is comprised of seven modules; Life Foundations, Bible Foundations, Faith Foundations, Communication Foundations, Spiritual Giftings, Ministry of the Holy Spirit, and Leadership Essentials.

- ◆ Dates: **Tuesday evenings: Sept. 7 through March 8, 2011**
- ◆ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 10:00 p.m.

This SOPM is the same exciting program that we taught last summer in Kenya with amazing times of fellowship, ministry, and learning. If you'd like further information or wish to sign up just give us a call or drop us an email.

Thank You

I want to thank each of you who gave a special gift this summer. It really helped us out and we were so blessed by your generosity. We also want to thank each of you who have prayed for us. We've felt your support and God has answered your prayers. He has shown Himself to be so faithful this summer. Thank You!

News & Notes

We want to extend our congratulations to **David Nichols** (Biblical Studies Diploma student) on being licensed by his congregation, Eagle's Wings Christian Fellowship. David, like many of our students, is passionately preparing and pursuing the ministry to which God has called him. Congratulations David!

Jeffrey McIlwain (1999 M.Div. graduate) has planted a church in Hagerstown, MD. The church is called Faith Worship Ministries. We are praying that God will use this new endeavor to minister light and life to those who desperately need it.

Prayer Needs

We really appreciate the prayer support of our friends and partners. This month there are several things we would like you to pray about.

- ◆ The 2010 Fall Semester. Pray for each course. Pray for the professors. Pray for the students.
- ◆ Our staff. Pray that we would experience a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. Pray that we would have wisdom.
- ◆ Our finances. Pray that we would experience supernatural provision this fall.
- ◆ Our students. Pray that they would have wisdom to balance family, career, ministry, and studies. Pray that God would multiply their time. Pray that God would provide financially for them.

A Few Thoughts

All right, I admit it. I'm so ready for summer to end. It's been way too hot. Can't even escape it while on vacation. During our family trip in June, we had two days of 102 degree temperatures. My lawn is now that crusty shade of brown that only comes from getting too little rain. I guess we've officially entered the dog days of summer.

Sometimes we can go through dog days in our spiritual lives. We get tired and even a little cranky. We're doing what we believe God has called us to do and yet we find ourselves tired, worn out, and wallowing in despair. It's not how we pictured it would be.

That surely is what happened to Jeremiah. As a young man, God dramatically called him to the prophetic ministry. Jeremiah's response was to say that he was too young to fulfill that call. God then responded by saying that all Jeremiah had to do was go where He told him to go and say what He told him to say. With that great promise Jeremiah began his ministry. Little did he know what was ahead.

He began to speak the word of the Lord to the people of Israel. He proclaimed that the people had sinned and that unless they repented judgment would come. He declared that Israel would be conquered by an invading force from Babylon. He fearlessly stood up to kings and corrupt religious leaders. For all his efforts what did he get? He was abused, ridiculed, imprisoned, and considered a religious kook. I'm not sure that he pictured it would turn out that way. To make things worse, the things he prophesied came true. The people ignored his warnings and continued in their sin. Finally, God sent judgment. Babylon invaded the land, destroyed the city of Jerusalem, and carried off most of the people into captivity.

The book of Lamentations shows us Jeremiah's response to all of these developments. Instead of saying, "I told you so," he is filled with despair. He looks over the destroyed city of Jerusalem and reflects on what might have been. He also replays in his mind everything that had happened to him. He describes his situation with very graphic terms. He says that his teeth have been broken with gravel. He's been trampled in the dust. He's been deprived of peace. Finally he says, "My splendor is gone

and all that I had hoped from the LORD.” (Lam. 3:18) Jeremiah is more than discouraged. He has lost hope. The things he’s hoped and prayed for don’t appear to be taking place. He’s beginning to wonder if it’s worth it. Ever been in that place? I’ll be honest, I have. We just get so tired and exhausted and disheartened, that we feel like we’ve been ground into powder.

However, Jeremiah, despite being in this desolate place, gives us the answer to escape. ***Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope; Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”*** (Lam. 3:21-24). Jeremiah isn’t relying on some religious activity to help him. Rather, he’s going to remind himself of the goodness and faithfulness of God. He remembers the great love of God. He remembers that the compassions (mercy, loving-kindness, peace, grace) of God never fail. He tells us that the compassion, mercy, love, kindness, peace, and grace of God can be experienced afresh every day. We don’t have to rely on past experiences to get by. We don’t have to hope for a future manifestation of these things. We can walk in them each day.

Jeremiah doesn’t stop there. He looks back over his life and sees the great faithfulness of God. He once again understands that God was faithful in fulfilling His promise. He declares that God is all that he needs and that even though it appears that all is lost, he will not lose heart. He will wait on the Lord until he sees the answer to his prayers. You get the sense that by this powerful declaration, Jeremiah’s despair and hopelessness have been chased away. They’ve been replaced by a fresh burst of faith and hope. He’s decided to go on one more day.

When we find ourselves in this same place, let’s respond with the words of Jeremiah. Let’s remember the goodness and faithfulness of God. Let’s walk in the daily revelation of the compassions of God. Let’s draw a line in the sand and say that we will wait on God until we see the manifestation of what He’s promised. Most importantly, when we get discouraged and frustrated, let’s decide to not give up. Let’s be people who persevere despite what we see with our eyes. Let’s endure to the end! Holy Spirit make us this kind of person. Bring us renewed joy, confidence, and strength. Let us see Your goodness every day.

Grace & peace,

Bob Reichard, III
President