



TEACHING

MINISTERING

SERVING

The EVANGEL Voice

December, 2010

At this time of year it is unavoidable that we reflect back over the year and look forward to the start of a new one. Here at Evangel we do the same thing. To say that 2010 was a difficult year would be an understatement. Enrollment and revenue continue to decline which keeps the financial spreadsheet looking bleak. However, God continues to be faithful and the bills get paid. Despite these struggles, we continue to be amazed at the students that God brings to Evangel. I wish you could meet each one of them. It is amazing to see them juggle family, career, and ministry responsibilities while at the same time studying to prepare for the things God has planned for them. To be honest, I'm not sure how they do it.

To some extent 2010 has been a year of transition from what Evangel has been into what Evangel is going to become. The move of our offices in April is symbolic of that transition. The new year is going to bring some exciting things to Evangel. In conjunction with the Board of Trustees we've begun an extensive evaluation of our academic programs to see if there are some areas that can be improved. We want to ensure that our graduates are more completely prepared for the ministry to which God has called them. In the next few months we hope to let you know some of the results of our evaluation.

If you remember, in July 2009 we took the School of Practical Ministry to Kenya to train rural pastors and church leaders. Those men and women are ministering in an area of Kenya that is 70% Muslim. To some extent they are singlehandedly standing against darkness in the coastal area of Kenya. God has once again opened doors for Evangel to minister and teach internationally. In July, 2011 we will once again be going to Kenya to teach the School of Practical ministry. In October, 2011 we will be going to Sierra Leone to teach the SOPM to pastors and leaders in that nation. The situation in this country is heartbreaking. The country is so poor and the people have so little and yet God has given us this incredible opportunity to serve the Church there. Between these 2 locations Evangel will have 50 international students. To undertake these projects is an enormous challenge for us. It will require that we raise a large amount of money to underwrite this endeavor. In the next few months we'll be letting you know of opportunities to help us with this. Please pray for us as we make plans to increase our ability to serve the Church globally.

The 2011 Spring Semester brings some exciting new developments. Based on the success of the morning class we held during the fall semester, we're going to offer another one. We are also going to be offering 2 brand new classes, *The Practice of Preaching* and *The Heart of God's Minister*. Listed below is the complete semester schedule. Look it over and pray about participating in one of these classes.

It's hard to believe but the 2011 Fall Semester will mark the beginning of Evangel's 30th academic year. From the humble beginning in September, 1982 with just a handful of students, the ministry of Evangel has grown and is now impacting lives around the world. Throughout the year we will be looking back at where we've come from and looking ahead to all that God has in store. This anniversary is a testimony to God's faithfulness. It also speaks about my Dad's tenacity in pursuing what God called him to do. Stay tuned to the Evangel Voice for updates about this exciting celebration.

Finally, I want to take the time to thank each of you for your prayer and financial support in 2010. Your gifts always seemed to come at just the right time. For years you have invested in the work of Evangel and the lives of our students. Because of your gifts, in 2011, we are going to be able to serve the Church globally by training 50 future pastors and leaders in Kenya and Sierra Leone. We will continue to teach Biblically and practically. We will continue to minister the power of the Holy Spirit to our students. You see, when we pray for a student in class you're there. When we get off the plane in Kenya and Sierra Leone you will be there. When a student graduates and continues to walk in their God-given destiny you're there. I wish there was some grander way to thank you but words are all we have. Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for praying. Thank you for giving.

Now, here at the end of 2010 I want to ask you to consider making a special end of year gift to Evangel. Your gift would enable us to start the new year in a great way. This is one of the times of year when tuition revenue is next to nothing. Your gift would help us through this time. It would also help us with the beginning stages of planning for the new things that are coming in 2011. We can't offer you anything in return for your gift except to say that you are investing your treasure in the Kingdom of God. That always brings a great return. Won't you please pray and ask the Holy Spirit what role he would have you play and then use the enclosed envelope to send in your gift. Thank you for helping us.

Spring Semester

We are so excited about the upcoming start to the 2011 Spring Semester. Five courses are being offered, including 2 brand new ones, P-547 The Practice of Preaching and P-550 The Heart of God's Minister. In addition to these courses we are also offering a new group of the School of Practical Ministry. Listed below are all of the courses along with the important information. To receive more information or to register for one of these courses give the Evangel office a call or drop us an email.

N-302 New Testament Greek II

This course continues the process of helping students develop a basic knowledge of New Testament Greek for the purpose of enabling the student to effectively study and exegete the New Testament. Prerequisite N-301.

- ◆ Prof.: Dr. Victoria Rocco
- ◆ Dates: **Thursday evenings: Jan. 6, 13, 27; Feb. 10, 24; March 10, 24; April 7**
- ◆ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

C-102 The Church: The Reformation to the Present

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

- ◆ Prof.: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- ◆ Dates: **Monday evenings: January 10 through February 21**
- ◆ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

P-547 The Practice of Preaching

This course is designed to investigate the art and science of preaching and assist students in developing sound practical preaching skills.

- ◆ Prof.: Bob Reichard, III
- ◆ Dates: **Thursday mornings: January 13 through February 17**
- ◆ Time: Class session begin at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 12:00 noon.

P-550 The Heart of God's Minister

This course embodies an examination of the hearts of several Old and New Testament leaders to discover the role the individual's heart plays in effective and productive ministry and work for God. The course will formulate an essential Biblical description for the heart of God's ministers in every age.

- ◆ Prof.: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- ◆ Dates: **Monday evenings: April 4 through May 23 (excluding April 18)**
- ◆ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

N-401 NT Greek Readings

This course consists of readings from selected New Testament passages with emphasis placed on translation and syntax. The purpose of the course is to develop translation skills and increase the student's familiarity and ease in handling the text. Prerequisites N-301 & N-302.

- ◆ Prof.: Dr. Victoria Rocco
- ◆ Dates: **Thursday evenings: April 14, 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26; June 2**
- ◆ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

School of Practical Ministry

The School of Practical Ministry is a dynamic 24 week 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: January 4 through June 14, 2011**
- ◆ Time: Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:45 p.m.

Don't miss out on these exciting opportunities. Hope to see you in class!

New Graduate

We want to extend our congratulations to **Frank Kelly** on completing his studies and receiving the Master of Theological Studies degree. Frank has worked very hard and it was such a joy to present his degree to him. For 18 years, Frank has served as Senior Pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will take those things Frank has learned and use them to dramatically impact his ministry and the life of his church. Congratulations Frank!

A Few Thoughts

I'm not sure why, but at this time of year we seem to become so fixated on time. The month of December seems to fly by with all of the Christmas parties, concerts, meals, and other assorted events. In addition, we rush around to purchase gifts and plan that festive meal when we gather with friends and family. The result is that by the time Christmas arrives we're exhausted. We sit down and reflect on the past when Christmas seemed to be simpler and times weren't so hectic. We also daydream about that perfect celebration next year. Tragically, too many of us either think or say that we wish we could just skip over Christmas.

If that isn't enough we look around and see so many people who are hurting. Many families are facing the first Christmas after the death of a loved one. Others are facing financial difficulties and Christmas doesn't seem possible this year. Jobs have been lost, savings used up, and some are even facing the possibility of losing their home. Some have been praying for years that a friend or family member would give their life to Jesus. Christmas marks that another year has come and gone and the person seems to be unchanged. Our mailboxes are filled with appeals to help feed children, house the homeless, provide a holiday meal for a needy family, or even to send gifts to children around the world who will have no Christmas. The result is that we get overwhelmed by the size of the needs and sometimes just decide to not get involved. We begin to ask ourselves the questions, "What can I do?"

It is this kind of situation that faced Queen Esther. A plot to kill all of the Jews living in Persia had been uncovered. When presented with the information about the plot she sends a message to her uncle, Mordecai, telling him that she can't get involved because it might mean death for her. The truth is that Esther became queen after her predecessor refused to do what the king had ordered and was deposed. She thought that she didn't need to get involved. Mordecai responds by sending a message to Esther informing her that her royal position would not save her from the coming plot.

He concludes his appeal to Esther by saying, "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). Basically he is saying that this could be Esther's moment of destiny and she shouldn't let it slip by. Esther heeds Mordecai's appeal and asks him to have the people fast for 3 days and nights. After that time, she would go to the king even though it was against the law. Facing her moment she said that if her actions cost her life, so be it. We all know that God granted Esther favor with the king, the Jews were saved, and the perpetrator of the plot was executed. God used Esther to bring deliverance to His people.

Two thousand years ago, God, Himself, stepped on the human stage. Jesus took on the form of humanity and became a servant. He brought the good news that the Kingdom of God was at hand. Mary and Joseph both wrestled with the idea that they weren't worthy to do what God was calling them to do. The truth was that like Esther, they were born for that time. They willingly risked their reputations to face their moment of destiny. The shepherds become the first human heralds of the supernatural events that took place in the stable in Bethlehem. They were just doing what they always did, taking care of sheep when they were confronted by their moment of destiny. They gladly responded.

At this Christmas season, the words of Mordecai resound in our hearts and minds. We were created for such a time as this. We live in a world that desperately needs to hear that Immanuel, God with us, has come to earth. He has come to bring life where there's death. He's come to bring light where there's darkness. He's come to bring truth where there has been lies. He's come to bring deliverance where there's been captivity. He's come to bring hope where there's been despair. He's come to bring healing where there's been sickness. He's come to bring life to the fullest. Sadly, so many haven't heard this good news. Let's be the ones to tell them. Let's face our moment of destiny and boldly proclaim that the Savior has come. Let it be, Lord!

On behalf of the staff of Evangel, I would like to wish you and your family a most happy and joyous Christmas season and pray that you will experience Immanuel, God with us, in a deeper more intimate way in 2011.

Grace & peace,

Bob Reichard, III
President