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SUMMER 2011

THE **RENAMED** MAGAZINE OF EVANGELICAL SEMINARY

A Bright Destination Ahead

LIVE | LEARN | LEAD

"May all who love you be like the sun
when it rises in its strength." (Joshua 5:31)



ANTHONY BLAIR, PH.D., D.MIN.

■ ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

Ph.D, History, Temple University

D.Min., Leadership, George Fox Evangelical Seminary

M.A., History, Shippensburg University

M.A.R., Church History, Evangelical School of Theology

M.C.M., Pastoral Ministry, Huntington College

B.A, Religion, Messiah College

■ ORDINATION

Church of the United Brethren in Christ

Hosanna! A Fellowship of Christians

■ RECENT EXPERIENCE

- Professor of Leadership Studies and Dean of the Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies of Eastern University

- Senior Pastor, Hosanna! A Fellowship of Christians

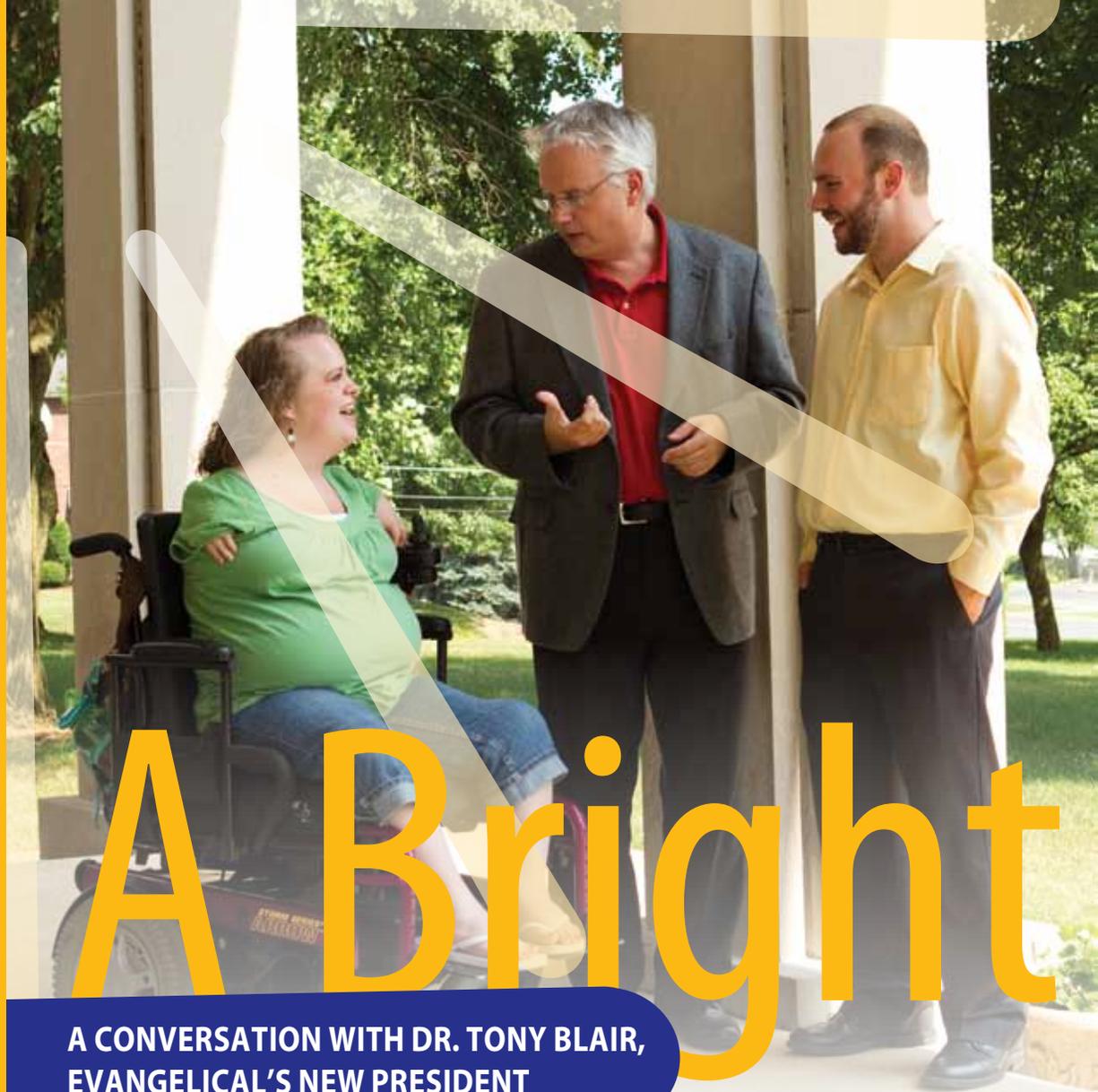
- Adjunct Instructor in Church History, Evangelical Theological Seminary

■ AUTHOR

- Church and Academy in Harmony: Models of Collaboration for the 21st Century (Pickwick Publications)

- Fire Across the Water: Transatlantic Dimensions of the 18th Century Presbyterian Revivals (Lambert Academic Publishing)

- Minimizing the Stress of Adult Accelerated Education. (Nova Publications). With Mary B. Boylston.



A Bright

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. TONY BLAIR, EVANGELICAL'S NEW PRESIDENT

Tony, you've been hanging around Evangelical a long time. How did you first encounter the Seminary? ■ As a student. I graduated from Evangelical with an M.A.R. in 1991. I lived a full two hours away, but it was worth it... there were few other options for a quality theological education from an evangelical perspective. That experience of trying to do seminary in a traditional way from a distance, while pastoring full-time and raising a family, made me very appreciative of the opportunities provided by new technologies for distance education. In order to fulfill our mission, we really must be creative in finding ways to bring transformative theological education to where people are, and not always expect them to come to where we are. Our mission is achieved in Myerstown...and also far beyond it.

You mentioned raising a family while going to school. Can you tell us about your family?

■ My wife Carol and I have been married for 23 years; we met as undergraduates in the student missions fellowship at Messiah College. She works for a real estate agency in Lancaster County. We live in northern Lancaster County, where our younger daughter Alia is an incoming senior at our local high school. Our older daughter Rachel is a student at Eastern University. They are both talented and serving God at school and church.

So how long were you a pastor? ■ I still am! I started pastoring United Brethren churches when I was still in college, 26 years ago. I was full-time for about a decade and have been bivocational ever since. When I became an academic administrator, my family and I moved to Lancaster County, where we connected to an independent congregation: Hosanna! A Fellowship of Christians, in Lititz. I was later invited into a shared senior pastor role and have been doing that for four and a half years now.

So how did you juggle both academic and ministry leadership? And aren't you planning to do the same after taking office as president? ■ I have spent nearly my entire career with one foot in the academy and one foot in the church. Rather than feeling pulled apart by those dual commitments, I have seen how much overlap there is...or could be. I wrote a book on this topic, which was published last year (*Church and Academy in Harmony: Models of Collaboration for the Twenty-First Century*). Personally, I have usually found those dual responsibilities manageable, even when I was dean of a large graduate school. We've got an energetic staff who make sure that the day-to-day operations are well managed and, as I noted, I'm sharing the senior pastor role.

What are your hopes and dreams for Evangelical Seminary? ■ That it be all that God has called it to be. That we together fulfill our mission by creatively and energetically *partnering with the Church to develop servant*



From Left: Alia, Carol, Rachel, and Tony Blair

leaders for transformational ministry in a broken and complex world by nurturing rigorous minds, passionate hearts, and Christ-centered actions. The Board has blessed us with a comprehensive strategic plan that calls for distance learning, strategic partnerships, and a major initiative to develop scholarship funds, among other things. We will want to increase our profile in the Central Pennsylvania community and beyond.

Together we'll do a lot of praying and discerning...and then act boldly and creatively when we see a God-given opportunity.

One of my favorite sayings is "The greatest hindrance to the best is the good." God continually invites us to the best He has to offer. This is why we should not be afraid of challenges or hard times...they give us encouragement to pursue the best. And that is indeed what we wish to do together at Evangelical in the years to come. We lean into hope, and it is a bright hope indeed!

Hope



Laurie A. Mellinger, Ph.D. Dean of Academic Programs

Dr. Laurie Mellinger is no stranger to Evangelical. Since 2003, she has served the seminary as an Adjunct Faculty member, Instructor in Systematic Theology and Spiritual Formation, Assistant Professor, and Associate Professor of Christian Theology and Spiritual Formation. We're pleased to announce her new position as Dean of Academic Programs, effective July 1, 2011.

Dr. Mellinger holds a Ph.D. in Spirituality from Catholic University of America (2010), an M.A.R. in Historical and Systematic Theology from Evangelical (2000), and a B.A. in Psychology from Millersville University (1983). She is the author of numerous articles, including the forthcoming "A Distinctively Evangelical Spirituality?" in *Eastern Churches Journal*. She enjoys leading contemporary Christian worship services (voice and keyboards) and teaching and enabling others to do the same.

LIVE | LEARN | LEAD

A TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNEY

Over the last year, the leadership team, students, alumni, and our marketing partner Masterpiece Marketing, engaged in The Great Branding Adventure: An Innovative Process of Identity Discovery. We all agreed that at Evangelical, we have something unique and wonderful to offer. Education, yes, but it's more than that. It involves the transformational journeys of our students, our faculty, our alumni, our leadership – all of these comprise the “Evangelical Experience.”

As our marketing now moves us in a direction that aligns with the transformational journey we hear impacting our students, the need for a revitalized brand identity became obvious to express this shift.

OUR NEW VISION

Today, while our mission statement remains unchanged, we'd also like to introduce our new vision statement:

Evangelical Seminary, striving to meet and exceed the leadership needs of the church, will prepare world-changing leaders who are authentically devoted to Jesus Christ, faithfully rooted in Scripture, effectively equipped to lead, and who will passionately carry the transformational message of Christ into the world.

OUR NEW BRAND

After much study and thought, the Board of Trustees and administration voted to operate under a shortened name: *Evangelical Seminary*.

Blue symbolizes stability, wisdom, faith, and truth; it is the color of knowledge and understanding. **Yellow** stimulates intellect and energy and indicates the bright light of our students.

Evangelical Seminary



The lighter steps indicate how students begin to **live** their Evangelical Experience. As they **learn**, their steps become better equipped, more confident, more bold—indicating the knowledge and wisdom they gain. As they complete their education, they are prepared to lead—and their steps burst from blue to yellow as they **lead** others to find and develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and to bring healing and hope in relationships.

Each individual's transformational journey at Evangelical follows a dynamic and exciting path ... ultimately carrying that transformational message of the **cross** of Christ to the world!

As we work to recruit new students to fulfill that exciting vision, a new tagline has been crafted that is rhythmic, alliterative, and packed with meaning:

LIVE | LEARN | LEAD

To give our identity a visual representation in a logo, we sought to capture the burst of excitement felt by our students as they leave Evangelical to be a shining light in our broken and complex world. They strive to share Jesus Christ with all they meet!

Shining Their Light

ALUMNI 2011



Debra Egli-Flanagan

Marriage and Family Therapy
Susquehanna Valley Counseling,
Dillsburg, PA

The program at Evangelical was a life-changing experience.

Our motto from the very first class on the first day was: *Do not ask anyone to do something*

you have not done yourself. Hence, every class we were required to go deep within our own souls, look within our culture, within our own families, for the purpose of how that would integrate in a positive or negative way when doing therapy with others. The experience of having to process my own life alongside learning in the classroom environment, my reflections outside of the classroom environment, and the rich dialogue with classmates all made for an evolving transformation that took many years. I know that **God has placed a fire in my heart to make a difference in the world**, and getting my master's degree has been a step to allow that process to begin! My experience at Evangelical was powerful, my heart is full of passion, and I am going forth with God's presence on my next journey.



Steven "Brent" Musser

Master of Divinity, Teaching
Concentration
Pastor, New Providence Mennonite
Church, New Providence, PA

Studying at Evangelical broadened my theological understanding of the Christian faith in the historical

tradition of the church. It was so good to be in a place that valued Scripture deeply and was full of people willing to ask difficult questions about the interpretation and application of Scripture. I am passionate about teaching Scripture and helping believers grow in their understanding of the depths of Christian discipleship. The prospect of **seeing the Holy Spirit transform people as they are confronted with the truth of Jesus Christ** is very exciting! **At Evangelical**, I could deepen my intellectual understanding of the Christian faith in a context where spiritual vitality was emphasized and nourished.

Jeff Beauvais

Master of Divinity with a concentration in
Marriage & Family Counseling

My most memorable transformative moment at Evangelical is when a professor whom I had befriended offered me scriptural guidance that ultimately helped me to break free from a spiritually abusive church situation. My wife and I are planning on embarking for full-time African missions. I am so passionate to reach the nations with the hope of the gospel. I want to be a part of healing the sick and saving many from destruction. **Evangelical is a priceless gem of a graduate school** where the professors are always approachable, the curriculum is always stimulating, and lives can't help but be shaped by the Word of God! Never before have I felt so prepared for ministry as I do now because I have attended this wonderful school. I can hardly wait to see the fruit grown in my future as a result of the seeds sown in my heart at Evangelical.



Gene Stevenson

Master of Divinity
Assistant Pastor, First Evangelical
Congregational Church, Palmyra, PA

My entire Evangelical experience was transformative. I expected to be stretched, pushed, and tested academically. I expected

my knowledge of Scripture and the Christian faith to be deepened and enriched. What I didn't necessarily expect was to encounter God's Spirit on a regular basis in the lecture hall. I came prepared for academics, not metamorphosis. But God used the rigorous academic challenge at the hands of loving, Christ-centered professors to initiate a time of personal transformation the likes of which I hadn't known in my life to that point. **Evangelical challenges its students to think rigorously, feel passionately, and serve humbly in the name of Jesus Christ.** Know that as you begin your academic journey, the work *you do* is echoed by the work God does *in you*.

Spreading the Light

EVANGELICAL PROPOSES DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM



Evangelical has submitted a proposal for an innovative **Master of Arts in Christian Leadership** program to be offered in a distance format (on-campus residencies supplemented by online learning). If we earn approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the first cohort of students could

begin coursework as early as Spring 2012. Please pray for the review process that will occur between now and then. The new program, when approved, will consist of a core group of courses with multiple specialty tracks to be developed over time, the first of which may be "Spiritual Formation for Christian Leaders." The program as proposed would require 48 credits.

Fall 2011 Open House

Our Fall Encounter Event is slated for Thursday evening, November 10, with registration beginning at 6:30pm. Prospective students will have an opportunity to sit in on a class, meet with current students and alumni, chat with faculty, and tour our campus. Mark your calendar and spread the word! For more information, contact Tom Maiello at admissions@evangelical.edu or 717-866-5775, ext 2109.

THE BRIGHT FUTURE OF THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IMPACT



Former seminary president **Michael Sigman** is excited to

be stepping into his new part-time role as Director of the Center for Leadership Impact (CLI). In the coming year, Mike will be focusing CLI on three strategic areas: marketplace leadership, leadership training, and community educational courses.

Christian leadership development organization that helps business leaders build great businesses for a great purpose. A future *Faith in the Marketplace* panel is also planned to focus on the topic of integrity.



To emphasize leadership training for pastors and church leaders, CLI has scheduled

Dr. Walt Mueller, founder and president of the Center for Parent-Youth Understanding, and nationally recognized authority on youth culture, to lead a day-long workshop on November 1. This workshop is designed for senior and associate pastors and church leaders, not just youth pastors. Future plans for leadership training include a spring event focusing on the ministry of hospitality and what that means in our broken and complex world.

substantial than Sunday School but less rigorous than a graduate class." Designed primarily for lay leaders in local churches and bi-vocational pastors, this year CLI will offer Old Testament Survey and Preaching 1 (fall), and Preaching 2 and Theology (spring). The benefit to attendees of these 7-week classes is a seminary learning environment that will leave them better prepared to teach, disciple, and lead in the local church.



Faith in the Marketplace is already winding up towards an exciting 2011-2012 year with

special guest **Scott Heintzelman**, partner with McKonley & Asbury, on September 29. Scott was recently honored by *Entrepreneur* magazine for his nationally read blog entitled "The Exuberant Accountant."

Before being asked to serve as seminary president, Mike was initially recruited for CLI, and he is pleased to return to this area of focus. He shares, "I am committed to developing and equipping leaders for God's Kingdom" Sigman continues, "[Former CLI Director] Craig Sider took the vision for the Center for Leadership Impact and developed it. He laid an outstanding foundation and built programs that I am privileged to carry on!" Craig has moved to Canada to serve as the Director of Church Planting for the Brethren in Christ Church there.

In May, a conference for marketplace leaders is planned to feature Buck Jacobs, Chairman and Founder of The C12 Group, a

Finally, CLI will offer classes credit-free to those who, as Mike Sigman puts it, "want something more

CARRYING THE LIGHT TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD!

When friends of the seminary offer prayer and financial support, they are facilitating the education and preparation of future world-changers. Two of the conduits through which this assistance is provided are the Phonathon and the Golf Tournament.

PHONATHON

During five evenings in February and March, 33 friends of the seminary made hundreds of phone calls. The result—**\$62,490**—is a slight increase over the previous year! We are extremely grateful to all those who volunteered their time and to those who responded with their gifts.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

On May 19, an energetic group of 124 golfers gathered at Fairview Golf Course in Lebanon, PA, for Evangelical's 26th annual Golf Tournament. This year's Tournament provided **\$51,346** that will bless the entire

Evangelical family. Thank you to all golfers, sponsors, and volunteers! *Save the date of May 17 for the 2012 Golf Tournament!*

NEW DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL GIFTS



On June 1, we welcomed J. Kenneth Nafziger, M.D., M.Div., to the position of Director of Special Gifts. Ken graduated from Evangelical in 2001 and serves on the pastoral staff at The Church at Timberline in Lancaster County. For the last five years, Ken also served as the president of Evangelical's Alumni Council.

We are grateful to J. Robert "Bob" Ladd for his seven years of excellent service in this position. Bob's retirement was effective May 31.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH REINSTATES EVANGELICAL FOR CLERGY CANDIDATES' EDUCATION

As a result of our January 25 appeal, Evangelical Seminary is pleased to announce that we have been officially reinstated by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church to the list of approved non-Methodist schools of theology (*effective until July 1, 2012, followed by additional review*). This means that new United Methodist clergy candidates can enroll at Evangelical for their theological education with the blessing of the denomination.



Introducing Your Future-Changing Opportunity

The new *Hand-in-Hand* scholarship endowment initiative has been created to help you share God's blessings to transform our world by helping to send a student to seminary. Our students travel

a long road in their preparation to enter Christian ministry. You can join them *Hand-in-Hand* on this journey through your generous support of this scholarship initiative.

Ask us about named scholarship opportunities!

Contact Ann Steel, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at asteel@evangelical.edu or 717.866.5775, ext. 2143.



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A Bright Destination Ahead

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ Tuesday, August 30

Evangelical Seminary, Dech Chapel, 11 am
Fall Convocation with Dr. David A. Dorsey as he is named Distinguished Professor of Old Testament.

■ Thursday, September 29

Evangelical Seminary, Zinn Commons
Faith in the Marketplace with Scott Heintzelman, CPA, CME, CFE, Partner, McKonly and Asbury, LLC (see page 6). Contact the Advancement Office at 717-866-5775, ext. 2116.

■ Friday, October 21

Calvary Church, Lancaster, PA, 6:30 pm
Friends of Evangelical Banquet with Dr. Gordon MacDonald. Contact the Advancement Office at 717-866-5775, ext. 2130.

■ Tuesday, November 1

Evangelical Seminary, Dech Chapel, 9 am – 3 pm
Fall Leadership Forum & Alumni Day “Discipling the Next Generation” with Dr. Walt Mueller, Founder and President, Center for Parent and Youth Understanding, nationally acclaimed author and radio host of *Youth Culture Today*.

■ Thursday, November 10

Evangelical Seminary
Ritter-Moyer Lecture 9 am
Fall Encounter Open House 6 pm



PRAY FOR EVANGELICAL

- *Pray for* blessings on our new seminary president **Dr. Anthony Blair**, and for his installation convocation on September 30
- *Pray for* our **new incoming students** to find transformation here at Evangelical
- *Pray for* our **773 alumni** to each make a vibrant difference in their world in their many various vocations
- *Pray for* **Dr. Laurie Mellinger**, our new Dean of Academic Programs, to bring fresh ideas and a new perspective to our seminary's leadership
- *Pray for* our much-needed **scholarships** to be funded so even more students may have the opportunity for “The Evangelical Experience”
- *Pray for* approval on the proposed **distance education program** from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) as well as *for* a contribution of **seed money** for the program launch.