

Enthuse

THE MAGAZINE OF EVANGELICAL SEMINARY

REDEEM,
RECONCILE,
& RESTORE

AN INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL FORMATION

www.evangelical.edu

Evangelical
Seminary 
LIVE • LEARN • LEAD

NOW TR

Expansion At Evan

We've expanded our classrooms beyond Myerstown. We started offering classes in Harrisburg 20 months ago and are now making plans to move into other locations as well. We have a satellite office in Lancaster and hope to offer our Master of Arts in Leadership Development there early next year.

We've expanded into online education. Our Leadership Development program is taught mostly online (supplemented by five weekend residencies a year), and we will utilize the same hybrid delivery for other programs currently in development. Each semester two different courses in our Master of Divinity program are taught online, and we're experimenting with some distance deliveries in our Harrisburg site.

We've expanded our program offerings. We keep saying that seminary isn't just for pastors anymore, and our students agree! We will continue to train pastors (and we do that very well), but we have as many inquiries these days about our MA in Marriage and Family Therapy as we do for our Master of Divinity program. And we have new specialized programs awaiting approval from accreditors. God keeps opening new opportunities to serve the Church of the 21st century!

We've expanded the diversity of our student base. We are drawing from dozens of denominations, from a growing geographical region, and from a widening age range. Twice as many students in our MDiv program are over 50 than were a decade ago, as God keeps calling people into ministry as a second career, and we now have an Evangelical Center for Anabaptist Studies to match our Center for Methodist Studies.



ENDING

Evangelical Seminary

We've expanded our marketplace presence. New students are finding us primarily online, so we're expanding our online presence to meet them there through social media, search engine marketing, website optimization, and other strategies. We're participating in dozens of graduate school and career fairs at colleges and universities each year, along with a wide variety of denominational and other pastors' conferences.

We've expanded how we serve the Church. We're not just providing graduate degrees to those who will eventually serve and lead; right now, we are providing continuing education opportunities for pastors, business leaders, therapists, and others. Our Faith in the Marketplace breakfasts in both Myerstown and Lancaster are one of the best examples of how we provide fresh encouragement, resources, and knowledge to people "in the trenches" who are pursuing God's call right now.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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Evangelical is pleased to announce that on December 10, 2013, the PA State Senate confirmed the nomination of **Joy E. Corby, Ph.D., L.M.F.T.**, by Gov. Corbett, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors. She will serve a 4-year term.

Congratulations, Dr. Corby!



Janet Stauffer, Ph.D., L.M.F.T., presented two workshops at the International Family Therapy Conference in Panama, March 2014. The two workshops were *Formation of the Therapist Through Dialogical Engagement*, and *Nurturing Spirit in an Age of Technology: The Practice of Genuine Meeting*.

Congratulations, Dr. Stauffer!



Robert C. Palmer, Ph.D., M.Div, L.M.F.T., has just recently published a book, through the Evangelical Free Church of America, Next Step Resources. The title is: *The Diamond of Adversity: A Theology of Suffering*.

Congratulations, Dr. Palmer!

FORMED IN HIS IMAGE *From the President*



grew up in a small community with one church, and my family was very, very involved in it.

My parents served in nearly every capacity a layperson could serve in that church. We were there at least four times a week!

I suspect I learned as much theology by watching my parents' commitment to their church than through the sermons and lessons I heard. I also learned a lot through the songs we were taught, particularly about what joy or happiness meant:

"Trust and obey. For there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

"I am happy in the service of the king. I am, happy, O, so happy!"

"Oh, there is joy in service! Service for my Lord each day."

All of that was true, of course, but there was a big piece missing in my childhood faith. Few were telling us about the joy of being formed in the character of Christ—only about learning and obeying the rules. Few were talking about the joy of being one with my Creator—only about how Jesus died for my sins. And few were preaching about happiness in self-surrender and self-discovery—only about praying for God to take care of my problems. It was a distorted view of Jesus.

Later in life I saw Jesus again through fresh eyes, and began experiencing His companionship in a very different and wonderful way. I became hungry, desperate even, to be at one with my God, to be formed in His image, to be restored to His likeness, and to be a conduit of His astonishing grace to others. This experience of discovery has been called "spiritual formation." Evangelicals have been paying more attention to this of late, for we have seen how essential this is for Christian maturity. Evangelical Seminary was ahead of the curve in this; we've had a spiritual formation track for some time. But we are increasingly emphasizing it for all our students—teaching in the classrooms, building it into our new programs, and inviting students into spiritual direction and other spiritual practices. It's becoming integral to who we are.

This issue of *Enthuse* thus introduces you to spiritual formation—what it is and isn't, how and why we emphasize it at Evangelical, how you can benefit from that, and how you can help our students be formed in the likeness of Christ as they prepare to go into the world to serve in His name.

Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony".

Dr. Tony Blair, *President*

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION

More than Meets the Eye

More than an individual pursuit; God also forms and shapes families, congregations, and communities

More than Christian education or learning things about God: it's also coming to know God intimately through experiencing God's love and grace for ourselves

More than sanctification or "being good": it's also growth in maturity, wisdom, peace, joy, and love

More than discipleship or "doing things for God": it's also becoming more like Jesus in our thoughts and attitudes

More than practicing spiritual disciplines: it depends on God's activity in our lives, not only on what we do

More than anything we can imagine: God is the Potter, the one who shapes us according to his plan



FORMING A BRIGHT FUTURE

Exciting plans await our graduates! Here are some highlights from the Class of 2014:

Yoriyoshi Abe, M.Div., will be returning to his native country to work in church planting.

Jonathan J. Brenneman, M.Div. in World Christianity, will continue ministering in the Church of the Brethren denomination.

Alexis O. Diaz, M.A.M.F.T., will be working as a multisystemic therapist at Community Solutions, Inc.

R. Kevin Eshleman, M.Div. in World Christianity, will be serving as Senior Pastor at Ephrata Community Church in Ephrata, PA.

Christopher J. Freet, M.A.R. World Christianity, will continue to serve at the Millersville Brethren in Christ Church, Millersville, PA, while considering the possibility of further studies.

Nathan R. Hackman, M.Div., will be working in his church's young adult ministry.

Michele Hadden, M.A.M.F.T., will be seeking licensure in order to open a marriage and family based therapy center.

Andrea Michele Haldeman, M.Div., will continue to serve as the Pastor of Discipleship and Congregational Care at West Lawn United Methodist Church, West Lawn, PA.

William C. Hiestand, M.A.R., is seeking the Lord's leading as he moves to Kentucky.

Matthew T. Hinkle, M.A.M.F.T., will be spending much of his time preparing for state licensure.

Henry Boima Johnson, M.Div., will continue to serve as Pastor of Discipleship at Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church, Harrisburg, PA.

Nathanael J. Kennedy, M.Div., will continue to serve as Pastor at Ebenezer Evangelical Congregational Church, Jim Thorpe, PA.

Kristopher J. McFadden, M.A.R. in Old Testament, is ministering at Teen Challenge, Rehrersburg, PA, while preparing for Ph.D. studies.

Doreen E. Miller, M.A.R. in Spiritual Formation, will serve as a Spiritual Director in addition to other roles as wife, mother, physician, and

grandmother.

Carol A. Musser, M.A.M.F.T., will be opening a private practice in the Ephrata, PA, area.

Linda Carol Cross Reid, M.Div., hopes to serve in a chaplain or pastoral care position.

Calvin Begwin Rooks, M.Div. in Pastoral Ministry, will minister in the areas of teaching, evangelism, and mentoring at Christ of Calvary Covenant Church, Philadelphia, PA.

Jeffrey S. Stansbury, M.Div., will continue to serve in pastoral ministry.

Susan Stewart, M.A.M.F.T., will practice as a therapist at Oasis Counseling, Lancaster, PA, while also completing the United Methodist ordination process.

Barry A. Stewart, M.A.M.F.T., will be working as a therapist.

William Earl Stoffel, M.Div., will continue as pastor of Lawn Evangelical Congregational Church, Lawn, PA.

Dustin R. White, M.A.R. in Historical Theology, will be teaching at the high school or college level.

Also graduating in 2014 but future plans were not shared at publishing date:

Robert W. Booth, M.A.R. in Historical and Theological Studies

Abby Elizabeth Davies, M.A.M.F.T.

Shawn Keener, M.Div.

Kenneth Nappier, M.A.M.F.T.

Kenneth Byron Nash, M.Div.

Marilyn Soldo Paradis, M.Div.

Stefan A. Paulus, M.A.R.

Linda L. Rannels, M.A.R.

Jennifer Raudenbush, M.A.R. in Spiritual Formation

*M.Div. = Master of Divinity
M.A.M.F.T. = Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy
M.A.R. = Master of Arts in Religion*



TRANSFORMING THE CHURCH

Spiritual Formation for Pastors

Tony Blair and Jo Ann Kunz, Senior Pastors, Hosanna! A Fellowship of Christians

So that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. —Ephesians 4:12-13, NIV

We co-pastor a congregation in northern Lancaster County where spiritual formation is integral to congregational life and to our own practice as pastors. It has revolutionized how we care for people in our congregation. Instead of attempting to always fix problems or counsel people toward solutions, we are able to help them see the presence of God in the middle of circumstances and to discern what grace God may have to offer them in times of darkness or trial.

Because of our emphasis on spiritual formation...

- We talk less and listen more. We are both trained spiritual directors and Jo Ann is a trainer of other directors. Tony notes that for most of his career he was paid to talk. He pursued spiritual direction training in order to learn how to listen, and it's fundamentally changed his ministry.
- A dozen or so of our congregation members have also sought training in spiritual direction, so they can be spiritual companions to others on their own journeys. Congregation members increasingly see themselves as pilgrims who are responding to the persistent, loving invitation of God to walk deeper into trust, and who recognize that the others with whom they worship and serve are doing the same.
- We have adapted a six-stage model of spiritual formation for our congregation and have put resources in place to help people move deeper into their faith journey in the company of others. We provide opportunities for them to share with others how they are responding to the invitation of God to greater intimacy and authenticity. These are wonderful experiences!

Since every church is unique, each ministry will do these differently. However, we hope this one example of how spiritual formation can significantly impact real-life congregational ministry will inspire you to imagine what a focus on spiritual formation could do in your own congregation.

“Christian spirituality is a partaking in God's work to redeem, reconcile and glorify believers. Rather than being grounded in human potential, Christian spirituality begins with complete dependence, utter neediness and alien righteousness. Rather than us centering ourselves, God pulls us into the orbit of his love, evoking a call to union and communion in Christ by his spirit... Spiritual formation is the work of the Holy Spirit of God to form God's people in the image of his Son.”

from Kyle Strobel, *Formed for the Glory of God*, p. 13., guest speaker at our upcoming Friends of Evangelical Banquet on October 17, 2014 (See page 10 for more details)

FRESH RESOURCES FOR PASTORS

Evangelical Seminary offers many educational and networking opportunities, including events, for churches, pastors, lay leaders, and others. Engage with us in a creative dialogue of how spiritual formation can impact our families, churches, and communities! For more information, visit www.evangelical.edu.

EMBRACING TRANSFORMATION

What is Spiritual Formation?

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



You aren't alone if you can't define what "spiritual formation" means. Years ago, I sat with a member of our Board of Trustees and introduced myself. He asked what subject I taught, and I said, "Spiritual formation." He asked curiously, "What's that?"

The term *spiritual formation* describes the process by which the Holy Spirit shapes our growth in grace and truth for God's glory. Although some might argue that spiritual formation is something new or strange, the Apostle Paul repeatedly urges Christians to embrace the transforming work of grace in our lives. As we come to know God better, we know him not only in our heads, but also in our hearts and through our hands. The more recognizable term *spiritual disciplines*, which are simply time-honored tools that help us to open our entire selves to God, includes careful study of and meditation on the Word of God, generous giving and service with and to others, frequent worship and fellowship with other believers, and regular confession of sin and prayer. All these disciplines, along with many more, are means by which the Holy Spirit forms, reforms, and transforms us.

At Evangelical, students reflect on the work God is doing in their own lives, families, and congregations to shape them, individually and together. As they study therapy, ministry, and leadership, they also learn ways to encourage others to open themselves to the transforming power of the Spirit of God.

MORE THAN A FORMALITY

Spiritual Formation Infused into Our Leadership Program

Jo Ann Kunz, Program Director, Master of Arts in Leadership Development (M.A.L.D.)



One of the problems I see with traditional leadership programs is that they focus on what leaders know and do, and do not incorporate enough about who leaders are... and Whose they are. Evangelical's M.A.L.D. program addresses that issue by refusing to reduce leadership to a transactional, performance-based formula focused on people as the means to an end. Instead, the M.A.L.D. elevates leadership as a transformational, relationally-based expression of faith which values people as, first and foremost, bearers of the image of God.

The M.A.L.D. does provide a strong academic foundation in the discipline of leadership, yet goes far beyond... by equipping and empowering not only the *head*... but also the *hands*, through experiential application of uniquely Christian leadership skills and behaviors in the real world...and the *heart*, through intentional formation of the student's spiritual, emotional, and relational core through:

- Ongoing guidance by both a leadership mentor and a spiritual director
- Instruction and practice in historic Christian spiritual disciplines and prayer
- Development of "a discerning heart" (1 Kings 3) to guide in making leadership decisions which promote lasting change for the sake of God, others, and the world

The M.A.L.D. more fully integrates spiritual formation principles and practices than any other leadership training program we have ever seen! Spread the word about this life-changing new program to current and future leaders in your church and community!

Is an M.A. in Leadership Development right for me?

- Do you believe that who a leader is matters more than what a leader does?
- Do you want to challenge the dominant understanding of leadership in our society?
- Do you believe that the most important task of a leader is to love?
- Do you want to pursue spiritual formation together with leadership practice?
- Do you want to study as part of a diverse and engaging cohort of students?

Explore the
M.A. in Leadership
Development
at Evangelical
Seminary! Visit
www.evangelical.edu/mald



AN EFFECTIVE LEARNING PLATFORM

Student and Alumni Perspectives on Evangelical's Integration of Spiritual Formation

Evangelical Seminary is awaiting approval to launch of a new M.A. in Spiritual Formation and Direction this summer. But this new program doesn't add a new focus for our institution as much as it culminates an emphasis we have had for a long time! Spiritual formation has been offered as a track in our current programs for years, enhancing in the transformational experience of each student at Evangelical. Our student and alumni stories help capture how spiritual formation impacts the lives of our students.

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**LISA COLÓN DELAY,
M.A.R. IN SPIRITUAL
FORMATION, 2010**

Mentor for prisoners, writer of formation resources and books, blogger, and in ministry

at church through direction, teaching, and spiritual retreats

When I began the Spiritual Formation track at Evangelical, it was out of a thirst to grow rooted more deeply in the riches of God's love and help others do the same. I knew I would learn a lot in the theology, biblical studies, and formation classes, but I underestimated just how personally transforming it would be. Most of us realize that there is some pain associated with any kind of growth. The beauty of learning Spiritual Formation at Evangelical is that you are never the same again, for the better. You aren't just made qualified, you are made more sanctified for God's purposes.



**THOMAS GROSH, IV,
STUDENT, M.A.R. IN
SPIRITUAL FORMATION
PROGRAM**

Associate Director of Emerging Scholars

Network for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; Associate Staff member with Christian Medical & Dental Associations for the Christian Medical Society at Penn State Hershey College of Medicine

I first experienced spiritual direction when taking personal retreat days while recovering from radiation treatment for cancer in 2001. With subsequent personal health concerns, the weight of wrestling with higher education, and the challenges faced by parenting a special needs child, spiritual directors have journeyed with me again and again. I sought a program for equipping in spiritual formation. I explored a number of options, but Evangelical's M.A.R. in Spiritual Formation stood out in delivering teaching which biblically engaged head, heart, and hands.



**JENNIFER
RAUDENBUSH,
M.DIV., 2013; M.A.R.
IN SPIRITUAL
FORMATION, 2014**

Currently continuing

studies at Evangelical with a focus on Spiritual Formation

Among many things, a prayer practice that has impacted me is lectio divina or sacred reading. Using this practice to pray over a Scripture passage about which I may be preaching or writing has been an invaluable way to prepare. I am excited to use what I have learned in Spiritual Formation to help others experience a richer prayer life and a more meaningful relationship with God. In fact, I am planning to lead a retreat at my church using insights and approaches drawn from Spiritual Formation.



RAMANA NDLOVU, STUDENT, M.A.M.F.T. PROGRAM

Teacher, Spiritual Director, and Licensed Massage Therapist at Sage Heart Studio

Spiritual formation is a great way to send one's roots deeper in God, while simultaneously spreading up and out into mystery, which is also God. I also loved the way my spiritual formation training supported my physical body and my intellectual growth. All parts work together: body, mind, and spirit. Prayer gave me practice in being with God and with myself, learning to stay put, and be present. The Welcoming Prayer gave me the opportunity to practice welcoming emotions that I had been in the habit of ignoring, rejecting, and silencing. I am quieter on the inside now.



KEVIN HENRY, STUDENT, M.A.I.D. PROGRAM

Controller, Evangelical Congregational Church and V.P. for Finance and Operations, Evangelical Seminary

Studying spiritual formation has made my life richer and more meaningful, but also harder.

Communing with God allows His wisdom to be imparted on situations where human logic and reasoning fail. The practice of spiritual formation is not about what God can do for me, but experiencing the God that is everywhere—always with us and He never stops loving us.



BRIAN BETSWORTH, M.A. RELIGION, 2010, CURRENTLY IN M. DIV. PROGRAM

Minister in Shamokin, PA, at Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church

Spiritual formation education has been valuable to me insofar as to help me desire, discern, and develop deeper devotion to God. In addition, I have developed discipline. Spiritual formation has helped me put into practice real-life communication and connection with God, through learned behaviors and practical actions.



DOREEN MILLER, M.A.R. IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION, 2014

Physician, Spiritual Director

The most transformative was the influence of my spiritual formation professors, who were also spiritual directors. I had never before understood that spiritual directors could be Evangelicals.

For the first time, I realized spiritual directors could be like me--- lovers of Jesus who deeply desire others to come to know Jesus too. It was challenging, surprising, sometimes overwhelming, and absolutely wonderful—God's amazing gift to me! And I am deeply grateful for Evangelical Seminary bringing me to this place of active love for God and others.

A PRODUCTIVE FORMULA

Walking the Journey: Service as a Spiritual Director

Spiritual direction is a way of Christian discipleship which developed in the early Church as believers sought wisdom and guidance about growing deeper in their relationships with God. Echoing biblical relationships like those of Naomi and Ruth, Elijah and Elisha, Paul and Silas – and, of course, Jesus' relationships with His friends and followers – spiritual direction is a relationship committed to helping people become more aware of God's presence, promptings, and purposes in their lives.

For centuries, Christians have walked in this way together. It has been called by different names: *spiritual friendship, spiritual companionship, soul friends, holy listening, holy conversation, spiritual guidance ...* and one that stuck: *spiritual direction.*

"As we conceive it, Spiritual Direction is the process of exploring and understanding the interior world of another, recognizing both the work of the flesh and the work of the Spirit, and following the Spirit's work in transforming the person's interior world to become more like Christ." — Larry Crabb

In some ways, the name *spiritual direction* can be confusing, because a spiritual director does not really "direct." A director does not tell people what to think or believe or how to act – does not provide answers to theological questions like pastors, or solve practical problems like therapists. A spiritual director is someone who recognizes that the only true Spiritual Director in any person's life is the Holy Spirit. However, spiritual directors also recognize that flesh-and-blood people often need help in discerning the movement and direction of an invisible God. So, a spiritual director becomes a

companion on the spiritual journey – someone who stands with people on the holy ground of their lives, helping them to sharpen their spiritual senses and deepen their prayer lives, so they can perceive God in all aspects of their everyday lives and then respond with greater clarity to God's invitations to growth, change, service, and action.

Good news! Evangelical can now train you to be a spiritual director! Check out the Spiritual Formation and Direction track of our Master of Arts in Religion program. Visit www.evangelical.edu/mar_spiritualformation.

WE ARE SO



Your Gifts Make All the Difference

Ann E. Steel, M.A.R., Vice President of Institutional Advancement

PHONE-A-THON "ONE CALL" ANSWERED!

You did it! Friends and Alums of Evangelical responded to the One Call Phone-a-thon mailing with generosity and helped us reach the goal of **\$60,000**. Because we achieved this goal, President Tony Blair has made that **one call** to Board Chair Dr. William Worley so that a designated group of Trustees can give the **\$10,000 "bonus" gift**. As of mid-April, the total given to this initiative was **\$60,465...and this number grows daily**. We are so grateful to all those who made this a successful experiment! These gifts help close the tuition gap for our students who are preparing to serve churches, families, and communities both locally and globally.

WAYS TO SUPPORT EVANGELICAL

■ YOUR LEGACY

Think outside the "cash" box when considering how you can support Evangelical Seminary. Legacy gifts such as naming Evangelical Seminary as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, giving a gift of an appreciated asset like an IRA, or other planned giving techniques can make a lasting impact on students today and in the future.

Contact Ann E. Steel, M.A.R., Vice President of Institutional Advancement at asteel@evangelical.edu or 717-866-5775, ext 2143.

■ FRIENDS OF EVANGELICAL BANQUET October 17, 2014 at Calvary Church in Lancaster



Featuring Dr. Kyle Strobel, professor of theology at Grand Canyon University, and research associate at the University of Free State, Bloemfontein. Dr. Strobel is the author of *Formed for the Glory of God: Learning from the Spiritual Practices of Jonathan Edwards*, published in June 2013 by InterVarsity Press.

■ PRAY FOR EVANGELICAL

We are grateful for all of you who share with us that you pray for the seminary. Please don't stop. We continue to rely on God's wisdom and direction as we lead men and women towards their bright future.



■ 29TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join us on Thursday, May 22 for our 29th Annual Golf Tournament at Fairview Golf Course in Lebanon, PA, to benefit our Annual Fund for Transformational Leadership. Register at www.evangelical.edu/golf

GRATEFUL

erence!

TRIBUTE LIST

We are honored to have received these special gifts in 2013 and are grateful that you considered benefitting Evangelical Seminary by honoring those you love. This list was accidentally dropped from the fall 2013 Enthuse where 2012-2013 donor lists were published. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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Jim and Helen Smith	Dr. Kenneth Miller
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MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with the church, Evangelical Seminary develops servant leaders for transformational ministry in a broken and complex world by nurturing rigorous minds, passionate hearts, and Christ-centered actions.



OUR CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Ken Nafziger, MDiv, Executive Director

As a service to the Church and the community, the Center for Lifelong Learning is committed to help leaders become transformational change agents for Christ in a broken and complex world. Our vision is to provide business, religious, and community leaders with a variety of ongoing learning opportunities to develop their potential as they serve in their sphere of influence. Two initiatives:

Faith in the
Marketplace

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Faith in the Marketplace is designed to help integrate our faith into the marketplace and see that our vocation is far more than a profession—it's a calling of God! Faith in the Marketplace meets six times a year in Lancaster and in Myerstown and features a guest speaker at each session.



LEADERSHIP FORUM

Sponsored by the Center for Lifelong Learning and the Alumni Council, The Leadership Forum will be held on September 25, 2014. The Marriage and Family Therapy Faculty will focus their presentations on helping church leaders minister more effectively to couples and families. More information will be coming soon.