



Evangel Fellowship  
INTERNATIONAL

# LEVERAGE2021

## FORWARD

*We are excitedly awaiting our time together on St. Simon's Island, November 1-3. Along with times of worship and encouragement, we will eat together at every meal, starting with supper on Monday through lunch on Wednesday. More event details are inside.*



September 2021 Newsletter

# A Message from EFI's Chairman

Dear EFI Family,

I am happy to report that this year's Congreso was tremendous. The worship, teaching, and fellowship was so enjoyable. That said, Leverage is fast approaching. It is the one time each year that the EFI family gathers to reconnect and be encouraged. I don't think you will be disappointed this year.

We have been through so much and the battle is not over. We need each other. Go ahead and register now. I can't wait to see you as we share our meals and fellowship together.

Phillip Miles  
*Chairman, Evangel Fellowship International*

## Prayer & Praise Corner

*EFI is a family. We want to pray for you, and we want to celebrate your victories. If you would like prayer from the rest of the EFI family, please share via email to [admin@efiglobal.org](mailto:admin@efiglobal.org)*

### Prayer Requests:

Please continue to lift of the families of Avis Hammond and Dallas Lucas. Both of these EFI members passed away recently.

Please continue to pray complete healing for Libby Rhodes as she recovers from a bad car accident earlier this year.

Please be in prayer for the Leverage Conference in November.

Please be in prayer for the safety of those who are living and serving in Afghanistan and surrounding areas.

### Praise Reports:

Image Church in Charlotte, NC recently paid off their mortgage. We celebrate with them!

# EFI Church News



## Harvest Youth Trip to Kentucky

- *Brian Oliver, Youth & Children's Pastor, Harvest Church*

(In July) we loaded up a team of 11 youth and 5 adults and headed out to Warsaw, Kentucky. There, we teamed up with Centro Cristiano Bethel, pastored by Hinmer and Katia Zuniga, to put on VBS for kids in a local park. A group called Child Evangelism Fellowship came on board to teach the Bible lessons while Harvest youth led in praise songs, games, crafts, and academics. (Pastor Katia had the great idea to include an educational component to keep the children's minds sharp during the summer.) Youth from Centro Cristiano Bethel helped with childcare and translation while adult members prepared the food.

This trip was exactly what our youth group needed. In early 2020 I had been in talks with the Zunigas about

taking a team of youth to help them put on a VBS in Jutiapa, Guatemala. Then COVID hit, and our plans had to change. Pastors Hinmer and Katia graciously offered for us to come to their church in Kentucky and assist with a week-long VBS there. This gave our young group of teens valuable experience serving in a cross-cultural setting without having to travel outside the country. It made for a wonderful trip in itself and a great trial run for an overseas mission in the future.

During a few of the afternoons we helped out with service projects. One such task was sprucing up a basketball court that had become run down over the years. We repainted the lines and backboards, put up new nets, and edged the grass around the outside of the court. On other days we visited The Ark Encounter and The Creation Museum, each less than an hour's drive from Warsaw. And on Saturday night we ministered in a youth service and saw many hearts moved by the Holy Spirit to brokenness and repentance.

We thank God for all that he accomplished through this trip and for the blessing of partnering with the Zunigas. We honor the work they are doing for His kingdom, both in Kentucky and abroad. And we are grateful for the kingdom partnerships being fostered through EFI.

# Congreso Conference Highlights



At the Congreso Conference in August, we got to speak with so many amazing people and hear their stories. When we sat down with this group of pastors, they spoke about COVID and how much struggle and hardship it has caused them. So, we asked them, "What's the best thing that has happened to you in the past year?" To our surprise, they all said being able to come to the Congreso Conference and meet Phillip and all these other wonderful people. They said this has finally given them some hope. Something they said they haven't felt in a long time and that they truly felt loved here.

It's hard to never lose hope, but God is with you every step of the way. Trust Him.

**"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." - Isaiah 40:31**

## Get to Know Our Missionaries

### Advocate's Reach Continues to Train and Minister

Michael and Naomi Phillips live in Thailand and operate Advocate's Reach in multiple countries in Southeast Asia. A continuous focus of their ministry is leadership training. Although country borders have been closed for over a year, they are maintaining relationships with former students through the internet.

Another area of their ministry is the

FARMS rotating loan program. The program continues to expand with two new programs opening up in Myanmar and southern L\*\*s. These bring the total number of programs going in Southeast Asia up to five. The main issue they face currently is communication across distance.

After four months of negotiating, immigration finally gave Michael and Naomi a yearly retirement visa. After thirty-plus years in Thailand a move would have been an extreme transition. They are thankful for all who prayed with them for this visa.

## Leverage Conference

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Leverage 2021 will be held November 1-3, 2021 at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island, GA. This year's theme for the conference is "FORWARD." Everyone has faced some challenges since the outbreak of the COVID virus and now we are moving FORWARD into a new season of life. It is time to gather for fellowship, teaching, and lots of prayer.

The conference will start on Monday night, November 1st at 5:45 in the Cafe for supper - the first of our many meals together. Early registration will cost \$50 per person; that rate is good through Sept. 30. Late registration will be \$60. \*Reservations with Epworth by the Sea must be made by Sept. 30 to ensure your accommodations while at the conference.

To learn more and register, visit [efiglobal.org/conferences](http://efiglobal.org/conferences)

# EFI Organizational Changes

## Reed Cater hired as EFI Media Director

We are happy to announce that EFI has hired a Media Director. Reed Cater joined our staff in Conway on August 2nd. Reed is a 2019 graduate of Clemson University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management which included an emphasis in Information Systems.

Among the many duties Reed will be doing for us will be the development of a new website, management of social media outlets, such as Facebook and possibly others, as well as traveling with Chairman Miles to document stories with pictures and videos.

We are very pleased that Reed has joined the staff. He will be with us at the Leverage Conference on St. Simon's Island, November 1-3, so you will have an opportunity to meet him there.



## Mitch Horton Steps Down as Intl. Director to Nicaragua and Exec. Board Member

Chairman Phillip Miles and the Executive Board of Evangel Fellowship International would like to extend its appreciation to Pastor Mitch Horton. Mitch has been serving on our executive board and as our International Director of Nicaragua.

In his capacity as International Director he made four trips to Nicaragua to participate in pastor training conferences. He worked alongside Bryan Hutson to help develop a plan for growth in the number of pastors and churches. As an Exec. Board member, he has been invaluable with his wisdom and insight as we all dealt with the COVID virus last year. Mitch has decided to give up his seat on the Exec. Board and step down from

# EFI Organizational Changes

the role of International Director.

Victory Church is currently building a new building to house a childcare center and eventually a Christian school. Mitch is also in the process of writing a new book. He will continue his relationship supporting Phillip, EFI, and our mission. Thank you, Mitch, for all you have done and will continue to do.



## Steve Sawyer Appointed as Executive Board Member

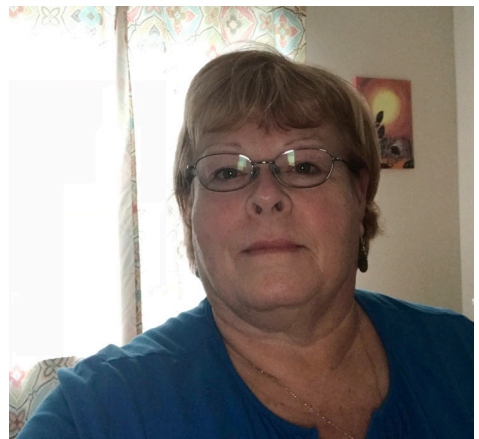
Chairman Phillip Miles is happy to announce that Steve Sawyer, Senior Pastor of Harvest Cathedral in Macon GA, has agreed to become part of the Executive Board of EFI. Steve and his wife Debbie recently traveled with Chairman Phillip Miles to Guatemala where they had an opportunity to teach on marriage at a pastor's conference. Steve and Debbie have been with

EFI for a number of years and have served as our Regional Representatives in Georgia and Alabama, a role they will continue to hold.

## Debbie Dixon Promoted to Executive Director

Chairman Phillip Miles and the Executive Board for EFI are excited to announce the promotion of Debbie Dixon to the position of Executive Director. Debbie has been with EFI since July 2017 as the Communications Director.

Debbie's love for the people of EFI and her ability to take on so many responsibilities has been exceptionally apparent. Debbie has proven herself to be an excellent leader and someone that the board has great confidence in to help continue to lead EFI. She will also continue her duties as the personal contact between our office and our members.



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