



Epiphany Ministry, Inc.

# OUR GIFTS

August, 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don't you hate it when people tell you "No you can't", "Just ain't gonna happen", "It's impossible"? About 30 years ago my wife and I were told we would never have any more children. It was impossible. Twenty years ago we had our 3<sup>rd</sup> son Zack. Three years ago it was "suggested" that I should shut the doors of the church because of its history and only 3 members (not including my wife and I). I made the remark that I was not interested in the history, but in the future, because God's Word says "with God nothing is impossible". Today the church runs almost 50 members (and still growing!) It reminds me of one of my favorite songs, " O what I would do to have the kind of faith it takes to climb out of this boat I'm in and onto the crashing waves. To step out of my comfort zone into the realm of the unknown where Jesus is and He's holding out His hand. But the waves are calling out my name and they laugh at me, reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed. The waves they keep on telling me time and time again 'boy you'll never win... you'll never win!' But the Voice of Truth tells me a different story and the Voice of Truth says 'Do not be afraid!' And the Voice of Truth says this is for my glory! Out of all the voices calling out to me I will choose to listen and believe the Voice of Truth!"

Father God, we are clay in Your hands. Mold us and make us in Your Will. I pray for Epiphany ministries at state and national levels. And God, when people are telling us NO, let us remember that ALL things are possible with You! Please keep us bold, persistent, patient, and loving. Please bless this ministry and we will give You all the praise. To God be the Glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Jeff

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## Highlights of the May Board of Directors Meeting

The Board thanks the South Carolina Epiphany Community for its warm hospitality, and Rev. Mark Abdelnour and Rev. Jim Neuburger of the St. Simon and St. Jude Episcopal Church in Irmo, SC for hosting this meeting.

- Ben Robertson introduced the proposed new web site. He was authorized to change the host and install the new design.
- The Board approved using PayPal for donations to Epiphany through the web site.
- Appointments were made to Standing Committees: Personnel, Finance, and Expansion & Mentoring.
- A committee was appointed to review trademark and branding issues for the Epiphany ministry.
- The title of the National Office staff was changed from Administrative Assistant to Epiphany Ministry National Coordinator (EPNC) to reflect the position more accurately.
- The EPNC was instructed to review the Team Manual, Board of Directors Manual, By-Laws, and Affiliation Agreement for inconsistencies, inaccuracies and needed updates and report to the Program Review Committee.
- The Board voted not to allow paid advertising on its web site.
- Board members had a working session on expansion of the ministry, which included identifying current challenges and creating an expansion plan for each state.
- The Board adopted reduced fees for the states in formation-Maryland, Kentucky, Arkansas and Kentucky.
- The Board authorized moving the Florida reserve funds into the Expansion fund, after many years of inactivity in Florida.

## New Epiphany Web Site and PayPal

Thanks to Ben Robertson, who spent MANY hours of design and installation, Epiphany has a brand spanking new, user-friendly and expanded web site. Those searching under the older Epiphany web address will be directed to the new one. The new address:

[www.epiphanyministryinc.org](http://www.epiphanyministryinc.org)

In addition to providing general information about the Epiphany ministry and a direct email link to the National Office, it will have a password-protected "resources" section. Here are posted the most current version of manuals, training materials, forms and other ministry tools.

One now may also donate to Epiphany directly from the web site using a PayPal button.

## From the Epiphany Book Shelf

This new column will focus on resources in the National Office that are available for loan to Epiphany community members. Enjoy!

### Called to Serve; Memoirs of James O. Evans, My Life's Journey

One of two volumes of engaging autobiography from a humble man of God who overcame a difficult childhood and put his faith into action on the side of justice (also one of the pioneers of Epiphany in northern Louisiana). An incredible and inspiring journey!

### Tattoos on the Heart; the Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle

As pastor in a neighborhood of murderous gang activity in Los Angeles, Father Boyle created an organization to provide jobs, job training, and encouragement (Homeboy Industries) so that young people could work together and learn the mutual respect that comes from collaboration. Uplifting and utterly heartwarming parables!

## Epiphany Board of Directors

South Carolina	Ben Robertson, Chairman <a href="mailto:brobert406@yahoo.com">brobert406@yahoo.com</a>
Maryland	Carrie Miller, Vice Chair <a href="mailto:carriemm@aol.com">carriemm@aol.com</a>
Virginia	Bobbie Stein, Treasurer <a href="mailto:bobbieinstein@aol.com">bobbieinstein@aol.com</a>
California	Phyllis Nadler, Secretary <a href="mailto:pmnadler@verizon.net">pmnadler@verizon.net</a>
Colorado	Milt Vanderwalker <a href="mailto:Miltvan12@msn.com">Miltvan12@msn.com</a>
Kansas	Roy Bradshaw <a href="mailto:Rbradshaw17@yahoo.com">Rbradshaw17@yahoo.com</a>
Kentucky	C. G. Collins <a href="mailto:Luke24@windstream.net">Luke24@windstream.net</a>
Louisiana	Jeff Sanford, Chaplain <a href="mailto:erin.bonzai@gmail.com">erin.bonzai@gmail.com</a>
North Carolina	Robert Lee <a href="mailto:robertelee45@charter.net">robertelee45@charter.net</a>
Ohio	Jim Caldwell <a href="mailto:jim_caldwell14@yahoo.com">jim_caldwell14@yahoo.com</a>

## States Forming Epiphany Communities

Washington	Teresa Riggs <a href="mailto:teresarggs2@gmail.com">teresarggs2@gmail.com</a>
Arkansas	David Fox and Russ Hall <a href="mailto:kbdavyf@me.com">kbdavyf@me.com</a> Pastor-russ@att.net

## Epiphany National Office

P. O. Box 12286 Marina Del Rey, California 90295  
[www.epiphanyministryinc.org](http://www.epiphanyministryinc.org)  
 Leslie Nordby, Epiphany Ministry National Coord.  
[epiphany@epiphanyministryinc.org](mailto:epiphany@epiphanyministryinc.org)

## New Newsletter Features

Each of the Board of Directors brings rich gifts and graces to Epiphany; brief biographies will appear in this column, starting with the current Chairman.



One of the first things you may notice about Ben Robertson, beside his height, is his exquisitely dry, witty and disarming sense of humor, which makes even the longest meetings fun.

Ben was born in Louisville, Kentucky and attended the University of Maryland (GO TERPS!) and Brown University, where he studied Anthropology. He taught at both Wake Forest and the University of South Carolina before retiring to practice the Zen of ocean wave contemplation, read a great variety of books (from mysteries to theology), play his guitar, and take on even more leadership responsibility with the Epiphany ministry.

Ben is also now the Chair of the South Carolina Committee and the energy behind the state being welcomed into two new facilities this year. His vision for Epiphany is to have it available to troubled and incarcerated youth in all 50 states.

## Stars Say.....

Stars from Greenville #1 (South Carolina)

God loves me unconditionally!

I learned that I am not alone!

I had a whole lot of hurt in my heart and never knew how to let it go. But y'all have showed me that holding it in just makes it worse.

## For Your Calendar - Upcoming Weekends

Aug. 19-21 Ohio ORW #24    Sept.16-18 Ohio FMC  
 Sept. 23-25 Ohio Indian River #13  
 Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Ohio Cuyahoga Hills #13 and  
 Circleville #10

Agape may be sent to [jim\\_caldwell14@yahoo.com](mailto:jim_caldwell14@yahoo.com)

**AN INVITATION TO THE  
EPIPHANY MINISTRY ANNUAL MEETING**  
Richmond, Virginia    September 23 - 24, 2016

All current, former and future members of the Epiphany community are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting. Your hosts are the members of the Epiphany family of Virginia, known for its southern hospitality.

**Business, Fellowship and Worship:**

Friday, September 23:  
Worship and Board Meeting begin at 9:00 am  
Lunch and Fellowship  
Workshops and Committee Meetings  
Dinner, Fellowship and Music

Saturday, September 24:  
Worship and Board Meeting begin at 9:00 am  
Lunch and Fellowship  
Tour of Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens and Conservatory  
(selected as the 4<sup>th</sup> most beautiful gardens in the country)  
Banquet and Memorial Service

**Registration:**                      The registration fee is \$50 and includes transportation, workshops, lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday and the tour.

**Air Travel:**                        The Richmond airport is about 25 minutes from the hotel. The Virginia team will provide transportation as needed.

**Hotel & Host Church:**        Please make your own hotel reservations. A block of rooms has been reserved with the group code EPM at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 1101 Technology Park Drive in Glen Allen VA 23059. The hotel number is 804-261-2266; the cost is \$99 per night for one king or two queen beds. The cut-off date for this reduced price is Sept. 1. The hotel has a complimentary full hot breakfast, a fitness center and a large indoor pool and spa. The hotel is about 10 minutes from the host church, Lakeside United Methodist Church at 2333 Hilliard Road, Henrico, VA 23228.

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**EPIPHANY ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM - 2016**

**Registration Deadline:        September 9, 2016 (so that our hosts can prepare)**

**Please mail this form and your check to .... Epiphany Ministry, Inc. P.O. Box 12286 Marina Del Rey CA 90295. Checks should be made payable to Epiphany Ministry, Inc.**

Name..... Phone.....

Email address.....

I will need transportation to and from the airport                      Yes.....                      No.....

Please reserve me a ticket for the Lewis Ginter Gardens                      Yes.....                      No.....