



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION July 2014



From the Director

"I Saw What I Did Not Want to See"

Yesterday I was confronted with the horrific news that we all dread. Fox News reported, "A Malaysia Airlines passenger jet crashed in a rebel-controlled part of eastern Ukraine on Thursday. The plane, which was on the way from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was flying at about 33,000 feet when the missile hit." As I was processing this tragedy, my son walks into our home to pick up his children. We began discussing the events of the day when my 10 year old grandson walked through the kitchen. He said, "Dad, what happened?" In much sadness a father replied to a curious son, "Some radical group in Ukraine fired a missile and hit an airplane filled with innocent people." I will never forget what I saw on his face. It was a look of fear. With the need to also process, he just walked away.



Pat Phinney
Regional Director

I remember vividly what Rodney King said after he was brutally beaten by the Los Angeles police in 1992, "Why can't we just get along?" This question reflects the anguish of all who have borne the burden of hatred and violence in our world. At no time is the question more troublesome than when it raises doubts or questions about needed spiritual answers. Never is King's question more bothersome than when someone asks, "If peace comes through a relationship with God, why have God's people been unable to get along?"

Where is the promised peace? The announcement that filled the sky over the shepherds' field had been a long time in coming, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Luke 2:14 NASB). Israel had waited for her "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6) for centuries. Yet 2,000 years later, religious Jews are still waiting. Look what is going on in the Mideast right now between Hamaas and Israel. What a heartbreak. The ancient streets of Bethlehem shudder with missiles and innocent people are dying. It is against this backdrop that we have to ask, "Where is our promised peace?"

Surprise! The Son of Promise disappointed His disciples' hopes and dreams. Even though they saw Him calm stormy waters, comfort grieving families and silence demons, He never became the Prince of Peace they expected. Instead they heard Him say, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be the members of his household." (Matthew 10:34-36 NASB) What irony! The One who was to bring peace told His followers to expect conflict in the coming age.

As true as this is, let us not forget something else Jesus told His disciples when He said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." (John 14:27 NASB) Jesus did bring peace. It wasn't the "lion and lamb" conditions promised by Isaiah and the prophets. What did Christ mean when He said,

"Blessed are the peacemakers" or "Peace I leave with you . . . not as the world gives.", while emphasizing that He did not come to bring peace but a sword?

Is it not PEACE in the face of our daily needs? Is it not PEACE in the face of conflict? Is it not PEACE in the face of war? James 4:1-2 reminds us that war is rooted in the human heart. Conflict in our world grows out of a failure of people to believe that God can provide real peace through the death of His son, Jesus Christ. Yes, it is a peace that flows out of a relationship with the Father. It is this growing peace that can distinguish a child of God from those who are desperately trying to gain security in their own efforts, in the midst of Surface to Air Missiles flying through the friendly skies.

This is what I tell my wounded grandson when his heart is filled with fear for what is to come. There is peace. It comes through the intervention and mediation of the same One who said to a broken sinner, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

Pastor's Wives. . . *Just for You*

"Waiting on God"

Note to self: Never again share an idea or a recipe you haven't tried yourself. To all of you who tried my idea for "Firecracker Cookies" I must apologize. It sounded so easy and like it would be so much fun. I wish you could have been in my kitchen the day I was decorating my failed attempt. The frosting was on, the blue sugar was in place and next the red pop rocks. It was all going as planned until those pop rocks hit the frosting and started popping immediately. I kept saying "Oh no! Stop popping! Stop popping!" When I served them on the 4th of July I could only tell the people what was supposed to be happening in their mouths. The kids still thought they were good. My granddaughter Anna told me she thought they were the best cookies

ever! Encouragement is always a good thing - even when it comes from a 7 year old granddaughter.

This past month has been a busy one in our home. We took a 2 week road trip through the Black Hills and Yellowstone ending up in Portland, Oregon. It was a wonderful time with our whole family all together. Now we are busy getting ready to have our daughter Andrea and her husband Allen along with their children Nora and Lincoln move in with us for a few months. They have been living in Oregon but are moving to Minnesota. I know you can't tell just by reading this but every time I say that it makes me smile! Andrea moved to Oregon 14 years ago and after a couple of years I started asking God for the joy of someday having her and her family live closer to us. There were lots of prayers and many times of recognizing that they were exactly where God wanted them. It was kind of a surprise the day she and Allen told us that they were planning to move. Isn't that how God works! It often seems that there is a waiting period - sometimes days, sometimes months and many times years.



This month let's pray for our husbands as they "Wait on God" each and every day as they serve Him. (I don't know about you but I could use some prayer for those waiting times too!) Here are some verses to get us started . . .

"I pray that my husband will wait on You, Lord, and that he will be of good courage. I pray also that You will strengthen his heart."
Psalm 27:14

"I pray that my husband's soul waits for You, Lord, that You are his help and his shield."
Psalm 33:20

"I pray that my husband shall wait on You, Lord, and that he shall renew his strength. I pray also that he shall mount up with wings like eagles and that he

shall run and not be weary and walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

"I pray, O God, that my husband will hold fast the confession of his hope without wavering, for You who promised are faithful."

Hebrews 10:23

We have had several ladies respond to our desire to start a "Prayer Team" for pastors' wives. If you would like to be included or if you ever have a request that we can pray for you can contact me at kjphinney@gmail.com.

Karen Phinney, Wife of Regional Director

2014-2015 Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Winners

As a region we have the incredible privilege of supporting future church leaders and to help in their continued educational endeavors through the Henry C. Spicer Scholarship. Each year scholarships are awarded to high school graduates based on the following criteria: 1) Personal testimony and church recommendation; 2) Academic performance; 3) Servant leadership both in the church and in the community; 4) Extra-curricular activities; 5) Future academic and career pursuits; and 6) Financial need.

The committee included Lyall Sutton from Bethany Baptist Church in Illinois, Walt Walkowski from Bethel Baptist Church in Michigan and myself. We were all impressed with the quality and character of the ten young men and women who submitted applications for the scholarship.

Four students were chosen to receive \$500 scholarships from the region. Those students include:



Rachel Kramer
First Baptist Church
Breckenridge, MN



Katie Willemsen
First Baptist Church
Sibley, IA



Not pictured are Luke Nelson from
New Life Church in Wanamingo, MN
and LaLissa Joy Wiens from First
Baptist Church in Windom, MN.

We offer our congratulations to all four students and pray that God will
continue to direct their steps.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Mike Wetzig
Chairman, Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Committee

Thoughts From a Cluster Leader

"Joint Ministry Can Be a Challenge"

According to the training we received from Bill Hoyt in 2009 through CBNC, cluster groups have four goals as they meet: learning, encouragement, dreaming and accountability.

. . . Since joint ministry between our cluster churches can be a challenge, here are a few examples.

1. Leadership Training
2. Pulpit Swap
3. Youth Rallies
4. Mission Trips
5. Men's Retreat
6. Church Planting

[Read More](#)

Wade Duroe

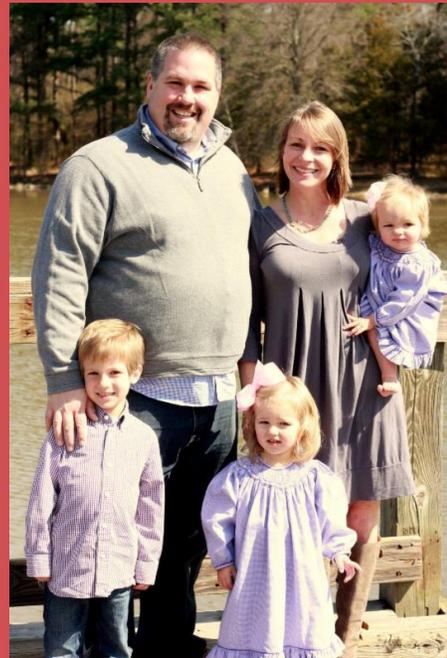
Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI

#SPOTLIGHT

"Getting to Know You"

Ben Killerlain is the new pastor at Calvary Church at Village Green in Moorhead, MN. We asked Ben to share a little about himself. Our hope is that by reading his story you will make a 'connection' with the person, Pastor Ben Killerlain.

Ben was born in Denver, Colorado. He is married to Pam and they have three children, Pierce, Anna Kate, and Claire. When Ben has had a long day he looks forward to coming home and wrestling with his kids. He loves to barbecue and keeps up with the NFL. He recently got involved in Calvary's church softball league and has really enjoyed that as well!



Pastor Ben & Pam Killerlain, and their children Pierce, Anna Kate, and Claire

When asked if he could pinpoint anything specific that drew him to the ministry, he answered simply. . . Jesus. He says, "Actually, I wasn't interested in going into ministry in college. It really was relentless pursuit of Jesus that called me into ministry. I have stayed because of His calling! I have a really high view of calling, but it doesn't hurt that I love people and His word!" Ben has been a Student Pastor for 6 years, a College Pastor for nearly 7 years, and now a Senior Pastor for 2 months!

Regarding his family's transition to Moorhead Ben says, "I see the fingerprints of the Lord all over our transition and here at Calvary. We have had many obstacles to our transition here (for example, while moving here we drove passed our moving van laying on its side on the highway...), but God's grace has been incredible. We are so thankful for our new church family!"

The last step in his family's transition is to find a house to buy. Please keep Ben's family in your prayers concerning this request.

Information Submitted by Pastor Ben Killerlain

"Share Your Pictures"



Send us your pictures! We would love to receive pictures of your church to use in CBNC publications. You can submit a picture of the exterior, the church grounds, or maybe there's a shot inside that you'd like to share. Be creative! If you're not a photography buff maybe someone in your congregation would like



to take a picture to submit. The church you see in these photos is not a CBNC church. The photo was taken during a recent trip to Colorado. Please submit only photos associated with your church. Just keep in mind that by submitting your photo you are giving CBNC permission to use your photo in future publications. Send your photo/photos to wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org. Thanks and have fun with this!

Wendy Jonasen
CBNC Administrative Assistant

Church Law and Tax

4 Tips for Church Budgeting

Help for avoiding budgetary headaches.

- by Richard Vargo [Read More](#)

5 Tech Tools to Manage Personal Ministry

Apps and software can help organize time for God's glory.

- by Justin Deeter [Read More](#)

Please Pray for the Following Churches in Transition:

SENIOR PASTOR

- Mason Township Baptist Church - Cassopolis, MI
- First Baptist Church - Bradford, IL
- Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL
- First Baptist Church - Elmhurst, IL
- First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI
- First Baptist Church - Long Prairie, MN
- First Baptist Church - Lake Crystal, MN
- Grace Baptist Church - Two Harbors, MN
- First Baptist Church - Pekin, IL
- Palisade Baptist Church - Silver Bay, MN

STAFF POSITIONS

- First Baptist Church - Spring Lake, MI *Associate Pastor*
- Oak Grove Church - Golden Valley, MN *Associate Pastor*

CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups

North Dakota/Northern Minnesota

Thursday, August 21

10am - 12pm, Skype

Steve Daggett

Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND

701-265-8989



Central Minnesota

Monday, August 11, 10am - 12pm

Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

Southern Minnesota

To Be Determined

Doug Noonkester, First Baptist Church, Sibley, IA

712-754-3310

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Cluster Group is on break. Planning meeting will be in August with group meetings up and running in September. Calvary Baptist, Eau Claire, WI

Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI

715-723-1054

Iowa

To Be Determined

Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

319-396-3233

Illinois

Tuesday, September 9th 10:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting at Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL

Art Georges, Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL

309-633-0028 art@livinghopecentral.org

Michigan

To Be Determined
Mike Wetzig, Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI
213-853-96021

CB North Central

PO Box 490441
Blaine, MN

Office Email: wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org
Wendy Jonasen, Administrative Assistant
Office Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 8am - 1pm

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

patp@cbnorthcentral.org

Pat's Home Office: 952-322-7173
Pat's Cell: 952-500-3743

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Website: www.cbnorthcentral.org



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