

North Central CBA

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Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

February 2011



Pastors Seminar with Leith Anderson

begins with Wednesday night lodging

Two Sessions (lunch included)

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Pastors & Wives Retreat

All Church Staff Invited

Ted Kluck, Keynote Speaker

Co-author of Why We're Not Emergent

(by Two Guys Who Should Be) and Why We Love the Church

Both titles by Moody Press

Thursday & Friday lodging

Two delicious dinners

April 28-30, 2011

Ladies Brunch Friday morning

NEW LOCATION: [The Abbey Resort](#) Fontana, WI (on Lake Geneva)

Brochures and detailed biographies are available on our [registration page](#). **\$20 discount for registration before March 1.**

Call the office 715-538-2298 or email nccba@trivest.net with questions about the seminar



or retreat. There will also be a special thank you to Don Shaw for his years of service to NCCBA during the retreat.

God or The Wizard of Oz

I have been reading [Eyes Wide Open - Looking for God in Popular Culture](#). Romanowski takes a look at the subject of cultural art/entertainment. In doing this we can begin to see some very revealing things about what popular culture really believes.

One of the themes that runs through the film and TV productions is the belief in individualism. The belief that ultimately the individual is able to rise above circumstances and achieve anything they desire. He gives many illustrations, but one that I found most revealing is the movie "The Wizard of Oz."

I think that most of us have seen the movie at least once. It is a story about a girl who gets separated from her family. This separation lands her in Oz and the movie focuses on her journey along the "yellow brick road" to the Wizard who she hopes will help her to be reunited with her family. Along the way she meets up with a scarecrow, a tin man, and a lion, all of whom have particular needs. They too join Dorothy to gain help from the Wizard. As they travel there is a witch along with her minions that seek to block her way.

Eventually this needy group makes it to the Emerald City where the Wizard resides; to their great disappointment the voice behind the curtain is a sham. However, all is not hopeless; they come to realize that each one of their individual needs does not need the Wizard. They come to realize that within each of them is the power to have their problem solved. In other words, one does not need divine power, if there really is divine power. All one has to do is realize that salvation rests in the individual.

One may want to argue that maybe we are reading too much into this account. I think there is merit in peeling back the layers and looking at what a story implies about God, mankind and salvation. We as CB's totally reject anything that either overtly or subtly suggests that mankind has the power to save itself. I do not mean to suggest that we are not capable of addressing issues that confront us, but when it comes to true conversion transformation,

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Natural Church Development

How Healthy is
Your Church?

This is a proven tool that can help your church with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism.

NCD will help you identify the eight qualities and six growth factors for a healthy church.

Healthy NCD is seeing a steady growth through conversions and the ongoing discipleship of those who are part of the

that requires Divine intervention.

There are two passages that come to mind. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 Paul gives a description of the conditions during the last days. He speaks of difficulty, people who are totally self-absorbed, as well as mean and nasty. In the last part of v. 4 and v.5 he makes this statement ". . . lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these." The other comes from Zachariah 4:6 "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

Here is my concern not only about believers in general but about myself and us as CB's. In our desire to have healthy growing churches and to become transformational leaders, have we marginalized our need for Divine intervention? God is not the Wizard of Oz, a sham who hides behind a curtain making threats and terrifying those who come with needs.

As I begin to close this chapter of my life and reflect on ministry I can say that the intent of what I sought was to glorify God in spite of the flesh that still lingers. However, my actions have consistently demonstrated that human power can never bring about real conversion and transformational growth. My challenge for myself and to you who read this, is not just give verbal assent to "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" but begin each task realizing without God's power nothing of eternal value will ever be built. Additionally if the decline in Christianity in our culture is to be reversed it will not occur without Spirit led leadership.

Don Shaw

Regional Director

donnccba@triwest.net

CLUSTER LEADER THOUGHT CORNER:

Meeting Together?

"The average churchgoer attends Sunday services 1.8 times per

church.

Give us a call at 715-538-2298.

Valuable Information About Your Church's Area

Customized demographic information available about your church location. This is a free service for all NCCBA churches. Call Don at 715-538-2298

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by State on our [website](#) under RESOURCES

New Staff Background Checks

month!" I heard that statistic given not too long ago at a training seminar for pastors. How anyone can accurately determine that figure is beyond me. But if it's correct, it really doesn't surprise me. In recent years, it seems like even the regular attenders are no longer regular. Many believers in Christ today desperately need to heed the admonition of Hebrews 10:25, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

We pastors are quick to point out the importance of Christian fellowship to a layperson's spiritual health. But I wonder if we really believe this is true for ourselves? Do we see the need for authentic koinonia in our own lives? It's easy because of our busy schedules to say we don't have time for it. We might even claim that close relationships in our congregation or church staff are sufficient forms of fellowship for us. But honestly, do those meetings together provide the personal encouragement you need?

I ask those questions because in our cluster group this year, several pastors have gone through some pretty tough stuff, messy stuff that involved their congregations and their staff. In situations like these, you can't always be gut level honest about how you are feeling or what is really troubling you. That's why I think pastors regularly meeting together with other pastors is so vitally important.

Only another pastor understands the unreasonable expectations many people place on you. Only another pastor knows how miserable you can feel on a Monday? Only another pastor can relate to the disappointment you experience when someone leaves the church or abandons the faith. Why? Because only they have served in the same trenches of ministry facing the same struggles you deal with on a daily basis.

That being the case, we pastors are foolish not to meet together for fellowship. Our nation's soldiers don't fight wars all alone. Neither should we who are soldiers of Jesus Christ. Until the day our Lord returns, you and I need to be a spiritual band of brothers who lift each other up when we're wounded and strengthen one another to fight the good fight. Only then will CBAmerica and other church associations or denominations stop seeing so many of its shepherds making the choice to give up or go AWOL.

If you are not involved in an area cluster group yet, I want to challenge you to consider being part of one. I realize some of you

NCCBA is now able to perform background checks for member churches. Call Don at the office, 715-538-2298.

MEDIA RESOURCES

Father, Son & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles & Relevance

This book by Bruce Ware is available from the NCCBA office for \$10. Highly recommended. Email the office at nccba@trivest.net



From the Truth Project: DOES GOD EXIST?

This is an outstanding series that will help prepare your high school kids for college. It is produced by the same group that did the Truth Project. It includes ten sessions

are in parts of the region where distance does not make it possible. If that's the case, I urge you to form a cluster group with pastors of like faith in your city or county. I have personally been a part of both kinds of fellowship. And whether I was a youth pastor or a senior pastor, meeting together with other shepherds has encouraged me to stay in the battle until Jesus comes again or calls me home.

Jay Jentink, Eastern Iowa Cluster

Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

YOUTH PASTORS:

A year and a half ago my wife posted "the kiss" from our wedding on the World Wide Web. Anyone can easily watch it on "YouTube." It's crazy to me that people from all over the world can view that moment in my life. We live in a world which is instantly connected. With texting, twittering, and multimedia messages our lives can be an open book at the touch of a button and presents both advantages and disadvantages.

I recently read a story from reuters.com saying that people need to be cautious about what they post on the Internet and that people concerned about their careers should be extra careful. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs and other venues present numerous opportunities to sabotage an individual's hunt for a job or promotion at a time when employers can afford to be picky.

Patricia Vaccarino, owner of a Seattle public relations firm, warned her clients in a newsletter saying, "With social media, you can be vapid, boring and annoying with alarming frequency," Many of Vaccarino's Facebook friends have posted "in great detail about their flatulence, adult acne, marital breakups, battles with mental illnesses and drinking problems." If this information can make friends cringe, she added, imagine the impression it would make on a potential employer.

These days the disturbing new trend in teenage flirting is sending nude or semi-nude photos from cell phone to cell phone called "sexting." News reports are increasingly documenting legal repercussions after indecent photos appear online. Some attorneys feel that young people who send their own photos may be facing

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Would you be interested in being able to offer college level material in your local church? Would you be interested in being able to facilitate in providing a bachelors degree from your local church? Are you interested in being able to develop your current and next generation leadership?

prosecution for obscenity or child pornography. Recently in Wisconsin, a 17-year-old was charged with possessing child pornography after he posted naked pictures of his 16-year-old ex-girlfriend online. In Alabama, authorities arrested four middle-school students for exchanging nude photos of themselves.

Philippians 1:27 - *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.*

With texting, twittering, and multimedia messages our lives can be an open book at the touch of a button. While this can be a little discouraging at times, the apostle Paul tells us that "we should conduct ourselves in a worthy manner" regardless if someone is watching or not. Paul didn't have the convenience of the internet or cell phones but it doesn't matter. Paul made a plea to the church in Phillipi to live as God was watching so he could be assured they were living the gospel whether he was there or not. Therefore, lets all do the same.

Go bless,

Craig Sanborn

First Baptist Church, Long Prairie MN

Henry Spicer Scholarship

The Henry Spicer Scholarship is awarded each year to high school seniors planning to attend college in the fall. To qualify, an applicant must be a committed Christian AND a regular attendee of a NCCBA affiliated church. The amount and number of scholarships varies from year to year. For more information and an application go to our [website](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298.

FYI

I'm so excited about our upcoming revival here in Streator, Illinois! We're going to have a four-week revival Feb 27 - Mar 27 here at First Baptist Church in Streator. It will be a CITYWIDE revival -- aimed at

If you answered yes to any or all of these we encourage you to look into this resource.

Antioch School of Evangelism and Church Planting is a resource that will help equip your church for all of the above. We have three churches in the region that have become certified-- Forest City Baptist, Rockford, IL; FBC Jackson, MN; and FBC Whitehall, WI. For further information contact Don Shaw at 715-538-2298 or by email nccba@triwest.net

Software Discounts



BIG savings on software!
Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2010, Windows 7 Professional, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Acrobat and other Microsoft and Adobe

spiritual renewal at every church in town. We have an exciting (and excited!) committee. We're already getting inquiries from other counties. People from a lot of churches are involved and quite a few pastors have already volunteered to preach. Theme will be "Christ Above All."

Please pray about this. It's catching on. The Lord could do wonderful things. We even have a local radio station helping us life-stream the services to put them on the internet worldwide!

Pray-pray-pray! Thanks! :-)

Rev. John Schmidtke

First Baptist Church of Streator, IL

Contact John at: pastorjohn-fbc@mchsi.com or 815-672-2460

products are available for lease to member churches. [Click here](#) for an order form.

Upcoming Events

2011 Pastors' Seminar/Pastors & Wives Retreat

Pastor's Seminar April 28

Pastors & Wives Retreat April 28-30

NCCBA Annual Meeting April 29 [Register online now](#) for \$20 discount

NEW location: [The Abbey Resort](#) in Fontana WI (on Lake Geneva)

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Eastern Iowa Cluster

Tuesday, February 22, 12:00 - 3:00 PM Noelridge Park Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

Bring Your Own Lunch!

Contact Jay Jentink 319-396-3233

Wisconsin/Northeast MN Cluster

March 17, noon to 3 PM

Bloomer Baptist, Bloomer WI

Bring a bag lunch.

Contact Eldon Carlson 715-568-1979 or Wade Duroe 715-723-1054

SW Minnesota/NW Iowa Cluster

March 8, 11 AM-1 PM

Contact cluster leader, Steve DeKok for location: 507-840-0773 (cell)

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Northampton Bible Church--Cuyahoga Falls OH YOUTH PASTOR
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Colfax IA YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Pekin IL--Two positions: WORSHIP LEADER and CHURCH PLANTER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)
- Hayden Heights Baptist Church--St. Paul MN
- First Baptist Church--Bradford IL
- Keystone Baptist Church--Chicago IL
- Wildwood Baptist Church--East Moline IL
- Monona Oaks Community Church--Madison WI

Praise the Lord for providing a part-time position as chaplain at a nursing home for bi-vocational **Pastor Paul Reynolds at Elk Horn, Iowa.**

Contact Our Office

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - nccba@trivest.net

North Central Conservative Baptist Association | P.O. Box 568 | Whitehall | WI | 54773

