

North Central CBA
E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

May 2011

WELCOME to the new North Central CBA Regional Director!



Pat Phinney was introduced as the region's new Regional Director at the Annual Meeting on April 29, 2011, to begin employment on July 1.

He will be available to meet with churches as Regional Director after this date. He can be contacted at patnccba@trivest.net

Thank you to the Search Team and the NCCBA Board for their work and prayerful selection.

New Regional Board

Andrew Brown - First Baptist Church, Long Prairie, MN

Phil Butler - First Baptist Church, Colfax, IA

Steve Daggett- Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND

Jay Jentink-Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

Greg Standafer-First Baptist Church, Whitehall, WI

Lyall Sutton-Bethany Baptist Church, Edwards, IL

Michael Wetzig-Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI

Roland Whitcomb-Morrison Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN

John Wodetzki-Faith Fellowship Church, Cincinnati, OH

Adam Zappetta-First Baptist Church, New Richmond, WI

Unforgettable Things

We recently completed our annual Pastors & Wives Retreat. It proved for me to be unforgettable for several reasons. To begin with, in the days that preceded the retreat was one of our regular RED (Regional Executive Directors) meetings. It was also the last time I will meet with that group and quite possibly not see again, at least in this life. This is a group that has been a source of friendship and ministry encouragement, and I will not soon forget their input into my life.

Also just prior to the retreat our NCCBA Regional Board met. As with the REDs, this group has played a significant positive role in my life. Again, it is likely that I will not see some of them again but I will not forget the relationship and support they provided.

During the retreat itself, Betsy and I learned that her mother had a major stroke. She was notified on Thursday morning and by the afternoon her mother died. The next day our keynote speaker notified us that his father-in-law died Thursday evening. What made these deaths unforgettable was not just the timing but the response of those attending to Betsy, myself and Ted Kluck. The care, concern, and comfort received was and is unforgettable. It was and is a reminder of one of the benefits of being part of the Church.

On Friday evening the Region honored Betsy and I as I retire from vocational ministry. My mother, children and grandchildren were all present. The words and gift were unforgettable and overwhelming.

Our keynote speaker was also unforgettable. He was a 35 year old guy. He is an author, he was well versed and an engaging communicator. For me he reminded me of three things I need to never forget.

First - we live in a time when there are those who identify themselves with Christianity that are reluctant to declare there is TRUTH. There are those who find it offensive and not seeker appealing to speak about absolutes. Whether it is seeker appealing or not Jesus "is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one

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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

comes to the Father except through me."

Second - Ted reminded me that only in Christ can there be "hope in the face of cynicism." We are bombarded by the advertising world with the line that no matter what is offered the product presented will solve your problem. People can and do become jaded by this over time. At best, the product has a short shelf life.

Out of his own experience Ted has come to realize that while God does not promise a life without difficulty or sometimes despair, he does offer hope (confident expectation). The old hymn says it well, "My hope is in the Lord who gave himself for me."

Third - that the Church is not an obsolete institution. Rather it is the organism that God has created for the proclamation of the gospel and the development of disciples.

From my end of things, what Ted presented we must never forget if we are going to have any impact on the lives we seek to minister to.

Don Shaw

Regional Director

donnccba@triwest.net



CLUSTER LEADER CORNER:

Note from Steve DeKok, Southwest Minnesota/Northwest Iowa cluster group

Ah, Spring to Summer. I love this time of year. This is a time for all of nature to come back to life and for us to get out again from our "hibernation." It is a time when neighbors get out and take care of the yard and talk over the back fence, a time when the seniors graduate, a time to plan for VBS. Whoa, VBS? Yep, that is right.

By the time this goes to print or email, we will be into VBS. VBS is a good time or is it a waste of resources? Oops, I just stepped on a

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

sacred cow. (What do you do with sacred cows? You have a barbecue.) Is there a better way to reach our children? There very well may be. When I was growing up, VBS was two weeks and was from morning to mid afternoon and we brought a lunch to eat on the church lawn.

So in thinking about summer and VBS, it caused me to wonder how to best reach our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In our cluster, we pastor older churches. Here in Jackson, we were birthed as a church more than 50 years ago. We are developing a new vision for reaching Jackson. It is done differently than when our church started. Now, we are doing it by ministering to the community. I am involved with a couple of groups and able to develop a good rapport with them. The youth are involved in projects that get them into the community such as window washing and caring for people. The young married are doing it by caring for each other and reaching out to the other young families. The middle aged and seniors are doing it by various methods. Now, as with you, some of this is really happening and some is wishful thinking. It is continually working and training people to serve Jesus Christ by serving others. Another way we do this is by having a community Sunday morning service at the park during our annual Town and Country days. All are invited to the service and to the barbecue after the service.

So how do we reach people in this age? It really is very simple. No, I did not say easy, I said, simple. The same way we did 50 years ago and 100 years ago and 500 years ago and 2011 years ago. It is showing a love for the people and meeting their needs. Yes, the methods are different with cell phones for every age, texting, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. It is still caring for those in need and loving them. I was asked one time, how do you reach the youth? It is by loving them. The same answer is true for all ages. Showing love is different in the different cultures and age groups. And the social networks may not be the solution; they may be a step to the answer. John 13:35 (ESV) "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." That love for one another is also to reach out to those around us. The Pharisees loved themselves individually, not one another. The disciples learned to love one another. Galatians 6:10 (NASB95) "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

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

I thank God for the cluster group that we have in Southwest Minnesota and Northwest Iowa. We truly have a love for one another. One pastor told me, "I have your back." He has proved that. Yes, the love is growing as we meet each month.

Steve DeKok, First Baptist Church, Jackson MN

YOUTH PASTORS:

We recently came to the realization that our family is the resident hippy family in our church. While it's true that the senior Pastor and his family are the ones who introduced me to tie-dyeing, and the senior Pastor is also the one with any sort of fondness for incense and candles, we have definitely contributed much more hippy philosophy to him than he has to me.

This was made abundantly clear to us during a sermon series on stewardship. Pastor Mike started the series with lessons on individual, then family stewardship. Slowly over a period of six weeks he worked his way through the concentric circles of any person's influence to stewardship of the world. When we got to that point, Pastor Mike asked our family to come up and talk about the various ways that we practice stewardship of the world, and why stewardship of the world is important to us.

Our motive for choosing any given "green" action is as likely to begin with other considerations as it is not, but the common thread of preserving the environment runs through a large percentage of our decisions. Yes, we cloth diaper because it's much cheaper than buying disposable diapers, but it also saves us from wasting the 300 pounds of wood, 50 pounds of oil, and 20 pounds of chlorine used to make disposable diapers for one child each year, not to mention the one ton of landfill waste for each child that each year of disposable diapering creates. We typically walk to any destination within a mile of our home because we enjoy walking together and like to get some exercise, but we are also keenly aware of the gas we are not using every time we walk. This

sessions on DVD and ten student books. Our price is \$50.89 plus \$10.00 for shipping.

Retail for the same set is \$110.89. If you would like to get a preview of why you should consider this go to www.trueu.org and check out: The Toughest Test in College.

Antioch School of Evangelism & Church Planting

Go to College at Your Home Church

(Accreditation by [DETC](http://www.detc.org))

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

even extends to planting fruit trees on our lawn, not only so that we can enjoy free fruit, but

also because they also create needed bio-diversity in our neighborhood and help filter carbon dioxide. Many of our family decisions play out in this same way: gardening, owning only a single car, baking bread, buying second-hand, eating less meat, using a rain barrel, and so on.

We have found through conversation with the people we love that there are two main reasons most don't consider the impact of any given choice on the world around them. The first reason is that they hadn't thought about thinking about the environmental impact of their decisions. The second is that they don't think the environmental impact of their choices matters. I would like to address both of those reasons.

First, we believers must be intentional in the way we live our lives. Simply doing what we have always done, what our parents did, what our neighbors do, or what the commercials on TV suggest is not good enough for Christ followers. We are intended to be a holy people, set apart from the world around us. How, though, are we supposed to be set apart if our daily actions are guided more by the norms of the communities around us than by careful thought and prayer?

Christians talk a lot about living intentionally when we discuss prayer, reading scripture, and loving in Christ's name, but scripture makes it clear that our lives are intended to be lived wholistically for God, rather than compartmentalized. Every aspect of our lives is intended to be suffused with prayer, molded by scripture, and marked with love in Christ's name. With the goal of living all aspects of our lives intentionally for God before us, we must acknowledge the importance of considering each decision.

If one falls into the second camp and believes that his decisions don't matter, I might be willing to concede that he is partially right, but only to a degree. My wife and I aren't going to solve America's dependance on foreign oil, or the deforestation of Brazil, we probably won't even get less food to be shipped to our local

generation leadership?

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@trivest.net

Software Discounts



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

grocery store by planting fruit trees. But thinking about the environmental impact of our actions and changing environmentally unfriendly behaviors is an act of worship for us. When God created mankind, he told them to rule over the world (Gen. 1:26 f). He clearly didn't mean for mankind to destroy his creation, but rather protect and nurture it.

Thoughtful consideration of the impact of our actions is the first step, but let's not forget the importance of actually making changes in our lives based on our thoughts. I am convinced that if you think you should be doing something and you aren't, it is sinful. Similarly, if you think you should not be doing something, but you persist in doing it anyway, that is also sin (1 Cor. 10). If the estimated 2.1 billion Christians on this planet made thoughtful decisions and followed through on them, it absolutely would make a difference.

We're not advocating that any one behavior be practiced. We don't think all the pastors in North America should start taking public transportation and donate their cars to missions. We don't think everyone should host a rain barrel drive in his home church. We don't presume to tell you that your next car should be a Volt. We do, however, think we all need to live each aspect of our lives with intentionality and followthrough, and we think we all need to encourage other Christians to do the same.

Pastor Brian and Tricia Little

New Hope Community Church, Villa Park IL

brian.tricia.little@gmail.com

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

Good Idea Section

We're On A Mission From God

The Blues Brothers, Jake and Elwood once said, "***We're on a mission from God.***" I offered this same statement as a challenge to my congregation a couple Sundays ago as a practical, hands-on

lesson from the Parable of the Talents. It was just one of several ideas proposed in our Church Health Team meetings as a result of participating in NCD's Church Health Assessment.

The idea of taking the church assessment was met with some initial resistance from my church leadership team and also created a little anxiety in myself as I wondered what the results would show about where I was "failing" the church. But after having our concerns addressed we proceeded with the NCD Assessment followed by a couple sessions with our "Coach", Pastor Bruce Kalish from Sparta Baptist Church.

We formed our Church Health Team and immediately began discussions on addressing our weakest area which was identified as Need-Oriented Evangelism. I was personally surprised by this as I felt like our church was fairly creative and pretty effective in some of our outreach efforts, but our team began having some prayerful discussions on other ways God might be calling us to impact His Kingdom in our small community. Our discussions eventually led to our "Mission from God."

At the conclusion of my sermon that morning, I challenged the congregation that here on earth we need to operate as stewards rather than owners. All that we have has been entrusted to us by our Master, Jesus Christ, and one day we will give an account for how we have invested those resources to impact people for the Kingdom of God. My hope was that the practical lesson would make this a parable they would never forget.

"I need 20 people to come to the stage right now." I was blown away as immediately 16 people got up out of their chairs and made their way to the front of the church. These weren't my elders and deacons, it was a very diverse group: high school students, an eighty year old couple, some retired missionaries, newer attendees, members and non-members alike. **"I need four more volunteers,"** I stated after I had taken a quick head count. I ended up with seven. As this group of 23 stood before me, I began to make my way down the line handing out \$100 bills to each of them. I told our congregation, **"For those of you who have neighbors or co-workers who complain that all the church does is ask for money, make sure you tell them what happened this morning - the church is giving money away!!"**

"Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to take this small

talent, this \$100 and invest it in Kingdom work over the next 3-4 months. I challenged the group to begin praying how God might lead them to use this small amount of money to impact others for His Kingdom. These new missionaries were given three stipulations for their assignment: 1) Remember this is God's money, 2) Invest the money in God's work, 3) Return on Sunday, September 11 to report the results from their "Mission from God." I challenged the rest of the congregation that just because they might not have come forward; they could still participate in the mission, because after all everything we have has been entrusted to us by God.

I am eagerly awaiting September 11 to see what God does!! People are praying, people are seeking God's direction on how He might want to use them in their particular area of influence. There have been some interesting stories already coming forward; one participant left church that Sunday not with \$100, but with \$300 as two other members of our church wanted to partner with him in his mission. Another was convicted the next day as he was driving from sales call to sales call that he was no better than the third servant in the parable because he had in a sense hidden his talent by leaving his \$100 on his dresser at home. God challenged him that day that he wouldn't have been prepared if he had been called to utilize that talent for the Kingdom.

Need-Oriented Evangelism? I think so. We now have 23 new "missionaries" participating in "A Mission from God."

Pastor Mike Wetzig

Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna MI

CHAPLAINCY

On a Wing and a Prayer

From a chaplain in Iraq:

Windy here today. Dust storms ablowin! Been a fruitful week of ministry in Iraq. I've about decided that I am a Fireman working with a bunch of Policemen. They go after the bad guys, and I put out the emotional and relational fires.

Last Sunday, I hit the bed at midnight only to be awakened at 4 am by a knock on my door. One of our soldiers had injured his back/spine in the gym a few hours earlier, and decided to walk

back to his room to rest. He collapsed in the dark sometime after 2 am, completely paralyzed. Eventually someone came along and hauled him to the Combat Support Hospital.

I arrived at 4:30 am to learn he had already been flown to a bigger hospital for immediate surgery. I led worship, ate lunch, then booked a flight to the hospital. We flew out after midnight, and were standing next to him by 2 am on Monday morning. His words to me as I walked in, "Chaplain! Hi! I'm glad you came! I need to talk with you!" He said, "Chaplain this is heavy, but I can handle this! What I can't handle is not knowing your Savior." Two hours later this tenderhearted, crippled, 33 year old soldier/mechanic leaped into the Kingdom as he asked Jesus to be his Lord.

They flew him off Germany by 6 am, and I went to billeting to get a bunk and some shut-eye! I was so pumped I had a hard time going to sleep! I don't think my body has recovered yet. But it was So Worth it!

Pray for Mark. To date he still has no use of his legs. He is married and has a baby on the way. They were flying him back to the states for more acute care. Pray for Chaplains ministering in the war zones.

If you would like more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or by phone at 218-776-2813. Thanks!

2011 Church Directory

The 2011 Church Directory listing all NCCBA member churches has been handed out at the Pastors and Wives Retreat to your pastor. It will be emailed and snail mailed to the remaining churches this month. If you do not receive your copy by the end of next week (May 20) please give Jean a call at the office, 715-538-2298. Your church is also listed online in our web based directory at www.nccba-gc2.com

CORRECTION: If you already received your copy of the directory, it has an error! (Did you find it?) The page "NCCBA Staff and Regional Board" listed Steve Daggett at Laporte MN. Since last fall he has been the Senior Pastor at Cavalier Baptist in Cavalier, North Dakota. Please update your directory!

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

SW Minnesota/NW Iowa Cluster

June 14, 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

Contact Our Office

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

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