



North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

May 2012

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Enjoying the Journey

I have noticed this past year that walking together as a region of churches and new Director is a lot like flying. There are certain

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things you must do as you walk aboard that aircraft and commit yourself to the flight. Many of them are the same things we must do as we begin a new relationship. Like air travel, living life with other churches in the region is all about making adjustments. It is much like dealing with mechanical delays, missed connections, lost luggage, annoying seat partners, inconveniences, storms, unexpected turbulence, unanticipated surprises, and having to make the best of it so you truly enjoy the journey. Just as we don't try to jump off an airplane when there is a problem, we should remain committed to staying on board when it comes to this God-ordained union between the region and churches. Please join me in the journey as I reflect upon my exciting flight this past year.

1. Know your flight destination

It would be absurd to show up to the airport and just jump on a Delta airplane traveling to any destination. Though that sounds exciting, it's not good planning. Our NCCBA mission statement is "to nurture and network churches that passionately love God and are committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ." That is my flight destination and it's here that I focus my time as I have met with pastors and churches this year. In understanding our regional identity, it is my desire to see churches become more Great Commission and Great Commandment healthy as they proclaim the Gospel. Every pastor is called to a leadership position and it is my desire to assist them to be that kind of leader that will bring about effective change. I have worked to assist churches in developing Christ-centered servant leaders. This is where good church health and growth begins. The old adage is true, "Healthy churches give birth to more healthy churches." I have seen churches succeed in the birthing process of reproducing themselves in the heart of their community. Who is going to care for the pastor? I have seen the strength of covenant relationships through the networking of regional Cluster Groups. As I have stayed focused on this flight destination, I am seeing that churches are growing and making a difference.

2. Realize you don't know it all

To enter this position as Director thinking I know all there is to know about church health and growth is like getting on board the aircraft and tuning out the flight attendant who is going over life-saving information. God has humbled me this past year, and He continues to remind me that He is in charge of His church. I am only a measly

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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.

Give us a call at 715-538-2298.

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 church.

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 Pat at 952-322-7173 at his home office.

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by

instrument to help bring about important change. I am learning during this flight to pay close attention to Him and others who are far more experienced in flying than I am.

3. Always expect the unexpected

Like every flight, this relationship between region and churches is unique. This year I have encountered some amazing unexpected surprises. I have seen storms, delays, inconveniences, and downright disasters. I have learned that it is not, "Will there be huge turbulence or full-blown crisis during the flight?" There will be. It is more, "How will we get through the storms?" that will make the difference. Realizing potential crisis is around the corner in every church helps me weather the storms that God provides for our growth. Now I pray, "God give me the grace and love to manage the unexpected."

4. We are in it for the long haul

The marriage relationship is designed to be forever. Those traditional vows state, "for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, till death do us part", but does this forever commitment apply between churches and the region? I had a young CB pastor ask me, "Will CBA be around in 50 years?" What a great question. I said, "Yes and I am in it for the long haul." One of my biggest surprises has been some pastors questioning the value of NCCBA to their church. In today's challenging generation, I am seeing that churches are no longer just loyal to an organization (like us), but to the call to infiltrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a community AND THAT IS IT. Is the CBA perfect? No! Is it healthy? It is getting better! Does it have value and purpose for the 116 churches in our region? Absolutely! It is a long flight to our final destination of seeing the Gospel transform our communities for Christ as CB churches and without reservation, I am committed to assisting our churches to the final landing of this long journey.

5. Invest in some in-flight entertainment

Some flights are boring and our relationship as CB churches can be a long flight. How do we keep ourselves from being agitated, cramped up, and downright miserable? You don't just jump out of the emergency exit when you don't like sitting next to that annoying passenger. As CB churches we have to remember why we are on the flight, who we are with, and where it is we are going. Let's be real. Is the ride bumpy and turbulent within the church? Sometimes it is.

State on our [website](#) under **RESOURCES**

New Staff Background Checks

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

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 on DVD and ten student books. Our price is \$50.89 plus \$10.00 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](#))

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?

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

Will there be times as a family when we just can't get along? Expect it. I get involved in a fair amount of conflict mediation scenarios between leadership and church people. Many years ago I learned to joyfully embrace conflict, as God uses it to conform the church into His image. It has been my experience on the flight that conflict is inevitable, and it always reveals the character of who we are. God takes it from there and then what do we do? Sometimes you just have to smile. :)

6. Handle the takeoffs and landing carefully

The most dangerous parts of any airline flight are the takeoff and the landing. How well you get started and how you finish are also the two most critical steps in our journey as CB churches. My flight this year has been amazing and filled with blessings. I have had the joy of speaking in over twenty churches. Some have started well as a church, but are struggling to finish. Others have started well, struggled, and now are driven by mission. In every church visited, I have seen some degree of church health, a passion for God's truth, a love for the pastor and his wife, a presence of strong leadership, a deep expression of fellowship, and some desire to reach others with the Gospel. It is my conclusion that it is not enough that we takeoff strong, we must land and finish well until the Lord returns to take home His Bride.

Let's remember that it's our choices we make during the sometimes monotonous stretches of our flight together as CB churches that contribute to our success. Enjoy the journey. We all know it is worth it as we wait for the end of the flight when the Master says, "Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

It has been a privilege to serve you this year, and I pray we will have many more journeys together.

*NCCBA Fellow Passenger,
Pat Phinney, Regional Director
Home Office: (952)322-7173
Cell: (952)500-3743*



patnccba@trivest.net

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

NLT Bibles

CBAmerica is again offering Bibles at greatly reduced rates when ordered by the case. We would like to recommend the NLT Parallel Study Bible and the NLT Study Bible to our NCCBA churches.

NLT Parallel Study Bible (Hardcover)
Normally \$44.99 is \$24.00 each (in cases of 8)

NLT Study Bible (Hardcover) Normally \$39.99 is \$21.00 each (in cases of 10) Available by filling out the order form on the CBAmerica website www.cbamerica.org or toll-free 888-366-3010 in CASE LOTS ONLY

From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

I just got back from a week in Los Angeles. I went there for a two day conference on "Preaching to a Skeptical Culture" at Talbot Seminary. The keynote speaker was Haddon Robinson. He's getting older and I just had to hear him speak one more time. I still haven't figured out the "big idea..." not like him anyway. He hits the bull's eye every time and I may land somewhere on the target from time to time.

I really couldn't justify a two day conference in California, so I asked my board if I could conduct a series of interviews with pastors in the area in the three days prior to the conference. Amazingly, they agreed. The objective of these interviews was to find out how they are doing effective discipleship in their ministries. I have read so many books of late and my frustration is that it is difficult to ask anyone questions about the issues that are raised in them. I wanted to have conversations with those in ministry whose work had the reputation of effectiveness in this area, or at least of having an interesting approach to the issue.

I've been taking another look at the Great Commission recently. In it we are commanded to "...make disciples by baptizing... in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." I think we get that. We understand that we need always to be winning people to Jesus Christ and incorporating them into the life of the Body of Christ. But it is the second half of that commission that has my attention these days. "Make disciples... by teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded..." That we haven't been doing very well if you believe what pollsters tell us about the negligible difference between the way believers in our culture live their lives and the way that your average pagan on the street lives his.

Oh, we do pretty well teaching our people what to obey, but that isn't the essence of the command. We've actually come to believe, with the rest of our culture, that if we educate people that they will put into practice what we teach them. But in reality it is not happening on the scale that it should be. The command urges us to teach our people to obey... not just what to obey. How do we do that? How do we do that without allowing legalism to slither in? This is what I wanted to find out in my interviews.

My friend Rick and I were able to conduct five interviews. Most of the churches had adopted an educational approach to discipleship, but surprisingly all of them were wrestling with this issue of obedience. One of the ministries had a completely "relational" approach to discipling. They believe that love for Jesus is best caught rather than taught. This doesn't mean that they don't teach, they are very faithful to God's word, but life change, they have come to understand happens best within the context of meaningful relationships.

Another ministry was challenged to create meaningful experiences for the purpose of training their people how to obey. Another one was focusing on mentoring, while another was directing more attention to "spiritual formation," while still another was finding great success with the "Sticky Church" model of sermon based small groups.

I know that our sample was pretty small, but each of the five ministries was struggling with the issue of obedience in a different way. That in itself was encouraging. Rick and I think that we learned something though. It makes sense to us that the discipling process needs to be multifaceted. We came up with this little formula. See if it resonates with you.

- We teach what to obey through careful instruction.
- We teach how to obey by creating challenging opportunities for training.
- We teach to obey through meaningful relationships.

Unfortunately the topic of my obsession has been the subject of much discussion within the Twin Cities Area Cluster group recently. We have read and discussed together such books as:

- "Sticky Church" by Larry Osborne
- "Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful" by Gary Parrett and S. Steve Kang
- "Dedication and Leadership" by Douglas Hyde
- "The Pastor" by Eugene Peterson

Stephen Schoenwald
For the Twin Cities Area Cluster Group

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR:

At Bensenville Bible Church, we call ourselves an intercultural bilingual community. We do so because for the last three years or so, we have integrated our previously separate English and Spanish services. We now worship together and then separate to hear the sermon in our language of choice. This has created a whole new set of challenges and dynamics, on top of the ones that a church already faces.

Our youth ministry (IMAGO DEI) works with the students mainly in English; our ministry in Spanish is mainly to the parents. But what I appreciate about the work that we are doing in our community is the unity that we are developing among our people. Galatians 3:26 reminds us that we are children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Paul goes on to remind us that we are no longer separated by what is very apparent to everybody else: the color of our skin, the language that we speak, the culture we live in. We have been adopted by God into this new family, a family of faith.

We like to think that we are previewing what Revelation 7:9 describes. One day, we will all stand in the presence of the throne of Almighty God and in front of the Lamb; with persons of every nation, tribe, people group, and language shouting with a mighty shout: "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!" We like to live in the uncomfortable state of interculturalism, learning from each other's culture and preparing our students for a not so distant future. The nation's Hispanic and Asian populations will triple over the next half century and non-Hispanic whites will represent about one-half of the total population by 2050, according to interim population projections released by the U.S. Census Bureau (CB04-44. March 18, 2004).

This new reality will bring a new set of challenges and will cause us to change the way we minister in our communities. This work is not easy or clean-cut; we have made some progress but much more work needs to be done. God's call for unity has prompted us to change the way we minister in our community. How is God challenging you to reach out to those around you? Are you willing to

be uncomfortable - out of your comfort zone - as you minister?

*Christian Constante, C2L Ministries (formerly SYFIL)
Pastor to Youth and their families.
Bensenville Bible Church, Bensenville, IL*

CHAPLAINCY:

Sojourners and Pilgrms!

Peter, in 1 Peter 2:11, reminds his readers that they are only passing through this world . This world is not our home but a future home in eternity awaits us. While we are in this world we will experience suffering and blessing until the day we are called home to heaven.

Several weeks ago we attended the funeral of a close friend who went into the Lord's presence while practicing the piano to prepare for a funeral he was to play for the next day. He was 63. On Good Friday a man and his three sons from our church went sailing in a lake nearby. It was a windy day and a gust of wind caught the little sail boat and turned it upside down. All four were thrown into the ice cold water. A valiant attempt was made to get the three boys to shore. The younger boys ages 2 and 6 were overcome by hypothermia. The older son age 8 received life support for 5 hours before he responded. He is now making great progress. It was hard to attend the funeral of the two small ones. A gentle reminder that life is a vapor or like grass that withers.

I had a message from one of our chaplains in the Air Force that his wife was still receiving chemo for her cancer and the Air Force was giving her a medical discharge. Shelley has been an Air Force Nurse for the past 15 years. He had also undergone recent surgery and after much consideration and prayer they have made the decision to retire this summer. Mark has over 20 years of service as a chaplain. Pray for Mark and Shelley as they follow the Lord's leading for their future.

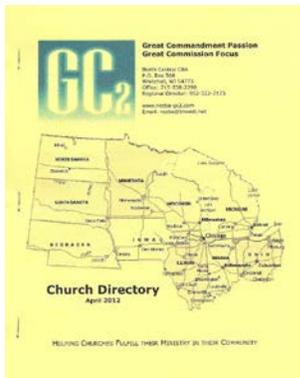
I also received an e-mail from a retired Army chaplain who is serving in the VA Medical Center in Phoenix. I was with him a year ago and he told me about a problem with his leg and showed me the brace he was wearing. In his note he reported he has been diagnosed with Lou Gerig's disease. Pray for Miki and Carol as they work through

their future as well. Another VA chaplain is working through leukemia. Pray for Dave and Rose as they serve the Lord in the San Diego VA system. Dave has a good ministry with soldiers suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In a couple of days of writing this I will be visiting a chaplain candidate in our area who just had double hernia surgery. Pray for Scott as he recuperates and gets back to work. I could list a number of others with medical and family problems who are faithfully serving the Lord. While we are in the world we are not immune to sickness, death or problems. Our chaplains minister to people with the same sort of issues on a daily basis. We need your prayers as we serve the Lord with gladness. Let us come before His presence with singing. He is a great God!

A number of our chaplains will be conducting VBS during the coming months. Last year hundreds of kids came to faith in Jesus from these meetings. Pray for them as they direct these clubs. Also don't forget those chaplains deployed to Afghanistan. Pray for their families at home and for safety for our chaplains as they minister to their troops.

If you would like to know more about CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or e-mail him at chapruss@cbamerica.org.



DIRECTORY SENT

The new 2012 Church Directory has been emailed or snail mailed to your church. If your pastor attended the Retreat or Seminar, he received a paper copy in his packet, also.

If you did not receive a copy, click [here for Part One](#) and [here for Part Two](#) of the new Church Directory . If you want a paper copy, call Jean at 715-538-2298.

CORRECTION to Directory: The Interim Pastor in Silver Bay, MN, is Greg **Hull**, not Hall.

Also NOTE: **Discovery Church in St. Cloud MN has moved to Sauk Rapids MN.** The new address is in your Directory. All contact

information is the same, just physical location and mailing address has changed.

OFFICE FURNITURE AVAILABLE

NCCBA has an office desk, chair, bookshelves, and other misc. items for sale. Call Jean 715-538-2298 or Pat 952-322-7173 if interested.

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Michigan

May 21, 10 AM, Moline Baptist Church, Moline MI
Contact Mike Wetzig, 231-853-6021

S Illinois

September 11, 11 AM, Home of Joe Stewart
Contact Scott Boerckel, 309-454-3833

The list of Pastor Cluster Leaders on our website, www.nccba-gc2.com

IOWA CB MEETINGS

October 8 & 9
Colfax, Iowa
Contact Phil Butler, 515-674-3752

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Mason Township Baptist Church--Cassopolis MI SENIOR PASTOR
- Noelridge Park Church--Cedar Rapids IA SENIOR PASTOR
- Forest Glen Community Church--Chicago IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH WORSHIP LEADER
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson MI WORSHIP LEADER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)

Contact Our Office

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

