

CB North Central E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

November 2012

HURRICANE SANDY UPDATE: To give through CB America, [click here](#)

See below for news from CB Mission Mid-Atlantic and how to help.

News from CB Mission Mid-Atlantic

As our office continues to gather information on the extent of the damage from Hurricane Sandy, we are encouraged by the outpouring of love throughout Mission Mid-Atlantic. Offers have come in for sending supplies, work teams, donations, even quilts! Relief efforts in a disaster such as this will have immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs. Our desire is to help connect our CB volunteers with CB churches on the front lines through all of these stages. Below are some examples of churches working on the front lines, and to the right are some practical ways you can help [click this link for more information](#). We will continue to seek information and post updates on our website, Facebook, and Twitter pages. God bless you for your compassion and servants' hearts during this time!



First Baptist Church, Toms River, NJ, teams with the Red Cross and a NC Disaster Relief Group to serve 1,000's of hot meals a day

Please call our office at (856) 881-8990 if you need help with Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts or if you have questions about how you can help.

Dr. James E. Leary, Regional Executive Director
Mission Mid-Atlantic office@missionmid-atlantic.org

From our Regional Director:

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

"Why Bad Things Happen to Good People" "Superstorm Sandy Slams Northeast, Triggers Massive Blackouts and Flooding". Those were the headlines on October 29, 2012, after the hurricane pounded the Jersey Shore. We know the rest of the story. It was one of the worst hurricanes in recent history. It stretched over 500 miles long and nearly 400 miles wide. It had sustained landfall winds of 75-100 mph. The storm surge with high tide in New York and New Jersey was a record breaking 19 feet. Over 100 people lost their lives and experts anticipate the loss between property and business revenue to exceed 35 billion dollars. Oh wait, there is more. A Nor'easter slammed the east coast with excessive winds and a foot of snow. This introduced the threat of more flooding, power outages, and setbacks to recovery work. So when will it stop? How much more can they take? Do those kinds of questions sound familiar to you?

I witnessed a CNN reporter interview a woman who lost everything, and she was wearing a tee shirt that read, "Pray Hard!" Others were quoted to say, "How can I pray when I am not sure if there is even a God and if there is, why would He do this?" These kinds of sentiments are pervasive throughout our country in light of other difficulties that have come. The practical question coming before a shocked America is, "Why would God allow such tragedies?" Allow me to take this opportunity to remind us of some truths that help us understand, "Why bad things may happen to good people."

God allows the pain of suffering as a way to ALERT us that something is wrong with the world and with us. It is easy to blame people like Osama bin Laden who was the prime suspect for the horrific acts of terror on 9-11. Romans 5:12,18 teach us that every generation of people inherits the full effects of sin and its consequences which is eternal death. Every evil - every disease - every disaster - every corruption - every sorrow - every grief - and every agony is a vivid reminder of our human predicament. BECAUSE OF SIN, the world is not the way God created it to be.

In This Issue

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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 CBNC churches. Call Pat at 952-322-7173 at his home office.

God may allow suffering because it DIRECTS us back to a dependent relationship. Because of what has happened with Hurricane Sandy and other recent tragedies, people are praying and beginning to seek God. I believe the typical person, when they are experiencing pain, may want to run from God. Instead of running to Him for safety, for help, for strength, we run the other way. Then we say, "God, in my pain, I don't need you!" 2 Corinthians 1:9 clearly teaches that God's first priority in our suffering is to show us how WEAK we are in ourselves. If we think that we are STRONG in our difficulties, then we do not learn the proper reliance and dependence on God.

This suffering in America may also SHAPE us into the image of Jesus Christ which is clearly taught in 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. The shaping of a nation that makes a profession to know God is very important. There is more. God wants His people who have been called by His name to resemble the marvelous qualities of the One who has given true freedom in this world. During this time of difficulty, let us learn to pray, "Make me like you!"

Lastly, God may allow the pain of suffering to UNITE us. Look how our nation has pulled together after Sandy. Millions of dollars have been donated. Truckloads of food have been delivered. Families have taken in refugees. Thousands of people have volunteered time to rebuild the devastated areas of the hurricane. Let's face the truth that suffering assaults us. Let's just say it; God often uses pain in the world to unite His people as one in the church.

Now what do we do? Let us pray for the revival of the Holy Spirit to sweep across our nation; for the repentance of sin; for God's church to be united; and for thousands to come to new life in Jesus Christ. Then God will be glorified in our suffering.

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

patnccba@trivest.net



Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by State on our website under RESOURCES

Your Church and the Sex Offender

Free website links to National Sex Offenders website

Call Pat at 952-322-7173 for a power point presentation.

New Staff Background Checks

CBNC 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

We are **CB North Central**. If you missed Pat's article in September introducing our new name, [click here](#). Our legal documents still say "North Central Conservative Baptist Association" but we are doing business as CB North Central.

From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

iDENTITY in Christ

In the churches I've served in over the years, we have done quite a few 'all church' series to try to get everyone on the same page for a period of time. Typically, I preach on the topic, we get our Sunday school classes and our small groups studying it, and we hold a few 'special' events to highlight the topic. Some have gone very well, and some have been a little disappointing.

So our church this fall did an 'all church' study - and almost everyone raved about the study! We wanted to choose a topic that was at the core of our belief system, so we picked 'Our Identity in Christ'. What is more basic for every believer to understand than who they are - now that they're a follower of Christ?!

Then we tried to find a resource on the topic that was very 'younger folks oriented' (well received by the 20's and 30's in the congregation), and at the same time one that handled the topic with Biblical depth. We found that in the book by Eric Geiger entitled "**iDENTITY: Who You Are in Christ**" (B&H publishing). Eric calls out seven things from I Peter 2: 9 -11 that every believer IS because of his relationship with Christ!

- We are God's Children
- We are Priests
- We are the Bride of Christ
- We are Servants of the Most High God
- We are God's Friend
- We are Aliens in this world
- We are God's Ambassadors!

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 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 8 Professional, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Acrobat and other Microsoft and Adobe products are available for lease to member churches. [Click here](#) for an order form.

Bibles

CBAmerica is again offering Bibles at greatly reduced rates when ordered by the case.

Available by filling out the order form on the CBAmerica website www.cbamerica.org or toll-free 888-366-3010 in CASE LOTS ONLY

The way Eric handled the topic that was so compelling. He didn't just quote verses and site Biblical principles. He told stories and invited the reader to really understand what it means to be all of these things! Many of the small group leaders and the Sunday school teachers talked of how good the discussion was as the class read the book over seven weeks. The book includes questions after every chapter to ease facilitating discussion.

But probably the most impactful moment of the series for me personally was the Sunday that we did testimonies that centered around our Identity in Christ. To prime the pump, we had folks of different ages parade across the stage, each with a large sign. On one side, there was a word or short phrase of who they used to be. And then they turned the sign over and gave a description of what they now are in Christ: selfish became *servicing others*; proud became *humbled by God's grace*; fearful became *relaxed in God's lap*. Although I preached about our Identity in Christ for 6 of the 7 Sundays (from a different angle than Eric took), I'm thankful we decided to let the congregation do the sermon that day. They did a great job!

I would encourage any of our sister churches (or groups within a church) who are looking to do a significant and compelling study to consider doing a study on our Identity in Christ. And I would highly recommend using Eric Geiger's book as the center of the study! [Eric even did two short promotional videos for us - addressed specifically to our church.]

*Pastor Mark Friday
First Baptist of Pekin, IL*

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR

Be a Jellyfish

I was watching a video online in which Phil Vischer, the creator of VeggieTales, was sharing his story of what God has taught him through the success and subsequent failure of his company, Big Idea Productions. I would like to share his main point and expound

Health Insurance Option

We have found a good option for pastors looking for health insurance. Call or email Pat to find out more, 952-322-7173 or patnccba@trivest.net. A link is included on [our website](#) to this insurance broker's website.

on it in this article.

Phil had huge goals for his company. He wanted to become the Christian Walt Disney. This was his big goal...his dream. And he wanted to do this for God. He had always wanted to be an animator and with VeggieTales it seemed like his dream was coming true. He built the largest animation studio in the United States and had 210 people working for him. Then the company went into bankruptcy. He believed that his dream was for God therefore God would step in and save the company. But He didn't.

Phil had set big goals. Goals he thought were for God. But what he found out when his company went bankrupt was that he made his own goals and then expected God to bless them. How many times do we do this in ministry? We set big goals. Goals that sound good and inspire the people to whom we minister, and we expect God to fulfill these goals. But are the goals we set our goals or God's goals?

I know that I have come up with some ideas in ministry that I thought would jump start our youth group and cause it to grow by leaps and bounds. But they didn't end up turning out the way I thought they would. For example, a number of years ago the youth group I was working with had an event called "The 5th Quarter". We had a lot of students show up to the event which was after a local high school football game. A lot of students heard the gospel that night, but it really didn't lead to growth in our youth group (which was my goal). This did not mean that the event was not a success because we shared the gospel with a lot of students. But in my mind it wasn't a success because we did not see an increase in numbers.

Just because we come up with a goal or dream for God doesn't mean that it is from God. We start thinking, "I can save the world by myself." I love one line from the video where Phil says, "there is only one person who has walked the earth who could actually save the world and his name is not Phil". But in ministry we can come up with big plans and great ideas and we start thinking that we can save the world. But as Phil said there is only one person who could save the world and it is not (insert your name here).

I am not saying that we should not set goals or have plans for our ministries. What I am saying is that it is more important to seek

God and obey Him than to achieve our goals...even in ministry. Sometimes the work we do for God becomes more important than our relationship with God. When we set big goals for our ministry (which are usually numerical goals) there is a temptation to strive to reach that goal more than striving to know Christ. We start thinking that reaching this goal is the most important thing.

Phil's new company is called Jellyfish Labs. He chose the name because Jellyfish don't have the ability to choose where they are going. They rely on the current to take them where they need to go. His point is that we need to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives and ministries. We need to follow Christ more than we follow our dreams and goals.

So the next time you are setting goals for the future keep this in mind, "Is this what I want or is this what God wants?" Be willing to change your goals as you seek God and allow His Spirit to lead you and your ministry.

Proverbs 19:21, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."

If you would like to watch this video you can find it at...
<http://www.soderquist.org/collections/free-videos/products/veggietales-creator-phil-vischer>

*Jason Wilson
Villa Park, IL*

ENGAGE: Annual Youth Apologetics & Preaching Competition

Hosted by Bethany Baptist Church, Edwards, IL
Saturday February 9, 2013 beginning at 9 a.m.

"Encouraging young people to confidently communicate and defend the gospel"

Purpose

The purpose of Engage is to promote and encourage churches to mentor and develop young people to effectively learn, communicate and defend Biblical truth.

Who can participate? The apologetics competition is open to young men or women from 7th through 12th grade, and the preaching competition is open to young men only from 9th through 12th grade. A previous winner at Engage in a particular area/category cannot win an award in a consecutive year in that same area/category. **This event is for Bethany youth and students from other churches around the midwest region.** We hope that many Bible believing churches become involved in the competition by encouraging and assisting young people as they prepare to participate in the competition.

Call Bethany Baptist Church at 309-692-1755 or [visit their website www.bethanycentral.org](http://www.bethanycentral.org) for more information.

New President of World Venture

WorldVenture is pleased to announce the selection of its new President and CEO, Dr. Jeff Denlinger.

Jeff came to WorldVenture in 1988 as a mid-term missionary working in Davao City, Philippines. Two years later, in 1990, he returned as a career missionary to Caracas, Venezuela with a focus on church planting. Before coming to the home office, he was the field leader for the Venezuela team. In 2002, he was asked by the home office to become Vice President of International Ministry and give leadership to WorldVenture ministries around the world. In the last 3 years, Jeff has served as Senior Vice President of International Ministry.

In his last 10 years of executive leadership, he has built a team of International Ministry Directors, given oversight of the development, implementation, and accomplishment of strategic ministries in alignment with WorldVenture's strategic purposes.

Jeff received his bachelor's degree at Ferrum College in agriculture (B.A., 1984); then continued on to graduate from Columbia International University with a Masters of Divinity (M.Div., 1988); and most recently from Western Seminary with a Doctor of Missiology (D.Miss., 2010). He is married to his wife Christine, a licensed professional counselor, and they have two adult children, Andy and Rachel. They currently live in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Jeff will become president effective November 1, 2012

[Click here for full article](#)



Retired Chaplains Not Facing Unemployment

I recently received an article from the Chronicle-Tribune newspaper of Marion IN. It was an excellent article about one of our retired Navy Chaplains. Chaplain Commander Richard Bareiss was a CBAmerica chaplain from the early days and retired in the early 70's. Chaplain Bareiss has been counseling people most of his life. After leaving the Navy he started chaplaincy programs at Indiana Wesleyan University, the Marion Police Department and the Grant County Sheriff's Department. Several months ago local officials honored him for his dedication to the two law enforcement agencies.

The ceremony took place at Colonial Oaks Retirement Community, where Richard lives with Eleanor, his wife of 60 years. He was given the Chaplain's Pioneer Award from the sheriff's department, and the Mayor of Marion declared the day "Dick Bareiss Day." Richard graduated from seminary in 1954 and started the chaplaincy program at Houghton College in New York. One of the faculty at Houghton later became the president of Indiana Wesleyan University and invited Richard to start a program at IWU. Chaplain Bareiss still does pastoral visitation when he is able. He misses being involved in the chaplaincy programs and says "There are a lot of people out there who are hurting and don't have anybody to talk to."

I praise God for our retired chaplains who go on to create or join new ministries after their "retirement." There is a saying that "ministers don't retire, they go out to pastor." I had a call a few days ago from an Army chaplain who retired over 20 years ago asking for endorsement to become a hospital chaplain. May their tribe increase as Chuck Swindoll would say.

Continue to pray for our deployed chaplains away from home and families. Some are in harms way. All our military chaplains are extremely busy counseling soldiers, airmen and seamen. I recently returned from visiting chaplains in Europe and they were always getting calls from troubles families. More are scheduled for deployment in the coming months.

If you want more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy you can contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or e-mail at chapruss@cbamerica.org.

Bibles at Significant Savings for CBA Churches!

Tyndale House Publishers is offering a spectacular deal (including free shipping!) **through CBAmerica** for churches on Bibles and other Tyndale materials including:



The One Year Bible

Available in NLT, NIV, KJV & NKJV

The best-selling One Year Bible, which helps you read the entire Bible in as little as 15 minutes a day, has been updated in a new look and comes in both portable compact size and full size. **The One Year Bible** divides God's Word into daily readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs, creating an achievable, unforgettable devotional experience.

[Click here](#) for information on how to order.

Retail Price: \$18.99 softcover

Price through CBAmerica: \$9.50 softcover

(NLT & NKJV only available in case lots of 20)

(NIV & KJV only available in case lots of 24)

Many other Tyndale Bibles available, including The Spanish OneYear Bible, Life Application Study Bible, Life Recovery Bible, and the One Year Chronological Bible. Go to the CBAmerica [website](#) to order any of these materials.

13 Reasons Your 501c3 is Important (Federal Tax Exempt Status)

Your affiliation with CB North Central provides your church with federal tax exempt status. Why is this important? Read this [important article by Richard Hammar](#) of Church Law and Tax.

SAVE THE DATES!

Pastors and Wives Retreat: April 25-27

Pastors Seminar: April 25

(includes lodging on the 24th)

Retreat Speaker

Leo Cumings, Retired Pastor, Jackson MI

Seminar Speaker

Bert Downs, Retired CB Southwest Regional Director

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Wisconsin/NE MN

November 27, Noon to 3 PM

Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

Wisconsin Retreat: January 13-14, 3 PM to 11:30 AM

SW MN

2nd Tuesday of each month, 11 am

Contact Doug Noonkester, 712-754-3310

ILLINOIS

Retreat: January 15-16, noon to noon.

Contact Mark Friday, 309-347-5965

For a Pastor Cluster Leader in your area, click [here](#)

CBNC 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
- First Baptist Church-Bradford IL SENIOR PASTOR
- New Providence Baptist Church--Greencastle IN SENIOR PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Streator IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Delavan Baptist Church--Delavan IL SENIOR PASTOR

- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH WORSHIP LEADER
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson MI DIRECTOR of FAMILY MINISTRIES

Contact Our Office

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

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