



THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

From the Regional Director

"2014 CB North Central Annual Conference"



In the October 2012 regional newsletter article, I made reference to an old General Motors advertising jingle, "This is not your father's Oldsmobile." GMC senior leaders made an attempt to attract younger buyers for an organization that was in need of change. In order to sustain success, a new generation of cars were designed and marketed to reach a younger audience. And they did it!

Similarly, in order for CB North Central to ensure its success for a healthy future, change is needed. With the goal of obtaining greater understanding for this change, a regional evaluation began in the fall of 2012. We set out to examine board actions, office decision-making trends, job descriptions, regional mission and vision statements, values, regional programs, finances, resources, doctrine, polity, philosophy, church affiliations, church planting, church closures, pastor turn-over rates, placements, and more.

Through the ten month evaluation process, we saw many positive trends in the region and we celebrate those. As suspected, the evaluation highlighted areas that indicated the importance of immediate change. One area that many leaders commented on was the need for change in the Annual Pastors/Wives Retreat. We listened. Previous Annual Retreats focused on an atmosphere of

teaching, worship, fellowship, and encouragement among pastors and their wives. Over the past ten years the number of couples willing and able to attend the annual retreat has declined. What we heard over and over was that the retreat provided those important elements mentioned, but pastors were prioritizing other events or conferences that met greater needs within their life and ministry.

In an attempt to meet these needs among our pastors and staff, we are making a change. CB North Central is going to partner with the 2014 Moody Pastors' Conference in Chicago, IL on May 19-22. The theme of this year's conference is "re/FOCUS" and it features some of today's most inspiring Christian teachers. It offers training opportunities around the country for pastors, staff and leaders, so that they might more effectively fulfill the Great Commission. It is a week that is guaranteed to transform lives.

We know this decision will bring disappointment to some who often frequented the Annual Retreat. We also know that we will be able to effectively reach more pastors and their staff in order to equip them for greater levels of ministry.

What about the CB North Central Annual Meeting that we always have at the Pastors/Wives Retreat? We will take care of our annual business during the "free time" session on Wednesday, May 21.

We certainly want to invite all of our pastors and staff to participate in the 2014 Moody Pastors' Conference. We are going to offer some scholarship help and groups discounts, so please look at the enclosed link to learn of all the details. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me or Wendy Jonasen at the office.

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

MOODY PASTORS' CONFERENCE DETAILS

Theme: "re/FOCUS" - Moody Bible Institute has a burden and passion for pastors. Each year the campus is host to one of the premiere conference events for pastors from a variety of denominations and from all over the globe. Through some of the most gifted communicators of God's Word, powerful worship, skilled breakout

session leaders and fellowship with over 1,000 fellow pastors, this conference is a week that can transform your entire life!

For more information on registration, schedule, cost and more [click here](#).

HENRY SPICER SCHOLARSHIP for High School Seniors



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 CBNC affiliated church. The amount and number of

scholarships varies from year to year. For more information and an application go to our [website](#) or contact our office at 763-205-9330 or email wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than APRIL 1st.

Pastor's Wives . . . New for You

What Does Rich Mean?

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Here we are in February - the month when love is on our minds. What a fun time to remind people how much they mean to us. It makes me think of something that happened many years ago when our son, Scott, was 4 years old. We were living in Oregon at the time and Scott and I were on our way to pick up Andrea (our daughter) from kindergarten. As we were driving along this question came from the backseat, "What does rich mean?" I explained to him that "rich" means someone has lots of money. Scott's response, "We aren't rich, are we?" I remember saying "People who look at our family would not think we are rich, but God takes such good care of us and we have everything we need." After a short time of quiet I hear that sweet 4 year old boy say, "But we are rich in love!" All you moms know exactly what that did to my heart that day. It still makes me smile when I think about it all these years later. That is my wish for each of you and your families - that you will be "rich in love".



PRAYING TOGETHER

Ladies, what a privilege we have to pray for our husbands! This month let's pray that our husbands will experience the peace that passes understanding. Here are some verses to get you started

I pray that Jesus Himself is my husband's peace.

Ephesians 2:14

I pray that my husband will lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, Lord, make him dwell in safety.

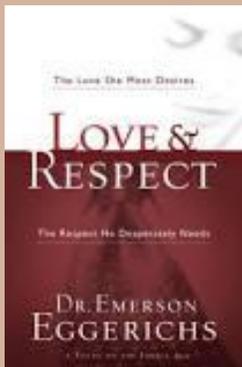
Psalm 4:8

I pray, God, that you will keep my husband in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 26:3

I pray that my husband will be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, will let his requests be known to You, God; and Your peace which surpasses all understanding, will guard his heart and mind through Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:6-7



A BOOK TO READ

During the years that Pat and I have been married we have read many books together on marriage. We have found that it is healthy to keep learning about our roles as husband and wife. The conversations that happen even though sometimes painful are always wonderful. Right now we are reading Love & Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. We are finding this to be one of the best books we have read on the topic of marriage. I think you will find this book very enlightening. Dr. Eggerichs spends a lot of time in the early chapters setting up the foundation. We have found that the most helpful and meaningful part of the book for us started after those early chapters. We would certainly recommend this book to you.

We are still trying to add to our list of email addresses for pastors' wives. If your wife is not currently getting this newsletter, we hope you will send us her email address. You may send it to Wendy at wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org or to me at kjphinney@gmail.com

Karen Phinney, Wife of Regional Director

Thoughts From A Cluster Leader

Keep Telling Your Story

Stop for a moment and reflect on those individuals who played a key role in your spiritual development. How exactly did they impact you? Was it something they said or taught, or was it who they were and the time they chose to invest in you? Have you ever taken the opportunity to say, "Thanks"?



We all have a story to tell and that story can be used by God to impact the lives of many. [\(Read More\)](#)

*Pastor Mike Wetzig
Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI*

Youth Pastor to Youth Pastor

Who Wants a Better Ministry?



Imagine if your favorite pro golfer asks YOU to volunteer to be his caddy for the Masters, or your favorite musical artist asks YOU to volunteer to go on tour for a week, loading & unloading equipment, or Peter Jackson asks YOU to volunteer for a week to work on the set of the third movie in the Hobbit trilogy - would you do it? Would you grumble & complain or

would you be thrilled at the opportunity to "serve" your favorite athlete, your favorite musician, or your favorite Hollywood director? [\(Read More\)](#)

Matthew Slippy, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

Church Law & Tax

What to Know about Tax Preparation Software -

The benefits and pitfalls of electronic tools used by clergy. -

Michele M. Wales

Tax preparation software packages, such as TurboTax, TaxACT, H&R Block At Home, and CompleteTax, are becoming popular ways for individuals to prepare their own income tax returns. However, these software packages are not specifically designed to address some of the tax rules unique to ministers. [Read More](#)

Justice Department Appeals Wisconsin Clergy Housing Allowance Ruling - *Matt Branaugh*

In late November, a federal district judge ruled the housing allowance provided to clergy was unconstitutional. The judge stayed the decision, pending the appeals process. The deadline for an appeal was this coming Monday, January 27. For the time being, housing allowances are allowed in the Wisconsin district and should be designated by churches there, Hammar said. [Read Full Article](#)

CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups



North Dakota/Northern Minnesota

Thursday, February 20, 10am - 12pm

Skype

Steve Daggett, Cavalier Baptist, Cavalier, ND 701-265-8989

Central Minnesota

Monday, March 10 10am - 12pm

Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN 651-437-3965

Southern Minnesota

To Be Determined

Doug Noonkester, First Baptist Church, Sibley, IA 712-754-3310

Wisconsin

Thursday, March 6 12pm - 3pm 'Transitions'

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

To Be Determined

Mark Friday, First Baptist Church, Pekin, IL 309-347-5965

Michigan

To Be Determined

Mike Wetzig, Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI 231-853-6021

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

Please Pray For the Following Churches in Transition:**SENIOR PASTOR**

- Mason Township Baptist Church - Cassopolis, MI
- First Baptist Church - Plainwell, MI
- First Baptist Church - Bradford, IL
- First Baptist Church - Streator, IL
- Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL
- First Baptist Church - Elmhurst, IL
- First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI

STAFF POSITIONS

- Bethel Baptist Church - Jackson, MI DIRECTOR of FAMILY MINISTRIES
- First Baptist Church - Spring Lake, MI ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- Oak Grove Church - Golden Valley, MN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

CONGRATULATIONS CALVARY CHURCH AT VILLAGE GREEN, MOORHEAD, MN.

Pastor Ben Killerlain will be the new pastor at Calvary Church at Village Green and he will be starting in April. We hope to share a little more about Pastor Killerlain in the near future. Thank you for your faithful prayers.

CB North Central

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Wendy Jonasen, Administrative Assistant

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website: www.cbnorthcentral.org

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