



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel



February 2016

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

"We are an organization of churches that is committed to the mission of Christ to multiply disciple-making churches through evangelism, leadership training, and connection with other like-minded churches."

[Visit Our Website](#)

From the Director
"Love, Sweet Love"

Dionne Warwick sang a song from the 70's that said, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. That's the very thing that there's just too little of." Is that really what the worlds needs more of . . . love? Sure love is one of the deepest human needs of mankind, yet it is also a very misunderstood and misused concept. On January 13, 2016 three tickets recorded winning the 1.5 billion jackpot. Is this misunderstood love?



Dearest

Jimmy,

No words could ever express the great unhappiness I've felt since breaking off our engagement. Please say you'll take me back. No one could ever take your place in my heart, so please forgive me. I love you, I love you!

Yours

Forever,

Marie

P.S. And congratulations on winning the state lottery!!!

Many times, the love that the world offers is very conditional based on what you do for another person. In just a week we celebrate another Valentine's Day. Honestly, it is not just about all the fun romantic stuff we can get on that special day. It is hearing the three most beautiful words known in the English language, "I love you!" Listen to one of the greatest Scriptures ever written on the subject, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) Can I get personal? "How's your love life?" Now before you jump to conclusions, I am not talking about your social life. I am not even talking about love to your spouse, children, parents or anyone else. I am talking about the number one Valentine in your life . . . God!

On this Valentine's think about the PURSUER. 1 John 4:7-8 says, "Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." It doesn't say, "God loves" or even, "God is the love". God can never function contrary to His own nature. Never will He express His will toward you except that which is an expression of perfect love. It is not that God is lacking something in Himself, but that He desires to give Himself for the well-being of those loved. He is not merely benevolent. He is the

essence of benevolence itself. In the darkness of this world of sin and all the sorrows that comes, we have the assurance that a God of love rules over all.

Think about the PURSUIT . Not only is the nature of God the essence of pure love, He actually initiates and pursues a relationship with mankind. Don't forget that God did not create us just for time, but for eternity. So the purpose of our creation is to get acquainted with God and build a relationship with Him. I enjoy so much what 1 John 4:9-10 says, "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him . . . not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." The pursuit then is an expression of the Pursuer. God came to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He came to Jonah on the sinking ship. He came to Moses in the burning bush. He came to the disciples in their busy lives. He came to Paul on the road to Damascus. The pursuit, the ongoing process of establishing that love relationship with mankind, is changing the world. Watch out! He may just catch you.

Think about that you are the PURSUED . Once the Pursuer initiates a love relationship, catches us in our sinful state, then He expects something from us . . . to love Him back. That's what Moses said in Deuteronomy 30:19-20, "Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life. . ." Just think, everything about knowing and experiencing God depends on the quality of your love life. It is that simple. He has initiated a relationship, drawn us to Himself and now He wants us to respond back. It is what lovers want, right?



Dr. Henry Blackaby wrote a rather piercing statement about our relationship to God . . .

"Everything in your Christian life, everything about knowing Him and experiencing Him, everything about knowing His will depends on the quality of your love relationship to God. If that is not right, nothing in your life will be right."

Well said Henry.

Pat Phinney
Regional Director

PASTORS'

C O N F E R E N C E

EQUIPPING PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS

MAY 23-27, 2016 · CHICAGO

It's time to start planning for the next MOODY PASTOR'S CONFERENCE. For the line up of speakers, musicians, and the 2016 schedule [click on the picture above](#) to go directly to the site.

Early Bird Information is HERE! [Click here](#) for more information.



Behind the Scenes at WorldVenture

By John Benza, VP Finance and Administration

As I begin my fifth year of ministry on staff at WorldVenture, I reflect on the past four years and look forward to the future that lies before us. The same energy, excitement and enthusiasm that brought me to the VP of Finance and Administration position still empowers me to press onward.

I've spent a lot of time listening to staff and International Workers, I've learned a lot about our business processes, routines, workflows, organizational culture and the financial challenges of WorldVenture. I am deeply impressed with the quality, commitment and character of our HQ staff and International Workers. Godly men and women that are deeply committed to their individual ministries and the expansion of the Kingdom for Jesus' Glory.

WorldVenture has been modernizing its systems and processes over the past three years. It has been a season to rethink all aspects of what we are doing, why we are doing it and ultimately the desired outcomes we hope to prayerfully achieve. It is hard work. Internally we describe the process as "flying the plane while simultaneously rebuilding the plane - all the while trying to remain airborne". I think that analogy accurately describes the challenges, difficulties and occasional frustrations associated with a comprehensive "rethink" of our operations. This is a huge undertaking but the fruits of which will support the next generation of ministries and workers - some of which have already taken off.

WorldVenture is filled with diverse ministries ranging from church planting and traditional leadership development in a seminary, to medical care in a hospital to the sponsorship of children to replanting a national forest and even a coffee distribution ministry. As we continue to expand ministry opportunities to all within the church (a model we call 360-Missions), our systems and processes need to be dynamic to support all aspects of His church in action. We are using state-of-the-art technologies; modern business processes; leading management principles and compliant regulatory practices to provide the flexible support needed. In the midst of all this change is the ever present human desire for stability and consistency. A dynamic tension that wrestles between the need to press forward and the longing to catch one's breath. We all know the plane must continue moving to sustain flight, but we recognize that the rushing winds of change add another burden to the spiritual battle of ministry.

"In the midst of all this change is the ever present human desire

for stability and consistency. A dynamic tension that wrestles between the need to press forward and the longing to catch one's breath."

May we continue to seek Him in the midst of our daily walk. May His peace permeate the din that surrounds us. May His Spirit sustain us, empower us and deliver us for His glory. May we give thanks for His willingness to use us to build His bride - The Church.

*By John Benza, VP Finance and Administration
WorldVenture*

Who is WorldVenture ?

WorldVenture is a Christian missionary sending agency. We are a network of passionate people connected in the common cause of seeing the Great Commission of Jesus Christ fulfilled.

Our people serve in 63 countries working in the arts, media, business, education, family and medicine, church outreach, science and agriculture, and government . We exist to see people of all nations transformed by Jesus Christ in partnership with his church.

Pastor's Wives . . . Just for You **"Celebrate God's Love for You"**

I recently had one of those moments that may have seemed quite ordinary from the outside but it is one I will remember for a very long time. I'm quite sure you have all had moments like that. It was a three generation sewing day. Our goal was to make curtains for Nora's bedroom. We had already chosen the fabric weeks earlier. This was the day we were going to complete the project. Nora (9 yrs. old) has done a few projects with me on the sewing machine. She likes to design and then make clothes for her stuffed animals. She wanted to help sew the curtain. We were quite the team - Andrea (our daughter), Nora, Lincoln (6 yr. old brother) and me. Lincoln and I were in charge of ironing. He thought that was great! I learned to move my hands very quickly as he controlled the iron. Nora did most of the sewing with the guidance of her mom. As I watched I witnessed a great deal of love and patience from Andrea to Nora. Were the seams perfect? No. Did Andrea criticize? Of course not. Did she lovingly give

suggestions that were meant to help Nora learn? Yes she did. I saw such a clear picture of love! I couldn't help but think about God's love for me. Am I perfect? No. Does God criticize? Of course not. Does He lovingly give suggestions through His Word that are meant to help me learn? Yes He does.

February is the month we all spend a lot of time focusing on love because we are thinking about Valentine's Day. I want to encourage you to spend some time reflecting on and then celebrating God's love for you. Let's pray that for our husbands as well. Here are some verses to get us started

"I pray that my husband will never forget that You, God, demonstrated Your love toward him, in that while he was still a sinner, Christ died for him."

Romans 5:8

"I pray that my husband will know that You, God, have loved him with an everlasting love and with loving kindness You have drawn him."

Jeremiah 31:3

"I pray that my husband realizes that You, God, will rejoice over him with gladness. That You will quiet him in Your love and that You will rejoice over him with singing."

Zephaniah 3:17

"I pray that my husband loves You, God, because You first loved him."

1 John 4:19

We will be having a sleepover with all four of our grandchildren over Valentine's weekend. This is something we have done over the past several years. It gives our children and their spouses a chance to celebrate the holiday and spend some uninterrupted time together. We, of course, LOVE having time with our grandkids. We usually plan some fun Valentine activities, have a special dinner and eat lots of snacks! This year I think we may be taking them to a movie as well. I recently ran across this recipe that I plan to make. It sounds like it would be yummy and the picture certainly makes it look festive!



Valentine's Day S'mores Popcorn

5 - 6 cups popcorn
½ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
½ cup M&M's
½ cup Golden Grahams cereal
½ cup mini marshmallows

Spread popcorn over a cookie sheet. Melt chocolate and drizzle over popcorn. You can use a spoon or pour into a piping bag. Immediately toss candy, marshmallows, and cereal on top. Allow chocolate to set for 30 minutes or place in refrigerator for 10 minutes. [Click Here to Print](#)

Sounds pretty simple. (Remember - I haven't actually tried this yet.) My guess is that one batch will definitely NOT be enough.



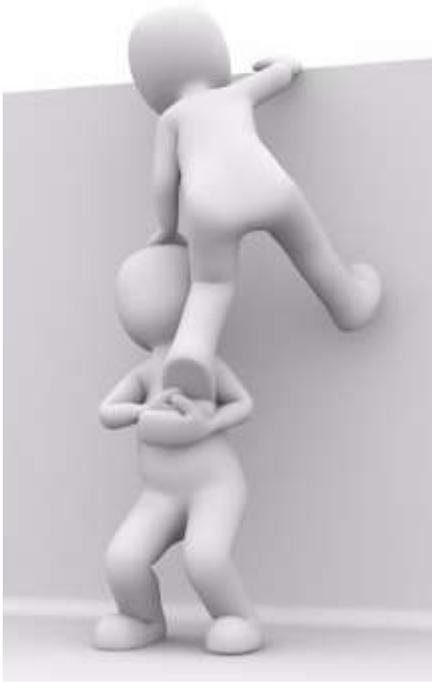
Have a wonderful Valentine's Day as you spread your love and God's love around.

*Karen Phinney
Wife of Regional Director*

Thoughts From A Cluster Leader

"What Is Our Purpose?"

"The Michigan CB cluster has been meeting once a quarter, usually at either Cornerstone University or the neighboring campus of Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary. We begin at 10:00am and finish our time with lunch at the Cornerstone dining commons. Each meeting is led by a different member of our cluster so the leadership responsibility is shared.



We really wrestled last year with our purpose. None of us needs another event on our calendars. When it came down to nuts and bolts, Nate Wagner (Sparta Baptist) summarized our discussion with two defining words: Soul Care. We discuss books and other topics of mutual interest and concern. January 19th Walt Walkowski (Bethel Baptist, Jackson, MI) shared his investment in leadership development using a CBNW training tool called Relational Elder Training. He is leading twenty-four men through a forty-three week journey exploring what it means to serve on the lead team of a local church.

But the heartbeat of our time together is the mutual encouragement and prayer. This is a safe group with whom to talk about the things that keep us up nights. Above everything else, this is what drives our commitment to attend. We really need each other. Soul Care is the critical core around which our fellowship functions."

Leo Cumings, Michigan Co- Cluster Leader

Youth Pastor to Youth Pastor

"What's Your Philosophy of Ministry?"

I was so excited to get the "call" - a church actually wanted "me" to become their youth pastor. I played lots of games that first year in youth ministry. I taught every lesson I knew. I did everything I thought everybody wanted me to do ... as a good youth pastor. At the end of that first year of vocational youth ministry, I ended up in the hospital. No, youth ministry did not put me there...at least I don't think so. It was actually my appendix. Though I felt better after a couple of days, I remained in the hospital for almost a week. Apparently I still had an infection and the doctors were waiting to see if they needed to remove part of my large intestine due to my appendix rotting. God knew I needed the time to rest and reflect on the past year of ministry. My appendectomy turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Laying there in the hospital bed I realized that after a year of doing youth ministry, I was not really sure what I had accomplished. I was tired and worn out. I remember thinking "if this is what youth ministry is all about, I am not sure I want to continue long

term." There wasn't much I could do confined to a hospital bed, so I began thinking & reading, reading & thinking. "Why am I doing this?" "What am I supposed to be doing as a youth pastor?"

I came across Mark 1:35-39. In the days leading up to Mark 1:35, Jesus had spent His days dealing with people: teaching in the synagogue, healing various diseases, & casting out demons. That seemed to sum up his life & Jesus was becoming very popular. Then Mark tells us in verse 35 that the next morning Jesus got up early to pray. The disciples found Him & wanted to schedule His day once again full of teachings, healings, & exorcisms. What the disciples didn't understand was that Jesus' agenda was far bigger than setting up shop here on earth in Capernaum. Then, in verse 38, Jesus told His disciples that they were leaving Capernaum & going to other villages. Then Jesus added these words, "That is why I have come."

Jesus knew why He was here. He had an agenda, an overriding purpose to ministry that went beyond what people could see. The focus of this article is not to elaborate on Jesus' grand purpose during His three plus years of public ministry (that would be the subject of several articles). Rather, I wish to highlight the importance of knowing your purpose & understanding why you do what you do in ministry. It is what I call your philosophy of ministry.

"I wish to highlight the importance of knowing your purpose & understanding why you do what you do in ministry."

A philosophy of ministry is the "why's" behind the "what's." Everyone has a reason behind what they do, even if they are not conscious of it. Why have a youth musical? Why visit teens at school during lunch? Why have a youth group? Should we play a game or play some worship songs? These are philosophy of ministry questions. Every day, you and I are forced to make decisions about how to spend our time, money, relationships, etc. There will always be more people needs to be met than there will be time to meet them. What is the purpose behind what is done? What are the priorities that govern which ministry opportunities are taken and which ones are left undone? Who decides what the main purposes of youth ministry should be and who defines the priorities that should govern them? Without a well thought out philosophy of ministry, we will unconsciously shape youth ministry around the expectations of others (parents, teens, congregation, Sr. Pastors) or around the expectations we place on ourselves. Without a philosophy of ministry committed to the purpose and priorities of God, we will naturally gravitate toward serving the purposes and priorities of men.

If you have spent some time thinking through your biblical philosophy of ministry, I would encourage you to go back and review, tweak, & remind yourself again. I have found that my mind and heart are leaky. Just because I have put something in my mind & heart doesn't mean it is still there. I have to constantly guard my heart from truth leaking out. When it comes to the pressures of ministry, we can easily & quickly fall back into a people pleasing mode without even realizing it. I have to remind myself regularly why I am doing what I am doing. I would encourage you to do the same.



If you haven't given much thought to the why's behind the what's, here are some helpful Q's to get you started. These are the kind of Q's that help me think through why I do what I do as a youth pastor.

- What does the Bible say about how to please God?
- What is your biblical responsibility as a pastor?
- How did Jesus do ministry?
- What were Jesus' priorities that governed His earthly ministry?
- What did Jesus value when it came to people?
- How did Jesus view & use the O.T.?
- What role did prayer play in the life of Jesus?
- Who did Jesus spend most of His time with?
- How did Jesus' cultural context influence how He did ministry?
- What were the priorities & values of the disciples as they continued the ministry Jesus started in the book of Acts & the Epistles?
- When is it okay to say 'no' in ministry? Did Jesus ever say no?
- What is a spiritually healthy youth group?
- What does a spiritually healthy youth group look like?
- How important are ministry leaders to the life & health of the youth ministry?
- What is a disciple?
- What does a mature disciple of Jesus look like?
- How should ministry principles be applied to today's youth culture?
- What is success & who defines what is considered successful?

These are just a few of the many kinds of Q's that you can ask yourself regarding why you do what you do as a youth pastor. I trust these Q's will help you in thinking through your philosophy of ministry.

Someday I want to hear God say "Well done my good & faithful servant." That is my desire for myself & it is my desire for you. I want to encourage you to stay faithful to God's Word, to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, & to lovingly shepherd the hearts & minds that God has entrusted to your care.

Matthew D. Slippy, D.Min.
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries
Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA
319-396-3233 cbym@juno.com

-CBAmerica Chaplaincy

"A Lesson on Personal Safety, From a WW2 Survivor"

"We sat down at her small kitchen table. I started to speak, but she raised her hand for me to stop. She looked me in the eyes and said: "You are going to Afghanistan; it is a dangerous place. Remember tree (sic) things." She held up her thumb and two fingers in southern European style. "Number one: . . ." [Read More](#)

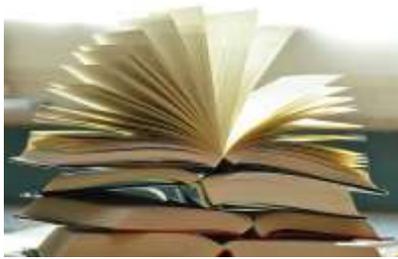


Andy Meverden
Director of Chaplaincy, CBAmerica

2016
HENRY C. SPICER
SCHOLARSHIP

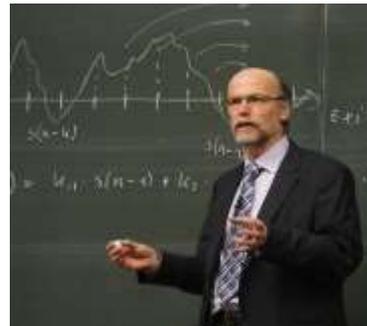
For
Graduating
High School

Seniors



The Henry C. 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 attender of a CBNC affiliated church. Four \$500 scholarships were awarded in 2015.



For more information and an application, visit our [website](#). More questions? Contact our office by phone 763-205-9330 or email wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1st.



Sharing Church Space . Wasteful "What-If's" . Ask for Help: Management Roundup

Trends, tips, ideas, and stats to help church leaders manage well this week. - Compiled by *Matt Branaugh*, Church Law & Tax, January 2016 [Read More](#)

Seven Social Media Tips to Begin the Year

- by *Jonathan Howe*, ThomRainer.com, January 14, 2016 [Read More](#)

Three Common Idols in Churches

. . . "What Hezekiah did next must have been really unexpected and really controversial. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses made-intentionally. Not by accident. Not "I was carrying it and it fell." To break bronze takes some effort."

- by *Eric Geiger*, ThomRainer.com [Read More](#)

Leading People to Be Driven By God's Purpose

"Every member of your congregation is driven by something, and you need to discover what those forces are in order to better disciple those under your care. [Read here](#) about five common "drives." - by Rick Warren, ChurchLeaders.com

BREAKING -

IRS Drops Proposed Changes to Substantiate Rules for Charitable Giving

"Public input and opposition from leaders succeed in having regulation withdrawn."
-by Samuel Ogles, ChurchLawandTax.com, January 2016 [Read More](#)

Please Pray for the Following Churches in Transition:



Senior Pastor

Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL
First Baptist Church - Lake Crystal, MN
First Baptist Church - Pekin, IL
First Baptist Church - Parkers Prairie, MN
First Baptist Church - Detroit Lakes, MN
Oak Park Community - Blaine, MN
First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI
Squaw Creek Baptist Church - Marion, IA
Bazetta Baptist Church - Warren, OH
Lakeside Church - Worthington, MN

Youth Pastor

First Baptist Church, Long Prairie, MN

CB North Central Cluster Groups

North Dakota/Northern MN

To Be Decided
Steve Daggett, Cavalier Baptist, Cavalier, ND
701-265-8989

Central Minnesota

Monday, February 8, 10am to Noon
Reading the book "A Long Obedience in the Same
Direction" -*by Eugene Peterson*
Meeting at River of Life Church, Hastings, MN
Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN
651-437-3965



Wisconsin

Thursday, February 11, Noon to 3 pm (Bring your own lunch)
Security Issues for Churches
Meeting at First Baptist, New Richmond, with Kevin Morris
Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI
715-723-1054

Illinois

Tuesday, April 26th , 10:30-1:30
Meeting at Living Hope Community Church in Bartonville, IL
Art Georges, Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL
309-633-0028 art@livinghopecentral.org

Michigan

To Be Decided
Leo Cumings, Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson, MI
517-416-1247

For more information on a Cluster Group in your area please contact the CBNC office.



CB North Central

PO Box 490441, Blaine, MN 55449

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

patp@cbnorthcentral.org

Pat's Office: 952-322-7173

Pat's Cell: 952-500-3743

Wendy Jonasen, Administrative Assistant

wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org

763-205-9330

Office Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 8am - 1pm

Stay Connected

www.cbnorthcentral.org

Like us on Facebook 
