

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

January 2012

SAVE THE DATES!

Pastors' Seminar begins with lodging Wed., April 25. Seminar: April 26th.
Pastors and Wives Retreat begins with dinner Thursday, April 26 and ends with checkout Saturday, April 28.

NCCBA Annual Meeting, April 27, 2012.

Where: **The Abbey Resort** on Lake Geneva, Fontana Wisconsin.

Details and registration on website soon and coming to your mailbox.

"Get on board . . . or get left behind!" That is what was presented to me at a recent Facebook marketing seminar that I attended in the Twin Cities. The problem I faced was that the social media powertrain was moving so fast, I didn't know how or where to get on. Maybe you have faced this same dilemma with the social media challenge in your own church.

I left the seminar determined to "get on board", but now I need the right people within our region to help get the job done. That is why I am taking a moment to approach you. I see the tremendous need to better market ourselves as a region and I believe planning, developing and designing a NCCBA business Facebook page is essential. Pastor, I know that within each of your churches there could be at least one or multiple people who have the giftedness to assist the region in putting together a Facebook marketing plan that will fit our specific needs. I am excited about managing the Facebook page on a daily basis as we address our current social

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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

media needs, but I am seeking assistance in the building stages. Here is my question. Are you willing to put in your church bulletin the following announcement for a month in order to get such help for this project? I would be personally grateful if you could do this and then we can see where God will lead to meet this growing need.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Facebook phenomenon: 500 million active users and counting! According to Facebook's pressroom, the statistics are staggering. The NCCBA regional office is seeking a couple of gifted individuals who have experience in developing a business Facebook page. We believe this social media instrument will be a great way to bring our people together within our region. If you have this kind of expertise and are willing to help in this short term project, please call Pat Phinney your NCCBA Regional Director at (952)322-7173 or email at patnccba@trivest.net. Thanks for your help.



Thanks so much, pastor, for being willing to do this. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

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

patnccba@trivest.net

From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

Lord willing as you are reading this my wife and I will be in Israel, embarking on a Holy Land tour. Amazingly this trip was a gift from a person in our church. It was a trip that almost didn't happen. My family and I went home to Michigan for a quick trip after Christmas. We were on our way back and just crossed the Michigan border and were stopping for lunch when we received a call. It was one of those calls that you think you will ignore till you get done eating. Problem was my phone rang, then my wife's rang and then mine rang again and then you think I guess I better get

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

**New Staff Background
Checks**

NCCBA is now able to perform background checks

that. So I answered the phone and it was my aunt and she dropped a bomb, "I'm up here at the hospital your dad is in the ER. They aren't sure what's wrong and I will keep you updated when we hear something."

At this point my mind was going in a million different directions and I had a million questions. Should we go back? Is he going to die? What about church services Sunday? Is it really that serious? So 15 minutes or so went by and I got a call from my sister saying that my dad had been acting really disoriented and confused that morning and his blood pressure was sky high and he had had a couple seizures. The last seizure he stopped breathing and they had to put him on a ventilator. And they think he might have had a stroke or was having bleeding on the brain. At this point it was an easy choice. So I called the chairman of the deacon board and told him what was going on and he told me to turn around and go back no questions asked.

We got to the hospital, and I have been at the side of hundreds of hospital beds with people but I was not ready for this one. This one was completely different. I got there and there was my dad on a ventilator, looking so vulnerable. They were running all kinds of tests and had no clue what was going on. All they said is he was very sick and in critical condition. We left the hospital late Friday night with many unknowns. On Saturday morning we got there and the nurses said they wanted us to start to talk to him as they were going to try to get him off the ventilator and wake him up. I left the room for 15 minutes and I came back in and I saw my dad with no tubes down his throat, eyes opened, and he gave me a "Go Blue" son.

Now I knew we were moving in the right direction. It seemed like they did every test possible and never found anything seriously wrong. We left on Sunday morning to go home and they eventually sent him home on Tuesday. There was one thing that really hit me hard through all of this. At one point after my dad was out of ICU and in a step down bed, it was just my oldest sister and I in his room and he looked at us and said,

"One day you guys are going to have to be strong and hunker down because I am not going to make it."

These were sobering words for me to hear. Up to this point our dad had been the strongest man I have ever known. Up to this

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 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

point he never had anything seriously wrong with him other than things like a cold or the flu. And now out of the blue, here he is telling us he understands the reality that he is in the latter phases of his life and he understands his mortality and that we must also. That really made me think and ask some questions. Am I doing a good job as a pastor helping people get ready to die and am I helping the people who love them get ready to say good bye? Do I help them have an urgency to enjoy and grow in their relationship with those they love, while there is still the chance to do so? And do I realize this and do I take enough time to do this?

If my dad did die could I say that I loved him all I could, that I said all I needed to say, and that I held nothing back from having the relationship with him that I should have? And ever deeper than that, the question that really came to my mind is, do I really consider every day a gift of God and make the most of it? I was reminded of this as we began our trip home and as our middle child said, "Dad you always say we will be here one minute and the next minute we won't. That's true for granddad too."

I thought to myself, out of the mouth of a child. Thanks daughter, for reminding me this! This is true for me and for you also. The reality is one minute we will be here and the next minute we will be gone. When that becomes reality what will we leave behind? What will be our legacy? What will they say our life was about? The reality is that some of us reading this right now might not see 2013 and if that is the case will we have made our lives count. I know it wears us down to continue to run the race. But I encourage you all to press on and to run the race today and this year like it may be our last. If it is, at that point it will have been worth it all!

Doug Noonkester, FBC, Sibley Iowa

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR:

We're all familiar with the frightening statistics on how many teens walk away from the church after High School. It's an even harder reality when they are not statistics, but students that we have invested the last several years with. I've read many articles and blog posts over the years suggesting reasons why, and ideas for how to develop a ministry that will help them transition into the

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.

larger church body or into a young adult ministry. When they fail, we wonder where we failed, or what part of our student ministry program is flawed.

I have become convinced that the solution is not a stronger "transition" piece in our ministry, and it's not about developing a stronger young adult ministry. It's actually much simpler than that (though it isn't easy). I think they leave the church because they were never really part of it. They were part of "youth group" (or whatever cool name you use). Have you ever stopped to consider that the way we "do ministry" within our student ministries is radically different from the way the church body as a whole functions?

For instance, we do outreach events for teens that involve fun events at which the gospel is presented. How often do we see these types of events happening among the adults? We challenge our teens to spend time in the word and in prayer daily, but are our adults held to the same standard? We engage in interactive worship experiences and give relevant messages to the youth, but do we engage our adults the same way? We take teens on mission trips and participate in service projects and teach that as Christians this is what we are called to do... but yet we have a church full of adults who have not participated in such a project since they were teens themselves. On the whole, the church that we prepare teens for is often nothing like the church that we then want them to "transition" into.

So how do we solve the problem? The answer is not a new program. It's not enough to change from "student ministry" to "family ministry". It's simply coming up with a plan and vision for ministry that is consistent between the youth and adult ministries. A pastor friend of mine understands this well, he commonly says it this way: "The key to a healthy youth ministry is a healthy adult ministry".

So how about your church? Do you have a consistent way of doing ministry throughout your adult and student ministries? It may be worth taking the time to gather your church staff and make sure you agree not just on goals and values, but also on how you do ministry.

Andy Polheber, State Youth Fellowship of Illinois

HENRY SPICER SCHOLARSHIP

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 NCCBA affiliated church. The amount and number of scholarships varies from year to year. For more information and an application go to our [website](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298.



Happy New Year from our Chaplaincy family! According to the Mayan calendar this is the big year. USA newspaper has listed the ten best places to leave from when this world ends December 21st. I am with the disciple John when he said in Revelation "Even so come Lord Jesus". It would be great if this is the year. We still have a lot of work to do reaching others for Christ.

Here are the stories of two of our retired chaplains who have not stopped serving but have almost picked up the pace. The first is Dr. Phil Adams. He worked with the Civil Air Patrol for years, was a hospital chaplain, served as an Army chaplain during the Korean War. He pastored churches for many years and is now retired. But at the age of 91 says he is as busy as ever. He is a greeter at Focus on the Family where he volunteers. He serves "Love Your Neighbor Inc. Ministries" as a Bible Class teacher at Assisted Living Homes and is on the visitation team of his local church and preaches on occasion. Phil makes his home in Colorado Springs, CO. He still makes time to work out at the local YMCA, a habit he began as a 12 year old boy newsboy in Houston when he was given a free membership. Old preachers never die they just go out to pastor!

The second is retired Army Chaplain Charles Currie. Charles makes his home near Fort Campbell in Clarksville, TN. In his Christmas letter he tells how "it was possible to make a short-term mission trip to Nepal in October with an evangelistic party of about 19. We found the door to the Christian witness open! We were able to

hold worship services, street-meetings, and to distribute about 1000 Nepalese Bibles to churches, pastors, and individuals on the street. We went from Kathmandu, Hetauda, and Biratnagar on the extreme southeastern border between Nepal and India. When my life is finished and I come before the Lord I hope to report to Him, 'Lord you commanded us to take the gospel into the world. I got as far as I could.'" Charles is 85 and this is one of many mission trips he has taken since retiring from chaplaincy.

I am reminded of the words of Jesus when He told his followers "to work for the night is coming when no man can work." Keep working for the Lord this New Year. If you want to know more about chaplaincy you can contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or 218-776-2813. Blessings!

In His grip,

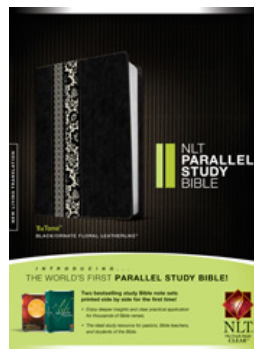
*Allen Russell, Director of Chaplaincy
CBAmerica
PO Box 68, Clearbrook, MN 56634
218-776-2813*

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, they are plans for good and not for disaster to give you a future and a hope!"

Bibles At Case Lot Prices

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

Retiring After 53 Years:

(Written by John Wendel, November 16, 2011)



Time marches on. It's interesting as I look back over time. It was 53 years ago today (Sunday, Nov. 16, 1958) that I entered pastoral ministry. This Saturday my church will hold a retirement dinner on behalf of Grace and me. Our entire family, all 20 of us are here, and will be able to attend the dinner.

We put off celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary for a year until our two missionary families would be here this summer from Bolivia and Spain.

When I announced my retirement to my church last August I told them that I would not be buying a rocking chair - instead I bought a round trip ticket to India - my 8th in 15 years.

I left for New Delhi on Oct. 13 and arrived several hours ahead of my ministry partner who is from India. 30 days of preaching and teaching lay ahead of us. God has blessed the ministry over the years with the establishment of 180 churches over a widespread area with 4,000 people responding to the gospel and now in those churches.

Our travels included train, plane, auto - even auto rickshaw - always an interesting experience. However, one conference was held in what I believe to be the pollution capitol of the world which resulted in my having to return to the USA several days early - a visit to an Indian hospital was the first medical intervention - my visit to our family doctor at the beginning of this week has proved to be very helpful. To give you an idea of the pollution - I would look into the sky on a cloudless day and not be able to locate the sun.

Beginning December 1st, first day of retirement, Grace and I plan to devote our time to family - especially 10 grandchildren - before 7 of them along with parents leave the USA for their areas of ministry. Our 8 year old granddaughter asked me to bring home a monkey for her - if not, then bring home many pictures of monkeys - which I have done. One interesting experience was to see an elephant pulling a wagon along a 6 lane divided highway in New Delhi. Our worst rush hour traffic in Chicago depicts normal traffic patterns in India - and tempers do not flare, they take it all in stride.

Grace and I are reading NEARING HOME - LIFE, FAITH AND FINISHING WELL by Billy Graham who just turned 93 years of age. It's interesting that in 1943 (while we were still children) following his graduation from Wheaton College that he and Ruth lived on Clay Street in Hinsdale (one block from my home - I didn't know him then, and he still doesn't

know me.) His doctor was Dr. Richard Matthies (uncle of Bill Bennethum.) Perhaps you, along with me, were also patients of Dr. Matthies - a small world indeed. Hinsdale and Dr. Matthew are referred to on pp. 81-82 and pp. 90-91 of Billy Graham's autobiography, JUST AS I AM.

Well, it is good to be home, and I know that our lives will continue to be involved in ministry for Christ and His Kingdom - until that day we enter heaven's gate as is true for ALL who trust Christ as their Savior and Lord.

To God be the glory!

John Wendel, Retired Pastor

Forest Glen Community Church, Chicago, Illinois

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATES!

NCCBA Pastors' Seminar, April 26

NCCBA Pastors & Wives Retreat, April 26-28

NCCBA Annual Meeting, April 27

The Abbey Resort, Fontana, Wisconsin, on Lake Geneva

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

East Illinois Cluster

January 25, noon, Noelridge Park Church, Cedar Rapids

Contact Jay Jentink, 319-396-3233

Wisconsin/NE Minnesota-Retreat

January 22-23

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

Illinois Cluster-Retreat

January 17-18, 2012

Contact Scott Boerkel, 309-454-3833

SW Minnesota/N Iowa

February 14, 11 AM

Contact Doug Noonkester, 712-754-3310

The list of Pastor Cluster Leaders on our website can be viewed by clicking [here](#)

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
- Cornerstone Community Church--Manchester IA SENIOR PASTOR
- Wildwood Baptist Church--East Moline IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Forest Glen Community Church--Chicago IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Pekin IL-- CHURCH PLANTER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)

Thank you for your prayers!

Chris Garrett is the new Worship Pastor at First Baptist Church, Pekin, Illinois.

Dave McIntosh is the new Senior Pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Muscatine, Iowa.

Contact Our Office

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

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