

# North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

July 2012

**From our Regional Director:**

## The Price of Real Freedom

"Freedom is not cheap!" These words were strewn throughout Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. where I once visited. The solemn invitation was given for all who dared to walk the hollowed grounds, "Honor - Remember - Explore". I recall walking for hours among those fallen soldiers and just weeping. My heart was broken for the many who gave their lives on our behalf. As we celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this month, let us not forget the costly price of our freedom. The cost I speak of is not to be measured in dollars and cents, but rather in freedom that has been bought with the price of a land ravished by war, of burning homes, destroyed cities and the blood of its people. The words of freedom; liberty; justice for all; tranquility; peace and a host of others have come with a price to pay. These are words that come to us from history drenched in blood.

Think about it. In the American Revolution, we suffered 4,000 casualties. The War of 1812: 2,000. The Indian Wars: 1,000. The Mexican War: 13,000. The Civil War: 497,000. The Spanish-American War: 11,000. World War I: 116,000. World War II: 406,000. The Korean Conflict: 55,000. The Vietnam War: 109,000.

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### Natural Church Development

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The Gulf War: 9,000. The Iraq War: 4,770. So far in the Afghanistan War: 940. Isn't that amazing? These conflicts have accounted for well over a million casualties. These men and women died so you and I could enjoy freedom.

As we celebrate freedom this month, let's honor those who have paid a high price for the true meaning of our nation's Independence Day. Let us also be thankful for the freedom we have been given by God through His Son, Jesus Christ. No combined riches in this world could buy the freedom God gave to us. No united forces of the nations of the earth have the strength to deliver us from the bondage and death that comes with sin. When Christ cried out on Calvary's cross, "It is finished!" sin's curse was conquered. The ultimate price for real freedom was paid.

Paul said in Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." The ultimate expression of showing our freedom in Christ is seen by the way we treat each other in the family of God. Paul goes on to communicate this in verses 13 and 14. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself.""

Freedom in Christ is a free gift for all to receive, but it is not cheap. It is the most priceless possession man can ever know. Let us celebrate this glorious freedom with grateful hearts for the One who emancipated us and for the countless others who gave their lives to guarantee that marvelous freedom.

I resonate with what the late Lyndon B. Johnson said, "This, then, is the state of the union: free and restless, growing and full of hope. So it was in the beginning. So it shall always be, while God is willing, and we are strong enough to keep the faith."

*Pat Phinney, Regional Director*  
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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](http://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 for member churches. Call the office, 715-538-2298.

**From the TRUTH PROJECT: "Does God Exist?"**

## ***From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS***

**How a Christian should view politics?** Here are some principles which I think should help us in this election year.

**1) Be a one issue voter.** Yes, you read that correctly. There is one paramount issue that trumps all others--the sanctity of life at all stages of life. There is no other issue if the sanctity of life is not upheld.

I refuse to vote for anyone who is not solidly pro-life. It does not matter that one pro-death candidate is better than another on some other issue. I am glad that in Abraham Lincoln's day there were one-issue voters who sought above all else to remove the blight of slavery in our land. We must be vigilant on this and never, never compromise, even if our vote is "wasted" on an "unelectable" candidate. If we compromise on this, do you think that we will ever see our laws allowing abortion on demand changed? If we compromise, what do you think will happen to our senior citizens as health care costs spiral upward? No, someone must stand in the gap, and that someone, dear Christian, is you. You might say that you don't need to be a one issue voter on so-called minor offices. But you do! I learned this lesson the hard way. I helped a neighbor a few years ago in her campaign for the city council. She was a great alderwoman, but I had failed to ask her about her position on abortion. This year, based on her effectiveness in city government, she is running for Congress as a very pro-abortion candidate. I regret having helped her. Be a one issue voter.

**2) Be an informed voter.** The only way that one can know the candidates for office is to find out as much as possible. Far too many people ignore politics until the last week of an election cycle. By then, the full machine of political spin makes it impossible to know where a candidate really stands. Even if it is boring, it is important to read political platforms. The devil, they say, is in the details, and voters must read the fine print.

**3) Be an unselfish voter.** Sometimes we want to vote for a candidate because he or she favors policies which will personally benefit us, even though those policies are not good for the rest of



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](http://www.trueu.org) and check out: The Toughest Test in College.

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**Go to College at Your Home Church**

(Accreditation by [DETC](http://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

the nation. John Adams, our second President, wrote, "To expect self-denial from men, when they have a majority in their favor and consequently power to gratify themselves is to disbelieve all history and universal experience; it is to disbelieve Revelation and the Word of God, which informs us the heart is deceitful in all things and desperately wicked." This is sound reasoning, and it is why I believe that everyone should pay at least some taxes. Look beyond your own selfish, personal interests and vote for candidates who will be cautious and prudent in spending the peoples' money. The government does not have any money. When the government spends money, it is because the government has either borrowed it (postponing the day of reckoning) or has taken it from someone else on threat of jail or fines for failure to pay. Candidates who regard as precious every penny taken from the work and investments of the people will not become thieves.

**4) Be a theologically aware voter.** There are two important principles here. First, while no candidate is perfect, the more morally flawed a person is in his/her personal life, the greater the likelihood that the candidate will be inadequate to resist the temptations that come with public service. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul, "if a man cannot rule his own house, how can he rule in larger spheres?"

Second, it is tempting, particularly by political conservatives, to want to get rid of all government whatsoever. The more that government encroaches on personal liberties, the more that we see so much waste and inefficiency, the more that we are attracted to the notion that less government everywhere would be better. It is likewise tempting, particularly by political liberals, to see corruption in business and nearly all commerce. The more that the marketplace dominates, the more liberals see destruction of the environment, corruption and thievery, and a lack of compassion for the poor.

Both the political conservative and political liberal are theologically naïve. If government disappeared altogether, we would have chaos. The fact is that people in the marketplace are depraved and will be evil. On the other hand, the liberal thinks that everyone is corrupt EXCEPT the government! The liberal wants the long arm of government intervention to reach into every sphere, but he never thinks that perhaps the most evil sphere of all is the one doing the reaching.

office at 715-538-2298 or by email [nccba@trivest.net](mailto: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](http://www.cbamerica.org) or toll-free 888-366-3010 in CASE LOTS ONLY

### Health Insurance Option

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

These ideas—that less government is always better or that more government is always better—ignore the plain facts of human depravity. James Madison, our fourth President, observed, "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary." Be a theologically aware voter.

**5) Be a non-utopian voter.** Politicians promise what they can never deliver . . . up to the kingdom of God itself. Then, when those promises are unrealized, they say, "Well, if we just had more time and spent more on our policies, we would have reached our promises." No utopian vision will be realized until Jesus returns. Events external to the politician and his own missteps make utopia unachievable. Consider the following campaign mottoes and what happened:

*1916 Woodrow Wilson "He Kept Us Out of War"*

Result: In the next two years, 116,728 Americans killed in WW1

*1928 Herbert Hoover "A Chicken in Every Pot and a Car in Every Garage"*

Result: The Great Depression

*1976 Jimmy Carter "Not Just Peanuts"*

Result: High Inflation, interest rates, and demoralization

*1988 George H.W. Bush "Kinder, Gentler Nation"*

Result: Not so kind and gentle to Iraq

*1992 Bill Clinton "Putting People First"*

Result: Monica Lewinsky

*2000 George W. Bush "Real Plans for Real People"*

Result: Plans set aside due to 9/11

What this is means is simply not to get too excited about any politician. It's fine to be enthusiastic about one's political preferences, but be careful not to have messianic expectations, or you will be disappointed. The more grandiose the promises that a candidate makes, the greater our skepticism should be about their fulfillment. God alone is qualified to build His kingdom.

**6) Be a voter!** Elections, especially in recent times, have hinged on just a few votes. If all evangelicals voted, we could affect huge changes in the outcome. Yet many people are not even registered to vote. Given that God calls us to honor our authorities, given that we in this country have the privilege of choosing those authorities, given the importance of the issues of the day, given our responsibilities before God, WE MUST VOTE. No matter how

inconvenient, no matter how sick of it all that you are, no matter what hindrances are placed in your way, please vote. In our country, the people get the government that they deserve because they elect them. When we opt out of the process by not voting, we are asking God to do what He already has committed to us as a sacred trust. God sovereignly determines leaders, but He's given us a moral obligation to work out His will by voting.

**7) Be an unworried voter.** The issues are great, and the stakes are high in the upcoming election (they always are). The weight of significance bears down on us, and we can become worried and filled with anxiety. However, there is no need for worry. "The Most high God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will" (Daniel 5:21b; see also Daniel 4:25, 32). God wants us to exercise our stewardship; He does not expect us to be God. So, enjoy this election year in a way that most political pundits cannot. They fret and worry to the point of destroying their health, thinking that this world absolutely needs their guy or all is finished. It is the Christian alone who has the proper perspective—doing what God has given him to do and then trusting His Lord for working His will and bringing glory to Himself.

Pray daily, vote, and trust the Lord, Who alone can build His kingdom,

*Scott Boerckel, Illinois Cluster*

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## **YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR:**

### **You Can't Afford Not to Do This!**

As a youth pastor, it seems like I am always thinking about money. I ask myself how much the next event is going to cost each student, if the church have enough money to pay our expenses this month, and how I am going to have enough money to retire making a youth pastor's salary. As I spend more time in ministry, I learn that I am not alone in asking myself these questions. There are hurting families in the churches and communities around each of us. But the trouble with money is that money problems are seldom only about money. Often the root of the trouble is that the people of



God have never learned how to handle their money in a way that honors God. Scripture devotes more verses to the topic of money than it does to the topic of love. Clearly, personal finances are an area that the church needs to consistently address. Not because talking about money will boost Sunday offerings, but because teaching financial wisdom is important.

Before I dive into the meat of this topic, I want to address those who might be tempted to put an over emphasis or under emphasis on the importance of money. First, I do believe that God provides for the physical needs of His people (Matt 6:25-34). Financial planning is not a replacement for trusting in God's provision. I also believe, however, that *"if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8).*

Where should you begin? First compare your current finances to the basic necessities of a healthy financial plan. Everyone who is eighteen or older needs these things: a will, a retirement plan, insurance, an emergency fund, and a budget. If you have any dependents, such as a spouse or child, you also need term life insurance. Finally, if you have children you plan to send to college, you need college savings plan for each of them. Every piece is important. A will allows you, rather than a state appointed judge, to decide what will happen to all of your possessions and your children should you die. A retirement plan allows you to continue to live with dignity and serve God as He calls you to in your older years. To protect yourself from financial disaster should the unexpected occur, you need insurance coverage including health, long-term disability, and homeowner's or renter's insurance, as well as auto insurance if you own a vehicle. Similarly, in order to protect your family, your emergency fund should contain enough liquid cash to cover three to six months of household expenses. Your budget should account for every penny you plan to spend or save each month, and should be reconciled with your actual spending monthly.

If all of that sounds overwhelming, be thankful that you are surrounded by wonderful resources for creating a God-honoring financial plan. Our church is going through a complete financial curriculum by Dave Ramsey called Financial Peace University, which can be found at [DaveRamsey.com](http://DaveRamsey.com). Many families have also had success with a course from Crown Financial Ministries called

Discovering God's Way of Handling Money. You can find that at Crown.org. Both DaveRamsey.com and Crown.org can also provide you with links to specific money management tools, reputable organizations, and accredited professionals to help you with your financial questions.

Let me close with this thought: while money makes a terrible master, it makes a great servant. Every believer should strive to excel in earning, spending, saving, and giving his or her money to the glory of God.

*Brian Little, Youth Pastor  
New Hope Community Church, Villa Park IL*



**CB Chaplain and Founder of RYFO, Nick Greenwood** is reaching into the Music Industry. Here is his recent update...

Festivals are designed for music listeners to consume music by the truck load. Multiple stages are timed to allow crowds to come and go in waves with the start of another band's set. We go from stage to stage until our ears bleed, our feet hurt, or we collapse because we forgot to drink enough water. We carefully outline what bands we can see based on stages and set times, and do our best to not miss our favorites. There's an art to it that I'm personally not good at. I try. Most of us can get so focused on 'consuming' all the music that we can, that we miss incredible opportunities to 'produce' life in the musicians themselves. Granted, many of us make valiant efforts to thank or encourage musicians we see walking around the festival grounds, but often miss the mark in doing so. Sure, musicians appreciate hearing "thank you", or "you guys killed it today." But to be honest, most of those accolades get put in the



'bank of praise' that has lost it's sparkle.

### ***What if?***

What if instead of mustering up enough courage to walk up to the merch table and thank a band for their music or their "ministry"; or instead of striking up the "how's tour" conversation they've had 400 million times before, we ask the band, "is there anything I can do for you," or "anything I can get you," or "anything I can pray for?" What if the life of Jesus was produced inside of musicians this Summer, by us. By you! May we be a people who reflect and communicate the Good News of Jesus this Summer, in word and deed. May we change what it means to be a fan, to the glory of God.

[more about RYFO](#)



## ***Ministry On A Landfill***

Dealing with the worst and best of humanity, I've conducted military ministry in a lot of different places; different continents, countries, states, cities and situations. I've led chapel services in historic military chapels, classrooms, our headquarters' auditorium, GP Large, Medium and Small tents, even air-conditioned field hospital tents and frame tents. I've also had chapel services in a bombed out garage in Afghanistan, a leaky tent in South Korea, on hillsides, riversides, and waysides of California, Colorado and Wyoming. I've used the wheel well of a "duce and a half" truck as the focal point of my "altar," and when torrential rain began to fall, I moved into the back of that canvass-covered truck to get out of the rain...guitar, Bible and all. I've conducted burials for civilians and service members and veterans with military honors in cemeteries, columbaria, national cemeteries...even Arlington National Cemetery, but never in a landfill - a dump!

But now I can say that I have, for quite a long time, in fact - six weeks in total. Strange place for ministry one might think. Initially,

it was for me. A drug-crazed mother killed her child and threw it into a dumpster. Once her family, and then the authorities heard her confession, they quickly began their investigation - their work would make for a great police episode on TV. With time and place of trash pickup determined, the local waste disposal company worked with local law enforcement to determine exactly where the 12.5 tons of trash for that day was buried in a metro area landfill - ironically named "DADS." It was ironic, because if a dad had been properly involved, this tragic crime would never have happened.

The arrest was made, and the search begun. Heavy equipment would uncover and move the trash to "sifting lanes." Then, searchers, mostly police, fire, and volunteer rescue personnel would "sift" through the trash, opening every back, scraping it "to ground" - one two-ton load at a time - with a potato fork. Pictures of what the baby might be inside hung on the walls of the "clean" and "dirty" trailers where crews changed and ate. After several weeks, the search took its toll on the police department's personnel. They were losing steam. They needed back-up. Enter the National Guard.

Due to its unique dual status, the National Guard, comprised of Army and Air units, not only respond to Federal missions, like the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, but also to State missions and emergencies. A request through the Governor's office for military crews to help with the search was made and we responded. Coincidentally, I was with the first ten-person Air Guard "FSRT" - Fatality Search and Rescue Team - to join the search. They did such an efficient and focused job, that a request was made for more. From the first warning order breaking the news of the impending mission, our Joint Operations Commander discussed the need for a chaplain to accompany the teams - a daily visit, to encourage and comfort the Airmen and Soldiers, male and female, who would be asked to do a horrible task. And work they did, as we.

Three, four weeks on top of the initial three weeks totaled seven, then eight weeks of search, but no baby. Every day, I or another Guard chaplain would show up for "breakfast" or "lunch" to give a short devotional thought (every Bible story about lost things was covered!) and a prayer, for their health, safety...and success in finding that precious baby that didn't deserve to be tossed in the trash. Throughout the process we were welcomed and integrated by the Incident Commander and his team of deputies. They

provided protective equipment, food, hydration, and emergency and preventative medical care. We grew into a team...a team of rotating team with one mission, one goal, to find a precious baby made in the Image and Likeness of God.

As the process wore on, we began to doubt ourselves and the likelihood of every finding the baby. On Memorial Day, I went to that now familiar-smelling mountain, and led in a field Memorial Day service. In typical military fashion, I included space for comments by our "commanders" - civilian and military. After Scripture, prayer, meditation, quotes, moment of silence and a closing benediction, the crews went back to work, the leadership sensing that the operation would soon be shut down. But on the following Wednesday, after lunch at approx. 1315, the baby was found! Standing in a huge hanger waiting for a welcome home ceremony to begin, word came of the discovery. Following the ceremony, an assistant chaplain and I went to the landfill turned crime scene.

There we led the crews assembled in a Traumatic Event Ministry debriefing, discussing facts and feelings of the event. The lead detective, the District Attorney and the Incident Commanders - all through tears - shared how relieved they were for the discovery of the baby. They also thanked our Guard Teams, those working that day, as well as many others over the previous four weeks, for diligently sifting through tons of trash to find one precious lost soul. As I closed the meeting in prayer, I thanked God for combined efforts and high view of the sanctity of life exhibited by this jurisdiction and police department - and for the Baby having the opportunity to be given back to the family members who loved him and could provide a decent burial - so next year they could visit his grave on Memorial Day in the place of their choosing - and not in a dump.

Many lives were touched by this experience. It showed a medium-sized police department, the value of chaplaincy to first responders. So much so in fact, that they decided to appoint a local pastor in their community as their volunteer police chaplain! I'd like to think we had a small part in that. A coin commemorating the search is being made. On one side will be the words, "Seek and ye shall find." Matthew 7:7. We helped with that, too.

## ***"You Think It's Hot Here?"***

So says the church sign we've sent through the email to family and friends. With most of our helicopters recently returned from overseas deployments on federal missions, the rest and recuperation our Colorado Army National Guard rotor wing aviators expected was short-lived. First the High Park fire NW of Ft Collins and then the Waldo Canyon fire that invaded Colorado Springs, forcing the evacuation of 32,000 residents, put both air and ground crews into a "firefight" of Biblical proportions.

One thing we've learned after ten years of wartime experience is the impact of death and destruction on the souls of our military personnel. "MBWA" I call it, "ministry by wandering around," is part of the unique ministry of military chaplains, overseas and at home. Whether it's praying with an air crew preparing to spend their day dropping 500 gallon "buckets" of water on fires threatening neighbors' homes and businesses, or visiting "checkpoints" staffed by scattered security forces, or conducting chapel services to weary firefighters (federal, local and military), the smiling face, listening ear, pastoral touch or focused prayer of a chaplain, bring inspiration and encouragement to those willing to risk their lives to save others and protect the property and livelihoods of our fellow citizens.

"America's Home Team," the men and women of the Army and Air National Guard, since the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636, have taken the Golden Rule as the foundation of their selfless service, adding to it Jesus immortal words, "Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his live for his friends." Calls for private conversations, worship services for weary firefighters - military, federal and local civilian departments - are open invitations to share the Word of God to weary souls in a scorched and barren landscape.

Please pray for the chaplains of the National Guard of your State, Territory, Commonwealth or District, as we minister to "America's finest," those responding to natural and man-made disasters throughout our nation. Ask God that we might "Give'em Heaven," as they face the fires of Hell- at home and abroad!

*Andy Meverden,  
Command Chaplain*

*Joint Forces, Colorado  
Colorado National Guard*

***If you would like more information about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at [chapruss@cbamerica.org](mailto:chapruss@cbamerica.org) or phone at 218-776-2813.***

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## **Health Insurance Option**

We have found a reasonable health insurance option for pastors in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Call or email Pat Phinney, our Regional Director, for more information, 952-322-7173 or [patncba@trivest.net](mailto:patncba@trivest.net).

There is also a [link on our website](#) for this company. We apologize that the link was missing last month.

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### **Upcoming Events**

## **AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:**

### **Illinois Cluster**

September 11, 11 AM, Home of Joe Stewart  
Contact Mark Friday, 309-347-5965

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

## **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
- First Baptist Church-Bradford 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@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

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