

## North Central CBA

## E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

January 2010

**HAITI Relief and Recovery Teams forming:** [See below](#) for how you or your church can join a team.

**For financial contributions** to CBAmerica's ACTS (Avenues of Compassion in Tragic Situations) fund, go to the [CBAmerica website](#)

**SAVE the DATE!** Pastors Seminar and Pastors & Wives Retreat in Green Lake WI--**April 22-24**. Details & registration coming soon!

**SCHOLARSHIPS** for High School Seniors--[Click here](#) for details in this newsletter or go to our [website](#) for an application. Deadline April 1, 2010.

## Recommitted and Resolution

This is the time of year when the matters of resolutions are on the minds of many. As a year ends and people look toward the next year they begin to make resolutions about any number of things in regard to a new year. By now many of those resolutions have either been broken or are about to be.

It is not my habit to make New Year's resolutions. This does not mean that I am opposed to resolutions. In fact, a book I have almost finished is motivating me to a resolution. The book is [Christless Christianity](#) by Michael Horton.

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### Natural Church Development

How Healthy is Your Church?

A key point that is raised in the book is the fact that the gospel needs to be believed by sinners not because it will necessarily make their life better (meet felt needs). I cannot speak for you, but I have found that as I have gone through the stages of life the Lord has not always met my felt needs. A reason for that is that my felt needs are often driven by less than godly passions. Also I have noted that serving God has not insulated me from pain and difficulty; things that my felt needs want to escape. Additionally, I have noted there are self help gurus that make no claim to biblical truth that very often can and do help people feel better.

So if it can be argued that there are other sources that can address felt needs, then what is the gospel about? Here are two reasons why I am recommitted in my resolve to proclaim the gospel.

First, the gospel needs to be believed because it is true. By true I mean capital "T" true. As I have been writing this, it came to me that the end result of apologetics is not just the existence of God, but the Christian god and ultimately Christ and the gospel.

This leads to the second reason: if one does not repent and place their faith in Christ, you remain under Gods' wrath and the eternal consequences that come with that.



I realize this may lead to questions that the emergent crowd raise about being too heavenly oriented. However, I am not suggesting we ignore the application parts of Scripture which accompany the gospel. Rather I am suggesting, before we think about the gospel impact for the here and now, we make certain the hereafter is fully resolved.

*Don Shaw*  
*Regional Director*  
[donnccba@trivest.net](mailto:donnccba@trivest.net)

## PASTOR CARE

### "The Aftermath of Christmas"

It is the middle of winter, and many of us are experiencing that reality with deep snow and frigid temperatures. One local pastor is reported

This is a proven tool that can help your church with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism.

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.**

Give us a call at 715-538-2298.

**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 Don at 715-538-2298

**Ministry Quick Links**

[CBAmerica](#)

[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)

**Microsoft Software and More**

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$127 plus \$30 for the installation media. Other Microsoft products, Adobe and hardware are also available. Call Jean at the office, 715-538-2298, for price quotes

to have encouraged his congregation last Sunday morning (-4 ) by pointing out that there were only 72 more days until Spring. There may have been more groans than "Praise the Lord's".

Whatever your thoughts about the weather, it is part of the aftermath of the Christmas season. All the wishes for a white Christmas are turning into wishes the stuff would go away-now dingy, dirty, icy and too deep. There are some other parts of the after-Christmas scene that I have been thinking about.

One is the possible financial after-math! Regardless of our intentions, it is likely that the holidays have left our wallets a little flat-unless the credit card charge slips are still in there. Buying decorations and gifts, paying for travel, making special foods, and who knows what other unusual expenditures, may have us in a financial pickle. It may be the "gift" that keeps on giving throughout this new year. This may be true for us as pastors and our families, and it is very likely true for many in our congregations. Although passing judgment on our society and the eternal and sometimes infernal effort to get us to spend is a great preaching opportunity, perhaps there is a better choice. How about a series on spiritual stewardship, including the motives and attitudes that might underlie some of our resource allocations?

Another after-math of the holidays could be represented in several ways. It might become apparent while looking at those precious pictures of various celebrations. It might show up in the realization that your clothes have been shrinking-the dryer must be too hot! It could be the increased difficulty of getting in and out of the car. Or it could be the thought that you really need a new scale in the bathroom-the old one must be worn out-it is reading much too heavy.

In some ways, this after-math may be more important than the money-related one. In the military, the physical training mantra went something like this: Watch your weight-it is a matter of life and death. In the Army, we had to weigh-in twice a year at least, and meet a height-and-weight standard. If you didn't meet the standard, you were given two months to "shape up" before being put into the "fat soldier" program. Obviously, being physically fit really was essential to the performance of our duties and to the survival of not only our selves but our fellow soldiers.

I believe the same thing is true for pastors. Our situation is made more difficult because our duties are more sedentary than many other jobs. We sit and talk with people. We sit and study. We sit and eat

and to order.

**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 Don at the office, 715-538-2298.

**Father, Son & Holy  
Spirit: Relationships,  
Roles & Relevance**

This book by Bruce Ware is available from the NCCBA office for \$10.

Highly recommended. Email the office at [nccba@triwest.net](mailto:nccba@triwest.net)

meals or refreshments. We sit and drive. And when we are finished with a challenging and hopefully rewarding day, we sit some more, to relax and unwind. We need to give special attention to remaining or becoming physically fit. It truly is a matter of life and death. Recently my doctor who was helping deal with bronchial congestion, out of the blue, told me I needed to start walking several miles a day. I did, and it has helped.

When I retired from the military, I vowed to continue doing the things I had learned to do to be healthy and fit. I did for awhile, and then things like business and tiredness, and illnesses and lack of desire eroded that commitment and determination. Now my closet is filled (several closets, the truth be known) with perfectly good clothing that I can't wear any more. And there are things in the basement and garage I can't use anymore-such as cross-country skis. Perhaps I am the only one in this "condition," but I am confident I am not.

I am going to take a risk and invite you to join my Christmas Aftermath Club. I am going to make a commitment to God, my wife, and to you, to lose weight and shape-up. The first goal is ten-in-two: to lose at least ten pounds in the next two months. The second goal is to lose at least one inch off my waist. My long term goal is to do that every two months for at least eight months. That means losing 40 lbs and 4 inches by the September 2010 Newsletter. Are you willing to set goals for yourself and join me in this endeavor to honor God with our physical fitness? It might actually be a life and death matter, sooner than you think. I would like to hear from you if you are "in the club."

*Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT  
Stillman Valley, IL*

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## **YOUTH PASTORS:**

# **In Defense of the Sabbatical**

Some of you when you read this article's heading found yourself muttering the question under your breath, "what is a sabbatical?!" Not that you aren't familiar with what one is but that you have been serving diligently in local church ministry for many years without ever having had a deacon or elder so much as suggest a sabbatical for

pastors. Many of you desperately long for a shabbat (Hebrew) or a "time of ceasing" to refresh, renew and rest. This author realizes that many in our church's leadership teams struggle to see the need for what they see as "extra vacation time" for the pastors. Unfamiliar with the daily pressure on us of our anxiety for the church (2 Cor. 11:28) and the 24/7 nature of pastoral ministry they, though supportive, are simply unaware of the toll ministry takes on a pastor. This article isn't meant to serve as an apologetic for you take back to your leadership team at church in the hopes of convincing them to institute a sabbatical policy for you. Rather, it is simply meant as the sharing of one person's reflections on a recent period of rest.

Most of you are aware that a typical sabbatical length for church ministers ranges from two months to one year. The defined purposes are varied from ministry to ministry and can include educational advancement, physical rest, spiritual renewal, ministry practice in a new environment, and so on but generally target rest, refreshment and sharpening in these areas: ministry, family, emotionally, physically, spiritually, and mentally.

After 15 years in vocational pastoral ministry, I was finally able to experience the blessing of a sabbatical from regular ministry responsibilities. Never having had a sabbatical before, I was both excited and unsure of what to expect from one. Many churches do not have a policy in place which provides their shepherds with a time of "ceasing." Oftentimes, earning a "sabbatical" is the result of ministry burnout or even theological reconsideration when there is a disagreement in doctrine. I am so grateful to the Lord for my church's heart to care for her pastors in this way. In our case, our church provides a two month sabbatical for pastors for every five years of consecutive ministry.

After submitting a proposal to our elder team for how I would spend the two months, my plans were approved and the dates put on the calendar. In the months preceding my sabbatical, I prepared our existing volunteer leadership teams to carry on and continue to lead the ministries normally under my direct supervision.

The day finally arrived when I would begin my time of rest and renewal. After a couple weeks I was able to work out how I would actually end up handling communication issues like e-mail, cell

phone, and Facebook. I found myself out of town for about half of the sabbatical leave due to ministry opportunities, education and personal travel. I was able to maintain an appropriate level of disconnectedness and connectedness, stepping in to shepherd a couple times and allowing others to shepherd the rest of the time.

There are so many things I could share about how God worked in my own heart (and even through me) over those two months. For the purpose of this brief article let me simply state that I wished I had been blessed with this kind of leave before now but am so thankful to have experienced refreshment and blessing in the form of a sabbatical. I so appreciate my church and leadership teams who believe in the value of a sabbatical. Soon, I hope to put on paper the things I learned and ways I grew.

My sincere heart's desire for those of you who are ministering vocationally to God's people is that the Lord would grant you a time of refreshment in the form of a sabbatical. He already knows many of you need it.

*Gary Lisle*

*(Gary is in his sixth year of ministry as Pastor of Student Ministries at the E Free Church in DeKalb, IL. and currently serves as president of the State Youth Fellowship of IL ([www.syfil.org](http://www.syfil.org)).*

*He is the father of four, the husband of one, and a child of The One and Only.)*

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815-756-8729

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## **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. Three \$500 scholarships were awarded last year.

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

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## **Haiti Relief & Recovery Teams Forming**

While the world marshals its forces to send massive and immediate aid to the millions of earthquake victims in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, three mission agencies have begun work to form and host volunteer teams for "second-responder" relief and rebuilding work.

DELTA Ministries International, a non-denominational, short-term agency based in Vancouver, Wash., in partnership with Missions Door, and CBAmerica has activated a relief and recovery plan formulated in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "We know this plan works," said Tory Ruark, DELTA's Short-Term Mission Director. "It was successfully applied after we trained and sent more than 1,000 volunteers and 80 church teams to give aid and help rebuild in the months following Katrina."

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, Haiti experienced a 7.0 earthquake 10 miles from the capital city of Port-au-Prince where more than 2 million of the nation's 9 million people live. "Nearly 80-percent of the people live below the poverty line," said Ruark. "The destruction from the earthquake and its after shocks is still not completely known, and we won't know the death toll for many days. What can be said for sure is that literally tens of thousands of structures from hotels, stores, official buildings and, most sadly, homes have been destroyed. Heart-wrenching pictures and stories of people being pulled from buildings and the dead on the streets speak to the misery caused by this tragedy."

Ruark said that Missions Door currently has people on the ground in



Haiti, and

that DELTA is ready to begin training teams. "All we need is for churches across America to rise up and practically demonstrate the love of Christ by praying, giving and mobilizing short-term volunteer teams to help."

If God is calling you or your church to be a part of His plan to restore Haiti, contact Tory Ruark at DELTA Ministries by email at [toryr@deltaministries.com](mailto:toryr@deltaministries.com) or by phone at 520-404-0841.

DELTA Ministries International  
1400 NE 135th Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98684  
[www.deltaministries.com](http://www.deltaministries.com)  
800.533.5822

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## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FREE THROUGH NCCBA

***Changes for Link2 lead***

For several years the Regional office has been able to provide demographic information through link2lead.com. As a church you could register and have free access to valuable demographic material. We are still able to provide this information, but now it will have to be requested specifically from our office.

While you may not have the freedom of easy access, this new resource will provide you with even better and more customized information. Once you make your request, within a short period of time you will receive in a pdf format a detailed

profile.

If you have any questions, please contact Don or Jean at 715-538-2298, or email [nccba@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net) We would encourage you to use this tool for finding important information about the area where you are currently ministering.

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## YOUR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS: 7 Things Every Church Member Needs to Know

There is a resource available to answer questions church members may have about charitable contributions. Questions such as:

Question: If I make a contribution in early January 2010, can I claim it on my 2009 Taxes?

Answer: No

Questions: I gave \$135 to my church when I registered for a retreat. Can I deduct that?

Answer: No, assuming you received benefits worth \$135 or more.

For the answers to these and 5 other questions a bulletin insert is available at the Your Church Resources [website](#)

Inserts are \$12.95 for 100 paper copies or 1000 downloadable copies. Or call 1-800-222-1840

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### Upcoming Events

#### **BREAKAWAY**

April 17-18, 2010

[Details at SYF website](#)

all-niter for Illinois teens

Rally, gospel presentation, food & games

## **SAVE THESE DATES on your calendar!**

**Pastors Seminar**

April 22, 2010

Heidel House Resort, Green Lake WI

**Pastors & Wives Retreat**

April 22-23, 2010

Green Lake, Wisconsin

**NCCBA Annual Meeting**

April 23, 2010

Green Lake, Wisconsin

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### NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR

- First Baptist Church--Colfax IA YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Elk Horn IA
- First Baptist Church--Breckenridge MN
- First Baptist Church--Luverne MN

**Contact Our Office**

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - [nccba@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)  
North Central Conservative Baptist Association | P.O. Box 568 | Whitehall | WI | 54773

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