

## North Central CBA

## E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

April 2008

**PRAY** ... In submitting our worship,  
we love the MASTER.  
*The CBAmerica website will have Chaplaincy, Regional,  
National and CBGlobal, prayer requests to be used  
throughout the month of May*

**GIVE** ... In surrendering our wealth,  
we link the MINISTRY.  
**CBAmerica SUNDAY**  
*Select a Sunday in May to receive a  
Love Offering for CBAmerica Ministries*

**GO** ... In sharing our witness,  
we live the MISSION.  
*Order your Tyndale House Publishing  
CHOOSING YOUR FAITH resources from CBAmerica  
at discounted rates*

*Invite Christians and seekers alike to  
examine why we believe what we believe*



For specific information, visit the [CBAmerica website](http://www.CBAmerica.com)

## How to "Be Reconciled to God"

I  
When Rico Tice was here with the Christianity Explored team he spoke about the gospel. There were four things that he stressed that are necessary for the accurate declaration of the gospel. First, as to whom Jesus is - God incarnate. Second, as to why he came - to be the Lamb of God. Three, as to how one becomes reconciled to God - by faith alone. Four, while salvation is by faith alone, period, there is an expectation -

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### Valuable Information for Your Church Growth

*Customized* demographic information now available about your church location. This is a **free** service for all NCCBA churches. Call Don at 715-538-2298 or visit [www.Link2Lead.com](http://www.Link2Lead.com)

### Natural Church Development

This is a proven tool

Jesus is to be the Lord of those who come by faith to him.

In regard to the fourth aspect cited previously, a well known verse comes to mind, "**Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'**"

There are several things that can be pointed to. To begin with, we note that Jesus is giving an open invitation. However with that invitation he is clear that one MUST put away selfish ambition and embrace the cross.

The issue of selfish ambition is picked up by Paul in Philippians where he calls the Christian to, "**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but consider others better than yourselves.**" Shortly after that statement he points to Jesus as the example for what this should look like. In regard to taking up the cross, the picture is one of death. Being a disciple is about dying to self and living for Christ.

I have just recently finished The Multiplying Church by Bob Roberts Jr. The book focuses on church planting. However there was a portion of the book where Roberts referred to the statement of Jesus, "take up your cross and follow me." He stated that while it is true that there is a reference to death, there is something else we should consider. The work of Jesus Christ on the cross and the subsequent resurrection is not just about death to self, it is also about reconciliation for sinners.

Robert's statement captured my attention and has been reinforced as I was thinking about that. Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5 came to mind, "**We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.**" In others words, our task as disciples is not just put to death those things that do not glorify Christ in terms of personal sin issues. It also involves bringing the message of reconciliation in to every arena of your life as a disciple.

As leaders I believe there are some challenges that arise if this is an accurate outcome for the gospel. To begin with, we need to reprioritize our schedules so that we are engaging those who need to hear "Be reconciled to God." Next we need to get our ministries refocused so that we are putting greater effort in connecting with those who need to hear "Be reconciled to God." Finally we need to help those who are involved with our ministries to be motivated and equipped to reach those who need to hear "Be reconciled to God."

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

that can help your church with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism.

NCB 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.**

Significant improvements have been made in how to interpret and implement findings.

#### Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica Link2Lead \(demographic info\)](#)

[Illinois State Youth Fellowship Worship Summit in Iowa](#)

#### Microsoft Software and More

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$122 plus \$35 for the installation media.

Other Microsoft products, Adobe and hardware are also available. Call Jean at the office, 715-538-2298, for price quotes and to order.

**NCCBA**

## Pastor Care: Leading the Family "Team"

In the current issue of Christianity Today's Leadership Journal (Spring 2008) there are some really great articles on ministry teams. The one that commanded my attention immediately was one by Nancy Ortberg on the five most common dysfunctions of a ministry team. Nancy did not come up with these on her own. She found them in a book entitled *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* (Jossey-Bass, 2002) written by Patrick Lencioni. I intend to find a copy of it soon.

As she enumerated and discussed these five characteristics I experienced two very distinct and powerful realizations. The first one was the recognition that I, like Nancy, was quite accomplished at each of the five-doing them, not avoiding them, or practicing their opposites.

The second realization was that these dysfunctions are also five of the major problems that stalk and damage marriages and families-especially pastors' families. These five dysfunctions are Absence of Trust, Fear of Conflict, Inability to Make a Commitment, Avoidance of Accountability, and Inattention to Results. By this point, dear reader, you are probably expecting another "dump on the pastor" conclusion to this article. However, that is not my intent. Stick with me a few more lines, please.

My prayer and my hope is that I can stimulate you to take a good look at yourself and your family "team" to see how well you are doing in these five areas. The objective is not to "awfulize" or criticize, but rather to encourage the maximum application of our leadership skills within our most important team.

Nancy's first statement under Absence of Trust is, "Trust forms the foundation for everything else that happens on a team." Simple and profound! What is the level of trust on your family team? How completely do you trust your spouse, your parents and in-laws (they are still part of the team), your children, and your siblings (they are also)? The flip-side question is how completely do they trust you? Regardless of how great the trust level is, I suspect it can improve. Improving trust is possible only as we decide to become more humble and trust ourselves to God and other people. The buzz word is "vulnerable." The truth behind it is that when I let you know me as I really am rather than how I think I should be, the authenticity does away with nagging doubts and suspicions and replaces them with confidence.

Fear of Conflict. Another quote: "Avoiding conflict almost guarantees that we will fail to build relationally deep teams, and that we will be unable to make the best decisions for the organization." Conflict is not necessarily a bad or destructive element. In fact, properly handled is an essential

[www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE  
REPORTING  
LAWS for your  
State on our  
website under  
"Resources"**

ingredient in maximizing the potential of our family teams. It both exposes the obstacles inhibiting our growth and enriches our options by making use of the differences of perspective each individual brings to the team. Look for ways to increase your family team's ability to be open and honest about differences of opinion or behavior so that genuine community can replace "malicious compliance" and "artificial harmony."

Making a commitment to a particular plan of action as a family team becomes much easier when trust and healthy conflict resolution are present. Commitment becomes more difficult when we cannot have an open discussion, dare I say debate, about the best courses of action. When that sort of process has been practiced and it is time to decide on a plan and implement it. Consistently executing the plan based on healthy discussion increases the energy applied to reaching the goal.

Accountability is another very popular buzz word these days. Nancy states: "holding people accountable is hard work, and it's not usually fun-- But we need it. And you don't have community or leadership without it." Of course, accountability has to work all the way around. "Great teams get to the point where the members hold each other accountable." Help your family team become great but learning together how to hold each other accountable without attacking, shaming and blaming one another. When I know that my follow-through actions make a difference, I know that I am significant and that I matter. If my actions don't matter enough for me to be called to account, I don't really matter either.

The final one of these five important areas of team life is that of carefully evaluating the results of our decisions and their implementation. A necessary ingredient in this process is the recognition that "the results are not completely in our hands, and we are to work with all our efforts to accomplish the results." These two realities suggest that we need to be clear about what we can do and what we cannot do. They also suggest that we need to learn and grow in our abilities to live together in genuine community by clear-eyed examinations of the outcomes of what we do and how we do it. That means looking at our motives and attitudes as well as our actions.

I pray that each of us will decide to carefully consider how well we are leading our family team, whatever its shape and size, to deeper trust, effective conflict resolution, genuine commitment, appropriate accountability and solid results evaluation. However great our team is now, I hope we are willing to help it become even greater, for the glory of God and the benefit/blessing of all who are part of the team.

*Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT, Interim Pastor*

*First Baptist Church, Streator IL*

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## **SUPERCARGE Youth Workers Conference**

Cabin fever got you yet? Are you ready for a jump start that is not only going to recharge and supercharge your batteries, but will also provide some much needed relaxation and refocusing? For those of you in the Minnesota area, we've got just the ticket for you. Northwestern College and Camp Lebanon are joining forces to bring us a weekend that we can't afford to miss. Duffy Robbins, along with a platform full of nationally known personalities will be bringing it on May 8-10. The cost is CHEAPO, the food is exceptional, the location is right next door to heaven and it's going to be good for you! What more can I say? Contact [Camp Lebanon](#) for more info. Phone: 320-573-2125.

By Nate Schroder, Discovery Church St. Cloud MN

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## **YOUTH: The Tangles of Life**

**"As I was growing up, my dad and I would spend quite a bit of time together fishing in the area of northern Minnesota where he had grown up. I enjoyed fishing but it was sometimes cold, oftentimes boring, and usually frustrating.**

**One of the reasons it was frustrating was because of the equipment we had in those days. Some of you might remember fishing with the older style open face reel. Do you recall what would happen when you would cast?**

**Right - the hook would hit the water and the reel would keep going and going and in an instant you'd have a mess which we would call what? Right. "A Rats Nest"**

**So for the next hour of your fishing time you would try and try to untangle your line. Eventually, I'd give mine to my Dad and he would try to untangle it. He would eventually do it or else he would just cut the line and I'd start over--just to do the whole process over again a few casts later.**

**Just like with that old fishing reel, it's pretty easy to get tangled up in things of this world.**

**Hebrews 12:1-2 says - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the**

race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God."

There are many things that entangle us to this world. For some we create such crazy schedules that if God ever wanted to do something extra in our lives, He'd have a hard time squeezing it in. For others we have entangled ourselves financially. We are up to our ears in debt and all we can think about is how to stay afloat financially. Some of us get entangled with the stuff we own. Our house, cars, snowmobile, boat, lawnmowers, trailers--there is just a lot of stuff that takes a lot of time to keep running and it ensnares us into this world.

Remaining tangle free is not easy and getting untangled from the messes we make can take awhile, but it's an important thing to learn to do. Just like giving my reel to my Dad, getting untangled is easiest when we give it over to our heavenly Father.

In order to help us to stay untangled to the things in this world, we are given some special advice in the Hebrews passage. We are told to "fix our eyes on Jesus."

The apostle Paul adds to this command in Colossians 3, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

When we keep our focus on the eternal, we learn to hold on loosely to the things of this world that can tie us down. It frees us up so that we can run the race that has been set before us and then God can more easily "interrupt" our lives with the things that he wants to do through us.

**Be Strong and Courageous**

**Mark Waller, Faith Baptist  
Park Rapids, MN**

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## CHAPLAINCY: Ministry to Christian Bands

*Nick Greenwood is starting a new ministry in terms of Chaplaincy within CBAmerica. He is working with Christian bands seeking to provide much needed pastoral care as they travel across the country. One of the things he needs are churches who would be willing to provide housing for these*

*groups. If you would like to know more about Nick and the ministry you can contact him at [nicholasjgreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasjgreenwood@gmail.com)*

Things continue to move forward in crazy and exciting ways. I was fortunate to meet John Foreman of the band Switchfoot, and several other respected and intriguing artists this month with whom I had the privilege of sharing the RYFO vision with. Their unanimous feedback was that *RYFO was the best idea they have heard of*. That was encouraging to me. I never want to run with anything that the artists themselves don't view as helpful.

### **Desiring God Ministries connect**

One key aspect of what RYFO desires to do is to get respected spiritual growth materials into the hands of traveling musicians, at no cost to the artist. I recently met with [Desiring God](#) Ministries (John Piper's organization), and was given free access to their library of books and DVDs. Basically, Desiring God is outfitting RYFO with boatloads of resources to give away to bands! So cool!

### **XXXchurch.com connect**

Triple X WHAT!? Haha--not what you think. They are an amazing ministry devoted to helping people with porn addictions. They too have offered their resources to RYFO, as many traveling musicians do struggle with internet porn addiction. [XXXchurch](#) has developed a software resource that provides internet surfing accountability. I am excited to get this into the hands of the bands that desperately desire that accountability, for FREE to them!

### **RYFO Website**

If you don't fully get what RYFO is yet, browsing the site should help! Target completion date is April 1st. - RYFO.org coming soon! Thank you to those of you that are helping finance this!

### **Non-Profit Tours**

Over the next couple of months RYFO will be working with various non-profit organizations, assisting them in getting their causes on the road with bands and in front of audiences, and within that creating opportunities to place RYFO hearts on the road with bands. More to come on that later-- :)

### **Please Pray...**

1. For a meeting RYFO is hosting in the Nashville, TN area May 15th. We are gathering together industry people who's hearts bleed for artist care to discuss how we all might work together more effectively!
2. Continued financial support for Emily and I as we push forward.

Let us pray for you too!

*Nick Greenwood*

949.683.3983 "Serving The Voices"

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## Will see many of you at the Pastors and Wives Retreat or Youth Leaders and Spouse Retreat next week.

For directions and an overview of the amenities at Heidel House, visit their [website](http://www.heidelhouse.com). [www.heidelhouse.com](http://www.heidelhouse.com)

The Pastors and Wives retreat begins after 3PM check-in on Thursday, April 24, and ends before noon on Saturday. The Youth Leader and Spouse retreat begins the afternoon of Friday, April 25, and ends Sunday late morning.

For a detailed schedule, click on Events at the [NCCBA website](#)

### Upcoming Events

<b>ENGAGE Competition</b> High School students Bethany Baptist, Peoria IL	April 18-19	<a href="#">Bethany's website</a>
<b>Worship Summit</b> , Cedar Rapids, Iowa	April 18-19	<a href="#">More info and registration</a>
<b>Pastors and Wives Retreat and NCCBA Annual Meeting</b>	April 24-26	Heidel House Resort, Green Lake WI
<b>Youth Pastors/Spouse retreat</b>	April 25-27	Heidel House Resort, Green Lake WI
<b>SUPERCHARGE Youth Workers Conference</b> , Camp Lebanon MN	May 8-10	<a href="#">info at Camp Lebanon's website</a>

### NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Whitehall, WI YOUTH PASTOR
- Rockford Baptist Church--Rockford MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- First Baptist Church--Parkers Prairie MN
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN
- Artichoke Lake Baptist Church--Correll MN
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH

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### Contact Our Office

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - [nccba@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

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