



## Repentance, Sin and Me

In the recent past my attention has been drawn to the matter of sin and repentance. There have been two sources that God has used to draw my attention to these issues. One is a book Restoring the Fallen which is co-authored by three couples and the second is a portion of a message I heard given by Ravi Zacharias.

The book is about the fall and restoration of Earl Wilson who was a seminary professor and counselor. For a ten year period he not only had an affair with a female client but was engaged in massage parlors, prostitution and pornography. Earl Wilson and his wife are one of the co-authors.

The book details, as the title implies, Earl's restoration. As leaders I would encourage you to read this book but not just for looking at the mechanic of a process for restoring fallen people. The other reason, at least for me, is the fact that it really helped me to see that when sin is not dealt with in our lives it impacts others in ways we never would have dreamed.

The book starts with Earl realizing his ten year secret life is about to be made public. To his credit he owns up to and is truly broken. However, what he comes to realize as the restoration process unfolds there is much more to it than just getting re-involved in ministry. It started by the team reminding that the reason he was in the mess was because he had broken his relationship with God. Therefore that is where his restoration process began. Additionally as he was working on that he also needed to be working on restoring his relationship with his wife, children, parents, friends, church family, business partners, clients and finally professional life.

There are three realizations that come to mind for me at this point. First, in a portion of a message by Ravi Zacharias he spoke of the fact that sinful conduct leads to the violation of others. Years ago I heard this question asked, "Who was violated in the garden?" The answer is God was violated. When David's sin involving adultery and murder was exposed he gets it right when he says in Psalm 51 "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight . . ."

However, this does not mean that there is no violation of others. This then leads us to a second realization. As Earl become aware of the impact of his broken relationship with God, the team involved with his restoration began pointing him toward all the other broken relationships that resulted from his ten year plunge into sexual immorality. Over a three year period he had to go to all those who had been affected by his actions. It was a painful process because he was forced to look into the eyes of those who had loved him, worked with him, worshipped together with and trusted him.

Great  
Commandment  
Passion

Great Commission  
Focus

This newsletter  
and those from  
previous  
months are  
available on our  
website at  
[www.nccba-  
gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

The final realization is that when one really starts looking at personal sin, you begin to realize not only an expanded list of those who are violated by it, you also become aware of an expanding list of sins that were a part of what leads to a fall. Earl Wilson came to realize that he not only had a sexual moral issue but a whole list of other sinful behaviors that were part of his fall.

Paul gave this instruction to Timothy, “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” As leaders we can become so busy in the pursuit of ministry success that we fail to realize that “sin is crouching at [our] door.” To be successful leaders we must realize that sin harms God and those who come into our sphere of influence. Not only that it is rarely just one issue that leads to harming God and others, but several. Let us ask God to come in and help us to look closely at our lives for His sake and the sake of others.



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

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## TIME OUT, TIME OFF

Nestled quietly between the accounts of the beheading of John the Baptist and Jesus feeding the five thousand (Mark 6; Matthew 14) are a few verses that usually get skipped over as we look at the important stuff.

“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught (Jesus had sent them out two by two to preach and heal). Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’ So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.” (Mark 6:30-32).

Matthew references this same situation in half a verse. He reports, “When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat to a solitary place” (Matthew 14:13a). According to the context, what Jesus heard was about the murder of John the Baptist at the request of a vengeful woman and her dancing daughter.

Whether the desire of Jesus for some “alone time” was because of the fatigue of ministry or the impact of a colleague’s death, there is no denying that he was concerned for the well-being of his followers and for himself. It was time to get away to a solitary place.

More true to life than we would like to acknowledge, it never happened. The crowds saw them leave and figured out where they were going. Rather than following them, they went a different way and actually arrived first. They were waiting for Jesus and the apostles when they arrived.

Has your summer been like that? A planned vacation is canceled because of a death in a prominent church family, or one of the kids gets sick the day the family picnic was scheduled. Perhaps you never even thought of time off, since everybody else needed their break while school is out.

Have I got a life saving idea for you! I know a place you can go that I can guarantee you no-one will follow you! At least, not the first time. They may try to stop you from going, or they may try to draw you away once you are there, but they won't follow you.

I am referring to the NCCBA Prayer Summit at Cedar Lake Conference Center in Indiana September 25-28 (Monday afternoon to Thursday noon). I can promise you two things: you will come away full and hungry. Am I crazy? No, just convinced!

I am convinced that you will leave this time away from all the normal stuff of life and ministry filled to overflowing with the presence, love, grace, mercy and power of God. You will spend more time in prayer during these days than most of us have in several months. God will meet you, I am convinced. You will spend more time by yourself than you ordinarily have in weeks. And you will experience a broader and deeper fellowship with other pastors than perhaps you have ever had before.

I know all the arguments against it. It is the start of the fall program season. It is too long, too much time. It is too far away; gas costs too much. One thing you can't say about it is that it is too expensive. \$147 for three nights lodging in a motel-like room, and 6 meals that will leave you physically satisfied is a great deal in anybody's book.

The only real question is whether you are willing to trust God to meet you in such a powerful and beneficial way that all of the objections will vanish as inconsequential. I am confident that He will. Try it, you'll like it. Try it, God will bless you mightily. You will leave full of joy and gratitude, and hungry for more time and times like this one.

Registration deadline is September 6th, with a \$25.00 deposit. Don't miss this opportunity.

Nicholas D. Bell, Interim Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Streator, Illinois

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## "I've Got My Eye on You!"

In a recent front page article in USA Today it stated that the insurgent snipers in the Middle East are beginning to focus on senior officers, doctors and CHAPLAINS. They feel by killing these leaders they will break the morale of our troops. They have their eye on them! It's a chilling thought!

I thought of the Lord with His eyes on His own and remembered these verses: Ezra 5:5, "But the eye of their God was watching over the elders of the Jews"; Psalm 34:15-16, "the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to

their cry; the face of the LORD is against those who do evil”;  
2 Chronicles 16:9, “For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him”; Zechariah 2:8-9, “for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye- I will surely raise my hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them”; Psalm 17:8-9, “Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.” Please pray for our eight chaplains in the Middle East war zones, for their safety and for their families back home.

We can also pray for the insurgents that God would “Open their eyes that they may see wonderful things in His law” (Psalm 119:18). To learn more about chaplaincy, please contact Al Russell at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) or call his office at 218-776-2813.

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## Good Idea Section:

### Update on Liberty Celebration

We had our Liberty Celebration on July 9 here at Bethany Baptist Church. This is for elected and appointed officials and is not a political day. It is a time to let them know we are praying for them and thankful to God for them.

We had in attendance:

- The Police Chief--Our township is about 97,000 and he is over a police force of about 125 officers
- A State representative
- A member of the Governor's cabinet
- A trustee on the Township board
- The deputy Supervisor of the Township.

There were two who said they were coming and did not show. I am delivering their Bibles to them.

The theme of the day as we honored these officials was "In God We Trust." We had good music, a time where I thanked each one individually and gave them a Bible. The Police Chief got a Bible specifically for police with the police badge imprinted on the front. The member of the governor's cabinet is the Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard. I asked him to speak for 10 minutes. This man is a well respected Christian who has been to Iraq and told us ways to pray for the soldiers as well as ways to pray for these officials.

I ended the service after a message on the theme by asking our church to raise their hands if they will commit to praying for these leaders. Since the leaders were in the front, I asked them to turn and see how many would be praying for them. It was amazing to watch as the whole church committed to praying for them. Following the service, we served a chicken dinner to all who wanted to stay, which was most. I believe this was another way that we showed the Love of the Lord Jesus and made ourselves available to our community.

Steve De Kok  
Clinton Township, Michigan

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## **FINAL REMINDER** **PRAYER SUMMIT**

For all men from NCCBA churches

“To seek the **face** of God  
To **draw near** to God  
To **behold** Him”

--from “What is a Prayer Summit?” By Dave Cetti

To read the rest of Dave Cetti’s article, go to our website:  
[www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com) click on Archives then “Prayer Summit 04”

**September 25 to 28, Cedar Lake, Indiana.**

**Registration must be mailed by SEPTEMBER 6. The form is on the final page of this newsletter.**

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### **Leith Anderson Workshop**

for senior pastors and staff of multi-staff churches on November 1, 2006, at Hayden Heights Baptist, St. Paul, Minnesota. Limited to 25 participants.

**This is starting to fill up**, so mail your \$25 deposit today to the NCCBA office to reserve a spot. The remaining \$75 is due at the door.

Remember to read **Leadership That Works** by Leith Anderson and **The Ministry Staff Member** by Doug Fagerstrom before the workshop.

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### **Trip to the Holy Land with Pastor Mark Waller**

Anyone is welcome to join Pastor Mark Waller of Faith Baptist Church, Park Rapids MN for a trip to the Holy Land (and optional trip to Egypt) next March 8-17, 2007. For more information, call Pastor Waller at 218-732-1404.

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**CORRECTION** to 2006 NCCBA Church Directory: Please change the e-mail for First Baptist Church in Big Rapids, Michigan to: [fbcbr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fbcbr@sbcglobal.net)  
Also, if your directory is missing pages, please let us know. It should be 29 pages long. At least one directory was sent out missing pages 27-29 (Wisconsin listing of churches). Thank you all for your input!

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### **Information about your church's area of ministry:**

Go to [www.Link2Lead.com](http://www.Link2Lead.com) Provided as a service of NCCBA. All 138 churches of the region are listed, giving demographic information for each area. Call Don Shaw, our director, here at the office (715) 538-2298, if you have any questions.

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## **NCCBA Churches in need of a Pastor**

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Mont Clare Baptist Church – Chicago, IL
- First Baptist Church – Lansing, IL
- First Baptist Church—Streator, IL
- Grace Church—Mahomet IL
- First Baptist Church—Elk Horn, IA
- First Baptist Church – Sibley, IA
- Ganson Street Baptist Church – Jackson, MI
- First Baptist Church – Lake Crystal, MN
- First Baptist Church—Jackson, MN
- Palisade Baptist Church—Silver Bay, MN
- Cavalier Baptist Church – Cavalier, ND
- Eureka Baptist Church—St. Croix Falls, WI

# Regional Prayer Summit—September 25-28, 2006

Cedar Lake, Indiana

\$25 deposit; \$122 due at summit (includes room and meals)

## Registration Form

*Please have your registration form and check in the mail **no later than September 6, 2006.***

*The conference center requires a final count by September 8.*

*Mail to: North Central CBA, P.O. Box 568, Whitehall, WI 54773-0568 (715) 538-2298*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

North Central  
CBA  
P.O. Box 568  
Whitehall, WI  
54773

715.538.2298

[nccba@triwest.net](mailto:nccba@triwest.net)

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