

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

August 2007

DEADLINE Sept. 5
Register online TODAY!
Regional Prayer Summit
September 24-27, 2007

This event is open to all men of NCCBA churches and is held at Cedar Lake Bible Conference Center in Cedar Lake, Indiana.

Comments from a new participant last year:

"I'm also experiencing a freshness in ministry and life that I had been missing for a long time. God has revived my heart, renewed my vision for ministry, and given me a new passion for His Word and lost humanity. I can't wait for next year's Prayer Summit." (October 2006 newsletter--see Archives on our [website](#) for the full article)

Steve Daggett, Laporte MN

Registration is easy: online at www.nccba-gc2.com under EVENTS with a deposit of \$25 by check or credit card. Or send a check with the registration form at the end of this newsletter to: NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

**LEADERSHIP SUMMIT HELD IN
EDINA MN**

On July 18-20 eight Regional Directors and members of their respective regional boards met for a summit at Colony Park Baptist

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Contact Our Office

**Valuable Information
for Your Church
Growth**

Demographic information about your church location is available as a free service. All NCCBA churches are listed. Call Don at 715-538-2298 if you have questions.

www.Link2Lead.com

Ministry Quick Links

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**Microsoft Software and
More**

Now available from the NCCBA office. The new

in Edina, MN. There were two parts of the event. First, our National Director, Stephen LeBar, spoke about developing partnerships that CBA is involved in. Currently there is a developing relationship with Cape Town Ministries, a group from South Africa. There is also another group of Baptist churches from South Africa that is beginning to dialogue with CBA as well as a group from Canada.

The keynote speaker was Bill Thrall from Leadership Catalyst. He focused on what healthy relationships look like. Those that attended were positively impacted by this. We all realize that as CB's forge a new paradigm of developing and maintaining healthy, Godly relationships that the Great Commandment and Commission will be greatly advanced. --Don Shaw

Natural Church Development - This is a proven tool that can help your church with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism. No one tool can bring total success, but this one can be of great value. NCB will help you identify the eight qualities and six growth factors for a healthy church. By healthy NCD, this means one that is seeing a steady growth through conversions and the ongoing discipleship of those who are part of the church.

We are able to now offer this tool through the Regional office. If you are not familiar with NCD, contact us. Or if you have used it in the past but were somewhat frustrated, please give us a call at 715-538-2298. Significant improvements have been made in how to interpret and implement findings.

Prayer Content

For some time the subject of prayer has been on my mind. One of the reasons is I find it a struggle. In the last several months I have read two books on prayer, Prayer by J.I. Packer and Prayer - Does It Make a Difference by Phil Yancy. Both of these have revealed that I am not alone when it comes to struggling with prayer.

When I speak of struggling I am referring to the daily discipline. For me it is so easy to just want to jump in and do things. I have

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

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

NCCBA

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WEBSITE

good intentions to spend a dedicated portion praying but to stop and do it is a struggle.

However I want to focus on something else and that is the content of prayer. Ever since we had the Christianity Explored team with us I have realized that in spite of problems with the prosperity gospel we by our practice embrace it. If you take time to think about the things we pray about they focus on health and wealth.

I am not at all suggesting that we no longer pray for the health and financial needs of others but there are other things to take into consideration. For example, Rico Tice in his CE presentation challenged us to spend time praying for the unsaved. For without divine intervention the spiritual blindness they have will not be removed.

There is another aspect of content that I have been reminded of through my reading and struggles. It has to do with perspective. The words of the hymn, "This Is My Father's World" call attention to the fact that all that surrounds us is here because of the Father. It also declares that even when "the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet." In other words our world is God's and irrespective of what is happening He is still in charge.

So what does this have to do with prayer content? As we noted earlier, our prayers are dominated by personal needs of others and ourselves. I think it is also safe to say that in these prayers we are often stating to God what we desire as an outcome. Lately I have realized that in addition to asking God for our desired outcome we should just as earnestly ask what he desires from us in the circumstances we find ourselves.

The fact is there is an example of this that we probably zero in on once a year. In the Garden Jesus presented his outcome "if it is possible let this cup pass." However he went on to say "not my will but your will be done." The logical conclusion seems that Jesus was willing to be used for the purposes of the Father rather than see the Father as a resource for his desired outcome.

Some of us may be facing some circumstances that we find very challenging and painful. We desire an outcome that we think is most desirable. In our mind we can even see this outcome as being profitable because from our perspective God would certainly be glorified. However, as we lay this out before the Father should we not also invite him to help us find our place in his plan. For me that

is now part of my new content.

In September we have our annual Prayer Summit. I would invite you to come and spend the time coming before God and let him speak to us about his desires for both our personal lives and the churches we serve.

Don Shaw

Regional Director

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Pastor Care: Real Christian Leadership

My wife Sandy and I were privileged to attend the CBAmerica Leadership Summit in Minneapolis a few weeks ago. You may learn more about that gathering from other articles in this newsletter. However, since that gathering, I have been thinking a lot about several aspects of genuine spiritual/pastoral/Christian leadership.

While spiritual and pastoral and Christian leadership have much in common, they are not synonymous with each other. There are many leaders in the church currently who are greatly admired and followed eagerly. Unfortunately, on a fairly regular basis, we hear about "another" leader who has fallen into disrepute and disgrace because of sinful behavior. This reality forces me to look at both myself and the biblical record to discover what makes the difference between those who finish well and those who fall flat.

As I have thought this through, my attention has been drawn to two men whose lives are recorded in God's word: Caleb and Paul. Of course, there are many others who could be mentioned. These two captured my attention for different reason.

Caleb was a leader in Israel (Numbers 13-14; Deuteronomy 1:19-36; Joshua 14:6-15:19) as a young man who persisted in following God until his death in old age. I am sure you recall that Caleb and Joshua, as younger men (Caleb was 40), were selected to be among the twelve tribal leaders who spied out the promised land. When 10 recommended one course of action, only two remained on God's course. Caleb's reward was God's promise that he would one day possess the land he had stood upon (Deuteronomy 1:36). As an older man (85), we read about him not only claiming but conquering the hill country around Hebron. God's statement about Caleb was, "I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the Lord wholeheartedly"

(Deuteronomy 1:36).

The other leader I have been thinking about was Paul. He obviously was a God appointed leader, judging from the New Testament record. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul steps out as a leader for the Corinthian believers. He echoes the call of the U.S. infantry platoon leader (pardon the historical reversal)-"Follow my example!" But Paul adds a crucial addition to his call for followers. "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

As Caleb and Paul show us spiritual leadership, they both point beyond themselves to God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 2 displays for us the essential character of Christ and His leadership by pointing to His humility. Although He was indeed God just as much as the Father and Holy Spirit, He made Himself nothing and was obedient to the direction and guidance of His heavenly Father.

This confirms to me that biblical humility is an essential component of our leadership. I think that an excellent spiritual exercise for us all would be to search through the Scriptures to discover what biblical humility really is and then ask God to make it a part of who we are in Christ. I suspect we all might be surprised by what we discover. Have a great discovery adventure.

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT

*Interim Pastor
FBC-Streator, IL*

"I Have A Heart Condition."

I like rocks. I know it's kind of a weird character flaw, but I find them to be quite interesting. In fact, I have a display of rocks in my office on top of my file cabinet. It's surprising how many people like to take a look at them from time to time. I have agates and obsidian, geodes and quartz crystals, sandstone and a bunch of others that look interesting, but I can't tell you what they are called. Not that it's a secret, it's just that I can't identify them.

Most of the time you can easily identify rocks by their appearance, but rocks have other characteristics that help you identify them as well. One of these characteristics is their hardness. There is something called the Moh's scale that "rockologists" use to compare the hardness of rocks one to another (from 1-10). If you happened to have some talc lying around your basement, you would discover that talc has the hardness of 1. On the other hand, if you had some diamonds lying around your basement (which have a hardness of 10), then I would be one of your best friends.

Last March, a group of us from our church had the special opportunity to tour Israel and then on the way home we stopped for a few days in Egypt. I won't go into any details on the trip except to say you need to find a way to get there. Anyway, while in Egypt, we visited some museums and other places that had immense statues of the Pharaohs of Egypt. In fact, one of the most "statuized" pharaohs is Ramses II who is thought to be the Pharaoh in the days of Moses.

We can read about this Pharaoh and the whole scenario surrounding the plagues and the exodus of the Jews in Exodus 7-14. Throughout these chapters you will see that the Pharaoh is described as someone with a hard heart. Sometimes his heart is hard because he hardens it himself and sometimes we see that God hardens Pharaoh's heart. At any rate, it is interesting that we now remember this Pharaoh in statues of stone - that's one hard heart.

All of this made me start to think about the condition of my own heart and the condition of the heart of the people I minister to. Of course, I am not referring to our physical heart here, but to our spiritual heart. I am glad that it's not up to me to determine what condition a person's heart is in. God examines the heart...all I can see are the symptoms which oftentimes reveal the condition of the heart quite clearly.

The symptoms of the hard heart of Pharaoh were that:

- 1 - He did not listen - (7:3-4, 13, 22...) He would not listen to what God had to say to him through Moses and Aaron
- 2 - He would not yield - (7:14, 8:32...) Pharaoh was clearly told what God wanted him to do, but he refused to do it.
- 3 - He could not be trusted - Pharaoh would ask Moses to stop the plagues and the people could go free, so Moses would pray and God would stop the plague and then Pharaoh would go back on his word.

There are many symptoms of a hard heart towards the things of God, but here are 3 fresh ones from the hard heart of Pharaoh. How do you stack up? How do the people we serve stack up? How hungry are we to hear the word of God? Do we attentively listen to His messengers? When we know what God wants us to do, do we refuse to do it? How about our integrity? Do we say one thing and do another?

Unlike a rock, the hardness of my own heart seems to vary from one end of the scale to the other. My goal is to become softer and softer towards the workings of the Holy Spirit in my life, and as my heart changes I trust that the Lord will use me to impact the lives of those around me.

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GOOD IDEA section



Pequot Lakes Baptist Church in Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, has recently opened a building called the "Trailside Center." This facility is open for weddings & receptions; volleyball, basketball, racquetball & archery; open gym & archery clubs & dodgeball tournaments; and tutoring sessions. It is currently being used by the local Learning Center, walkers, people in physical therapy, and also for concerts. On October 5, comedian Ken Davis will be performing there.

The purposes of the Trailside Center are the same as for Pequot Lakes Baptist Church.

"To bring about life change: 1) through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God; 2) through the loving and caring for the people; 3) through ministering to the community and world around us as best as we can by meeting the needs of the community through physical, mental and spiritual assistance."

If you would like to speak to Pastor Mark Whittemore about this outreach, the church phone is: 218-568-4794 or email pequotlakesbaptist@tds.net

Gordon MacDonald Workshop

October 24
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Don't miss this opportunity for questions and answers with Gordon MacDonald on the topic of "Resilient Leadership."

For Pastors and leadership staff, at Parkview Community Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, 9AM to 3PM.

Registration is \$39 either [online](#) or mailed to the NCCBA office, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.



Dear Family and Friends of
WorldVenture,

We are saddened to announce that Dr. Warren Webster left this world Wednesday, August 15, in Wheaton, Illinois, at age 79, after a brief battle with cancer and pneumonia. He was our leader and a well respected missionary statesman who will be missed by many. Warren served as my predecessor here at WorldVenture for 22 years, from 1971 to 1993. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and their two daughters Debby and Cindy and their families.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday evening, August 21, at [First Baptist Church](#), Wheaton, Illinois, where the Websters have been active members for many years. Condolences can be sent to Shirley and the family through the church. Memorial gifts can also be sent to First Baptist Church or to WorldVenture, for the support of the [Bible Correspondence Institute](#), a ministry in Warren and Shirley's beloved Pakistan.

More information and a tribute can be found at [WorldVenture.com](#), click on the link, [Warren Webster: A Life Remembered](#). In honor of Warren and his faithfulness, please leave your remembrances on the web page for all to view.

Respectfully,
Hans Finzel, President
WorldVenture | Littleton, Colorado

Upcoming Events

Prayer Summit, Cedar Lake, IN, September 24-27 [Register by SEPT. 5 online](#) or by mail

Gordon MacDonald Seminar
Glen Ellyn, IL

October 24

[Register at our website](#)

Prayer Summit Registration (due Sept. 5)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church _____
Phone _____
email _____

Mail to: NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773

Deposit of \$25; Balance of \$130 paid at summit

(or register online with a credit card or check www.nccba-gc2.com)

NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Elmhurst, IL ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson, MI YOUTH/ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- Mont Clare Baptist Church--Chicago IL
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- First Baptist Church--Parkers Prairie MN
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN

Thank you for your prayers! Craig Sanborn is the new Youth Pastor at First Baptist Church in Long Prairie, Minnesota.

Contact Our Office

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

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