

North Central CBA

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Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

August 2008



Firestorm Seminar With Ron Susek

On October 28 in Chicago and again on October 30 in Minneapolis, Ron Susek, author of *Firestorm: Preventing and Overcoming Church Conflict*, will be addressing pastors, leadership staff and lay leaders regarding church conflict and other topics. For more information and to register for either seminar, please visit our [website](#). Registration can also be mailed with a check for \$39 to: North Central CBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

If you did not receive a flyer to promote this event in your area, it is available on our website under [Events](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298.

Flooding in Iowa Fund

THANK YOU to the many churches and individuals who have sent funds to help the families affected by the long process of cleanup in the Cedar Rapids area.

The money will be sent by the end of August to our churches in the area. As of August 15, \$3,202.00 has been donated.



In The End It's Still The Gospel

Several years ago I read *Never Call Them Jerks* by Arthur Paul Boers. It is about dealing with difficult behaviors within the church. This is a nice way of referring to those individuals that prove to be a thorn in the flesh. One of the insights that remained with me has to do with being the target of an attack.

The author suggests that when we are attacked, instead of immediately seeking to defend ourselves we should step back and carefully consider what is being asserted. The reason given; no matter how unfair the attacker may be, there is always an element of truth in what is being asserted. Once we have found that element of truth we need to deal with it and then we can go back to the attacker and begin to deal with whatever the issue is. James 1:19-20 states, **"My dear brothers, take note of this, Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."**

I have just recently finished *Why We're Not Emergent (By two guys who should be)* by Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck. Kevin is a thirty year old pastor in Michigan and Ted is a thirty year old writer who attends the church that Kevin pastors. Both of them clearly articulate what they perceive to be the most glaring problems with the Emergent church.

Those who are the main faces of the Emergent Church are very critical of Evangelicals. They are critical of those who are guided by the seeker driven model and those who are committed proponents of propositional truth. Since I am committed to the fact of propositional truth, I, and those who also hold to propositional truth, are fair game for those who are fully Emergent.

When I speak of propositional truth these are the things I believe are foundational. I believe there is absolute truth, that Scripture is the inerrant infallible word of God, that while we cannot know God fully there are things we can clearly know about God, that Jesus is God incarnate; he did die in the place of a sinner such as I, that his death appeased the wrath of God, that there is a literal heaven and hell, and that if people do not repent and place their faith in Christ hell is their eternal destiny.

For the Emergent crowd (who has its roots in evangelicalism) things are not so clear cut. On page 155, DeYoung cites David

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Ministry Quick Links

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Tomlinson who lists a number of shifts the Emergent crowd is espousing. There are nine in his list but I am only going to cite two. These shifts include:

- from propositional expression of faith to relational stories about faith journeys;
- from the church being a place where people take up space to the church as a mission outpost that sends people out;

At this juncture I am ready to attack because of the obvious errors in what they seem to think are positive shifts in the church. However if I step back and follow the advice of both James and the author of *Never Call Them Jerks* there are some things that do stick and might be helpful.

In regard to the first shift cited (from propositional expression of faith to relational stories about faith journeys) I agree that Christianity is not just about having an accurate intellectual grasp of TRUTH. It is also about experiencing transformation. 2 Corinthians 5:17 **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"** However, experience cannot determine the TRUTH rather TRUTH is needed for evaluating our experience. Acts 17:11 **"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."**

In regard to the second shift cited (from the church being a place where people take up space to the church as a mission outpost that sends people out) I agree Christianity is not about being served but is about serving others. The purpose of the church is not for being entertained, or finding a style of worship that makes me feel good or having a gourmet diet of Biblical preaching that leads to lethargy. Hebrews 10:24-25 **"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day coming."** As disciples of Christ we are called to make disciples; to be "salt and light"; neither of these are any good unless they come in contact with decay or brought out to dispel darkness. Matthew 5:16 **"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."**

One of our pastors in the region believes that the Emergent church

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WEBSITE

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presents a grave threat and challenge to Evangelicalism. I agree. The main problem when you peel away all the layers is a significant group of Emergents are assaulting the gospel. The Emergents want to dismiss depravity, sin, judgment, wrath and the substitutionary atonement; however there is no truly good news/gospel without realizing who we are, what we deserve and what God provides for us in the cross. For in the final analysis while we may learn from those who are critical, they must also realize there is TRUTH and it must be defended. Paul put it this way, **"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are trying to throwing you into confusion and trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But**



even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned." (Galatians 1:6-8)

Don Shaw
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Youth: The Approaching Storm: A Story of Innocence Lost

Once upon a time there was a kid named Jimmy. He was considered by most to be a social misfit and was nervous about starting middle school in the Fall. Two weeks ago, Jimmy's cousin Kelly invited him to go to summer camp with him, to which he reluctantly agreed. Within the first 20 minutes of being at camp, Jimmy began the best week of his life ever! He made lots of new friends, played exciting camp games and sang crazy songs in chapel. The most exciting thing of all was that Jimmy learned that he could have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. One night after chapel, Jimmy sat on the steps of his cabin with his counselor and decided to accept Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Two weeks later, Jimmy lay on his bed, staring at the glow-in-the-dark stars stuck to his ceiling. "I miss camp" he thought to himself. He wondered what his counselor was doing and a thought occurred to him, "I should send my counselor a letter." Better yet, he thought, "I could send him an e-mail!" Jimmy was very savvy on the computer and would often help his mother run programs like "Power Point" and "Excel."

He ran upstairs to the computer and began to do a search for the camp.

After a few seconds of searching, Jimmy found a website called *MySpace." Excitement overcame him as he did a search for his counselor, scrolled down the page and found a picture of him right there! Jimmy clicked on his picture and was able to read all about his counselor's favorite movies and bands. There were pictures from camp, pictures from college, and even pictures of him having fun at a Halloween party. He thought about reading a survey his counselor had taken, but was quickly distracted by pictures of other interesting people.

When Jimmy looked at his counselor's friend list, he couldn't believe that he had over 500 of them! He began to search these pages and as he did, his stomach began to turn. He wasn't sure why he suddenly felt this way, but his curiosity continued to guide him like a moth drawn to a flame. Somehow, Jimmy found himself at a woman's MySpace page named "Jezebel." As he clicked on her photo album the sky outside grew black, and the air became cool as the curtains on the window began to blow. There was a storm approaching and this would only be the beginning.

Somewhere else in the world, a burned out youth pastor led a small Bible Study in his living room. That morning they read a passage from Matthew which stated. "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

* MySpace is a popular social networking website offering an interactive, user-submitted network of friends, personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music and videos for teenagers and adults internationally. In September of 2006 the site had well over 100 million accounts and was attracting 230 thousand new registrations per day.

*Craig Sanborn
First Baptist Church
Long Prairie MN*

GOOD IDEA SECTION:

If you missed Bill Ullom's article "*Gathering Together--Growing Together--Going Together*" in our July newsletter about amazing events God is directing in small town Osage, Minnesota, visit our [Archives](#) or call our office for a copy, 715-538-2298.

IRS Mileage Rate Increases

The rising cost of gas prompted the IRS to increase the standard mileage-rate deduction for business-related driving for the second half of 2008. The rate will increase to **58.5 cents per mile**, up 8 cents from 50.5 cents a mile during the first half of the year, for business miles driven from July 1 through Dec. 31 this year. Generally, the IRS changes the rate just once annually, but gas costs prompted a mid-year hike this year.

Upcoming Events

Firestorm Seminars with Ron Susek Oct. 28 & 30
Glen Ellyn IL and Edina MN

[Register online](#)

NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Rockford Baptist Church--Rockford MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Streator IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- Artichoke Lake Baptist Church--Correll MN
- Oak Grove Church--Golden Valley MN
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH

THANK YOU for your prayers. **Dan Norman** is the new Youth Pastor at Whitehall, WI.

Contact Our Office

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

North Central Conservative Baptist Association | P.O. Box 568 | Whitehall | WI | 54773