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Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

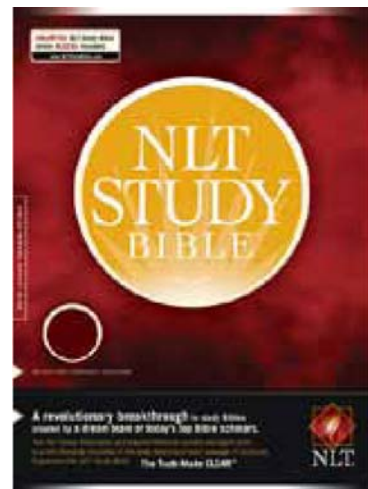
December 2008

BIBLES for CHRISTMAS

Over the last three years, in partnership with Tyndale House Publishing, CBAmerica has been able to offer the popular One-Year-Bible and the Chronological On-Year Bible in case lots to churches.

This year the NLT Study Bible is \$20.00 per Bible (retails for \$39.99) in case lots of 10. Once again, CBAmerica is offering the One-Year Soft Cover Bible (NLT) which sells for \$7.00 per Bible (retail for \$18.99) in case lots of 20 and the One-Year Soft Cover Chronological Bible (NLT) which sells for \$8.00 per Bible (retails for \$19.99) in case lots of 20.

You can place orders by downloading an order form from www.CBAmerica.org or call toll free: (888) 366-3010.



The Gift

By the time you read this Betsy and I will have attended our church's Christmas program and enjoyed seeing our grandchildren participate. At some point most, if not all, of you who read this will have attended such a program and hopefully enjoyed the participation of the children you love.

As much as I enjoy watching our grandchildren and before that our own children, there is a part of me that is a bit uncomfortable. My discomfort does not come from the details of the Christmas program. The discomfort comes from the fact that the original participants were not children dressed in clean costumes on a beautifully decorated platform.

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Natural Church Development

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Your Church

The original participants were adults and the setting was far from appealing to the senses. Along with that there were some very sobering incidents and implications. Take for example the Magi. We seem to get locked in on the fact that they gave gifts fit for a king. However, along with that their arrival led to the death of who knows how many boys from age two and under.

In addition to that there is something else I believe is worth noting in the events surrounding the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the dream that God sent Joseph we have this very important statement, "and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins." As significant as the gifts fit for a king that the Magi presented are, there is a gift that is offered in the statement the Joseph received in his dream.

When Joseph heard the words "save his people from their sins" it meant the Jesus would come to give a gift that I think we need to contemplate. What I think we need to contemplate is found in 1 John 2:1-2, "My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins . . ." (NASB) The gift is that Jesus is the propitiation for sin. The word propitiation is not heard much today and in some circles avoided not just because it is uncommon but because it refers to appeasing the wrath of God.

Jesus came to "save his people from their sins" by giving himself to be the recipient of God's wrath. The reason for my train of thought on this is due to reading Death by Love, by Mark Driscoll and Gary Beshears. The fact is that everyone outside of saving faith in Jesus Christ is under the wrath of God. This truth is declared both in the OT and NT. In Psalm 5:5 "The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong."(NIV) In John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath abides on him."(NIV)

At times when gifts are given, the giver may remind the one given to not overlook all of the nuisances of the gift you have just opened. The giver may then go on to explain aspects that might easily be overlooked or not fully appreciated. In presenting the gospel we continue to emphasis the gift of eternal life with God. However propitiation reminds us that there is another aspect of the gift. It reminds me that outside of Jesus' righteousness being

This is a proven tool 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.

Valuable Information for Your Church Growth

Customized demographic information 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

Ministry Quick Links

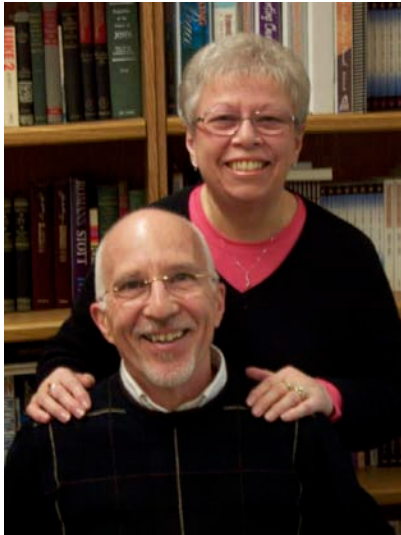
[CBAmerica](#)
[Link2Lead](#)
[\(demographic info\)](#)
[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)
[Worship Summit in Iowa](#)

Microsoft Software and More

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$127 plus \$30 for the installation media. Other Microsoft products,

imputed to me by faith, I fully deserve God's wrath both now and in eternity.

We sing "Amazing love how can it be that thou my King would die for me." Even more amazing is that my King bore God's wrath on my behalf.



Merry Christmas from
Don and Betsy Shaw

donnccba@trivest.net

YOUTH SECTION: Snakes On the Path

This past fall my wife and I took a hike up to Brady's Bluff at Perrot State Park in Trempealeau, WI. We spent the bulk of this beautiful day canoeing around the backwaters of the Mississippi, but after our picnic dinner we read about Brady's Bluff in the park brochure and decided to take the challenge. It was a bit of a hike up the long winding paths to 460 feet above the river. A few places were so steep they even had steps build right into the mountain side for safety. Out of breathe and ready for a rest we reached the top and got to take in the majestic sight. Against the backdrop of rows and rows of the regions coulees, the mighty Mississippi was laid out. We had only a few short minutes to enjoy the view though as it was starting to get dark. We reluctantly began our journey back knowing that the wooded canopy that we enjoyed on the way up would make things very dark on the way down.

We were back on the trail for less than a few moments when it happened. My wife jumped back and gasped as a snake slithered right by her foot. Now my wife is a nature lover and isn't easily

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

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE
REPORTING laws for
your State on our
[website](#) under
RESOURCES**

frightened, but this snake gave her quite a start. Desiring to be a protecting husband I agreed to go ahead of her. I fearlessly plodded on believing there was no way we would bump into another snake, but a few steps later I jerked back as one slithered by on a ridge right by my hand. It wasn't until we encountered our third snake that I started to get a little worried.

I can see a lot of parallels for this in my ministry experience. I spend the bulk of my time paddling around my week in my normal routine when I discover something new. It might be a new idea, a different perspective or some other resource that I believe could have a great impact in the ministry God has called me to. I begin to put time, energy and focus into this new direction and I am able to press on beyond the struggle because I believe the reward to be great. Admittedly I am sometimes disappointed, but when my expectations are met the result is more beautiful than any panoramic view of the Mississippi. I see things like people opening up to the power of the Holy Spirit, people working in their giftings, people seeing their hurts healed and their hearts encouraged. The mountain top is beautiful, but coming down can be dangerous. This is where Satan tries to steal back whatever territory I have taken from him in my becoming more like Jesus. I am joyous but tired as I start back down to the quiet rest of my routine, dedicated to see the new changes and commitments of my heart and mind never fade away. This is when the snakes slither across my path.

Satan is fine with us enjoying mountain top experiences; but rest assured that he is waiting for us to start down the hill. First he seems to hit us with the "snake of doubt". This snake questions the authenticity of our experience, especially any commitments that were made or direction that was given. If this snake is unable to sway us then just a few steps down the path and you most assuredly will be met by the "snake of pride". This snake is almost cute as it coos you with praise for being the only person who could have pulled off an event or experience like that. You start to think pretty highly of yourself and can even begin to evaluate who else in your Church is doing any "real" ministry. Finally if this snake can't puff you up then the third snake will come in fast to beat you down. This "snake of belittlement" will barrage you with questions like "Who are you to think you heard from God" or "Who are you to think God would use you for His work?" This snake does its work in the dark lonely places, dragging up our past mistakes and helping us forget that Jesus loves us so much that He died for us even while we were making those mistakes.

Beware of these snakes but don't be disheartened. You see Satan knows that if he isn't able to trip us up right away, the growth that we experience will stick, making it all the harder for him to cheat, lie and steal from us the next time. Fight off these snakes with the truth of Jesus, "I will NEVER leave you nor forsake you". He walks with us down from the mountain top too.

*Dan Norman
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries
FBC, Whitehall WI*

ENGAGE

"Encouraging young people to confidently communicate and defend the gospel"

Annual Youth Apologetics and Preaching Competition
Hosted by Bethany Baptist Church, Peoria, Illinois

January 30-31, 2009

Purpose: The purpose of Engage is to promote and encourage churches to mentor and develop young people to effectively learn, communicate and defend Biblical truth. Competition is in two areas: Apologetics and Preaching. Each participant chooses one area. Scholarships at the advanced level are: 1st place: \$1250; 2nd place \$500; 3rd place \$250.

The competition consists of two levels of participants, novice and advanced. The novice level is open to students in their freshman or sophomore years of high school. At the novice level, prizes instead of scholarships will be awarded.

Students who compete at the novice level gain valuable experience in preparation for competition at the advanced level in subsequent years. The advanced level is open to students in their junior or senior year of high school. The apologetics competition is open to young men or women while the preaching competition is open to young men only. Deadline for applications is January 15. Call Bethany Baptist Church at 309-692-1755 or visit the website below.

[Bethany Baptist website](#)

Chaplain Ministry in Japan

By Johnny and Ning Cometa, CB Navy Chaplain in Japan

I praise God for the partnership we have with the local churches off base. Last Sunday, I had the privilege of sharing God's Word and messages in songs at King's Chapel. The pastor is Japanese-Hawaiian who is doing great job here in our area. Seven to eight Japanese people accepted Christ in public fashion. Their pastor, who is also my interpreter said, one of them who received the Lord is a physician.

In November, I did an outreach in Kudamatsu City and 28 - 30 Hitachi Contract Workers prayed to receive Christ too. American Missionary Bill and Pamela just sent me an email that he is following them up and they started a weekly bible study. We have made friends with Japanese people here in Japan. I am glad we have churches like King's Chapel here in Iwakuni who holds both Japanese and English Sunday services. How I wish we had our own CB churches here so we can usher new converts to them.

I started my Experiencing God Bible Study this morning at the Southside Chow Hall. My Bible study group comprises many officers, senior enlisted leadership and medical staff. I am glad we have a doctor in our bible study group. They all come to our Sunday Chapel Services for Christian Non Denominational. Experiencing God is an intense Bible Study. Please pray for our topnotch leaders here at our Marine Corps Air Station. This is the first time I have weekly Bible study as early as 6:30 AM.

I plan to start a second Experiencing God Bible Study group with the young Marines. I have envisioned to launch 40 DAYS of Purpose starting January 2009. This is an intense six-week spiritual journey based on Purpose Driven Life Book. I will be preaching whole month of December. On 18 January 2009, I was invited again to sing in Hikari City in their high profile event, a Speech Contest that will be televised. They gave me 30 minutes to perform while the judges are tallying the scores. The good thing is they allow me to sing Gospel songs.

Ken and Bola Taylor, our CB church planters in Tokyo have been invited to hold evangelistic concert here in Iwakuni this coming March 2009. Pray that the Cometa's 3-year tour here will be fruitful and harvestful one as we share the life-changing message of Christ

on and off Base.

Have a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year! For more information about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chaapruss@earthlink.net or 218-776-2813.

FIRESTORM Books Available

The book FIRESTORM, by Ron Susek, is available from the NCCBA office for \$12.50 each. Give Jean a call at 715-538-2298, email nccba@trivest.net or mail a check to NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

NCCBA Pastor ID Cards

Every Senior Pastor should be receiving their NCCBA Identification card in the mail this week. If you do not receive yours, please call us at 715-538-2298. We are also making cards for staff members as needed.

403 (b) DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline to have documents in place for Retirement Plans known as 403(b) has been extended from December 31, 2008, to December 31 2009. Call Don if you have questions, 715-538-2298.

Upcoming Events

ENGAGE High School speaking competition	January 30-31	Info at www.bethanycentral.org
BREAKAWAY overnite outreach for JR & SR High in Illinois	March 21-22	Info at SYF website
Pastors and Wives Retreat SAVE THIS DATE! NCCBA Annual meeting	April 23-25 April 24	Heidel House Resort Green Lake WI Green Lake WI
Youth Pastors/Spouse retreat	April 24-26	Heidel House Resort Green Lake WI

NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Colfax IA YOUTH PASTOR
- Grace Church--Mahomet IL
- First Baptist Church--Streator IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- Oak Grove Church--Golden Valley MN
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN

THANK YOU for your prayers! Bryndan Loritts is the new Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Lansing, Illinois.

Contact Our Office

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

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