

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

December 2009

This Night.

A quiet night;
Like shepherds want,
when sheep sleep safe,
and they half-doze their watch.
Cool stillness.

But heaven stirs
this night.
This night the Son
will leave the haunts of God
to walk this mortal sod.
Divine compression-
condescension,
God takes flesh and bears our world.

This night angels flex wings,
and warm their sound.
All heaven sings,
and soon the song
does come to earth
in angel voice-a wondrous shout!

Light splits night;
an angel speaks
and shepherds leap
to hear such news
of joy and peace.

A Savior born this night,
holy,
manger laid,

and swaddled.

A cry: "Celestial Glory!"
Highest praise!
And countless ranks of angels
raise the vocal symphony.
The herdsman leave their sheep and camp
to find the stall
where God has graced
our human hall.

This night.
this quiet night.
Where only shepherds welcome - bow;
and none else guess
at God's intent
that will confound
and yet bring round
the saving of us all.



By Leo Cumings
Bethel Baptist, Jackson MI

After Christmas last year I was sent the following article. Ken Wyatt is an Elder at Bethany Baptist, Jackson, Michigan. I thought it was a great article so I kept it for this year. I hope you not just enjoy, but also listen to what it is saying. It is my prayer personally and for all of us that God will help us to come to a renewed appreciation for the gift of salvation "to a sinner such as I."

Merry Christmas

Don

Incarnation

"It's the economy, stupid!"

Remember that in-your-face political mantra from the first Clinton presidential campaign? It may not have offered much in terms of substance, but it captured the essence of an issue and helped secure one man's election at the expense of another.

In This Issue

ENGAGE for Youth
CHAPLAINCY
Good Idea Section
Link 2 Lead Changing
Ministry Quick Links
Microsoft software
NCCBA Churches in Need of a
Pastor
Contact Our Office

Natural Church Development

How Healthy is
Your Church?

This is a proven tool that
can help your church
with growth, not just in
terms of quality but in
terms of evangelism.

NCD will help you

I'm no Christian jingoist, but here's one to stimulate some Christmas reflection:

"It's the Incarnation, stupid!"

True, it's a bit cheeky for Christian use, but aren't we often a bit cheeky with ourselves? "How often have I uttered something to myself in abject disgust, such as, "How could you ever have said that!?"

So I take the liberty of speaking to myself and to others who occasionally fall into the seasonal trap of acting as though Christmas were about something other than the Incarnation. Even some very good things: Good food, Fellowship, Nativity scenes, Candles and ceremony. Bells and baubles; Kids and kissin' neath the mistletoe; Giving and getting; Carols and candies.

If, or when, I fall into the trap, I give to our Lord and His various agents the right to speak those cheeky words to me: "Yes, it's the Incarnation, stupid!"

God made flesh; He who knew no sin stepping from the Ivory Palaces of heaven into the grimy stable of a Bethlehem manger.

The theology of incarnation is too deep for this aging journalist to comprehend. I read these words from the Athanasian Creed and find contradictions I cannot unravel:

He is God from the essence of the Father,
begotten before time;
and he is human from the essence of his mother,
born in time;
completely God, completely human,
with a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity. ...

Yet there is within that puzzling formula a truth so precious that it seems at times to be all my own -- though millions of others deem it likewise precious. John Wesley expressed the idea at a point in his life -- near death -- when he could ill afford a waste of words: "And the best of all is, God is with us."

Of all the truths in our holy faith, I think this one must be the most cherished. Our hymnody is richer with embedded nuggets from the God-Is-With-Us Mine. Think about it. We sing "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners," and raise the roof with the closing line: "Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end."

That He is with us -- to the end -- has enough awesome implications to carry us through the coming year with no crisis of faith. If He is with us, then He knows our joys, our sorrows, our failures, our successes ... all that happens in our lives.

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.

Valuable Information About Your Church's Area

Customized demographic information available about your church location. This is a free service for all NCCBA churches. Call Don at 715-538-2298 or email nccba@trivest.net

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)

Microsoft Software and More

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$127 plus \$30 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

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by State on our website under RESOURCES

And the best of it all is, He IS with us!

Merry Christmas!

*Ken Wyatt
Elder, Bethel Baptist
Jackson, Michigan*

[website](#) for ENGAGE application & information

Engage
**"Encouraging young people to confidently
communicate and defend the gospel"**
**3rd Annual Youth Apologetics and Preaching
Competition**
**Hosted by Bethany Baptist Church
Peoria, Illinois
January 29-30-2010**

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.

Who can participate?

The apologetics competition is open to young men or women from 7th through 12th grade, while the preaching competition is open to young men only 9th through 12th grade. A previous first place winner at Engage in either category cannot participate. Winners will be awarded \$100 or \$500 awards, depending on the event entered.

Deadline for applications: January 15, 2010.

For complete details, call Bethany Baptist Church at 309-692-1755 or visit their website: www.bethanycentral.org

New Staff Background Checks

NCCBA is now able to perform background checks for member churches. Call Don at the office, 715-538-2298.

Father, Son & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles & Relevance

This book by Bruce Ware is available from the NCCBA office for \$10. Highly recommended. Email the office at nccba@trivest.net

CHAPLAINCY: Law Enforcement Chaplains

CBAmerica has two law enforcement chaplains (Tim Klerekoper and Russ Guppy) serving in the Seattle/Tacoma WA area. During the recent shooting of four police officers they had many opportunities to minister to hurting families. Tim writes "Sometimes an officer would come by and I'd just hug them while they cried. I don't think most people in the public know how deeply this affects the law enforcement community ... but I told them they had a TON of people praying for them. One person asked me how I deal with all the death I see each day. I told them two words ... Jesus Christ." "Spending hours at the Memorial site in Tacoma was a real privilege. I was able to spend time with the many officers coming from cities all over the State. Many of them cried, and many of them simply reached out to someone who could talk to them and help them put such a tragic event into some kind of perspective. God was gracious ... and I was able to spend a great amount of time helping officers and their families. Many of the officers brought their spouses and their children. When I asked one officer why, he told me "I just can't bear to leave my family right now".

Tim said "over the past few days officers I haven't connected with in years have emailed me or called to set an appointment just "to talk." One officer who has never shown any interest in spiritual things and has let his fellow officers know that "he doesn't like chaplains" asked me to be his friend on FaceBook after the shootings".

Another group of people that are often impacted during this type of crisis are the families of police officers who were previously killed in the line of duty. Just when they think life might be the least bit bearable, another incident sends them back to the time when their loved one died. They've connected with several survivors, and will continue to follow up with them as long as they need it.

One of the important things about chaplain response is our ability to be flexible. Tim's entire week was full - but as soon as he heard about the shootings, he immediately cleared my schedule so he could be available 24/7 if needed. Like many of his fellow chaplains they put in long hours to spend time with hurting officers and firefighters and their families.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of the families, friends, and

fellow officers of the Lakewood Police Department. Tim was able to serve at the street memorial site for two days, and was also called upon to be on a special task force at the Tacoma Dome during the service.

I talked with Russ recently and he also reported many open doors with officers and their families. There were so many opportunities for ministry, and many ways to show the love, grace, and mercy of our Savior. Thank you for your prayers on their behalf as well.

Remember our chaplains serving away from home this Christmas. Pray for their safety, ministry and for their families who would love to have Daddy home with them to celebrate. For more information about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@earthlink.net or 218-776-2813. Merry Christmas!

GOOD IDEA Section: Our Best Days Ever!

Editorial Note: Hillside Bible Church is located in Ortonville, Michigan, just north of Detroit, where unemployment is currently the highest in the nation

Difficult times provide God's church with great opportunities to display our Savior. Our theme at Hillside Bible Church during this hard recession is, "These could be our best days ever!"

People in our community struggle looking for hope in the midst of job losses, home foreclosures and diminished lifestyles. We as believers have an answer for them - the love of Jesus.

We have decided to use these days to bring attention to our Savior. Last winter we served a free dinner to anyone in the community who would come. Each Thursday night during the winter months, we had Pasta Palooza! Our teams of workers made two types of pasta, veggies, salad and a dessert. We fed between 60 and 100 people each week for sixteen weeks.

[\(see Good Idea section of April 09 newsletter\)](#)



Two Saturdays in November, our Faithful Men ministry winterized cars for the unemployed and others experiencing financial distress. We changed oil, checked and adjusted fluid levels and put new windshield wipers on each car. We worked with the local auto parts store and purchased everything needed at cost. Our men worked on

39 cars over the two Saturdays.

The third weekend in November, we had a clothing sale in our gym. Each family paid \$1 for all the clothing they wanted. We charged a dollar per family so that people would think of it as a great deal rather than a free giveaway. Over 50 families came in and emptied our gym. Everything left went to Good Will and the money we raised was used to purchase Thanksgiving dinners for a few of the families who came in.

Each of these events was paid for simply by telling our people what we wanted to do and how much money we needed to do it. Cost for Pasta Palooza was around \$300 a month. The car winterizing project cost around \$650 and the clothing sale had everything donated. Our church budget is tight but our people are generous.

Our community knows that we are a people with hope to share!

*Kevin Shorkey
Hillside Bible Church, Ortonville MI*

Pastor & Staff ID Cards

Every Senior Pastor should be receiving his NCCBA Identification card in the mail by this week. If you do not receive yours, please call Jean at the office at 715-538-2298 or email nccba@trivest.net We are also making cards for staff members as needed.

Link 2 Lead (Percept demographic information) is changing so that access will be through the NCCBA office instead of by individual churches. We will notify you when this change is in effect.

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REMINDERS

- 1) Church donors CANNOT deduct donations until a written receipt is received from the church. (Tax return cannot be filed)
- 2) Contributions received in the offering plate after December 31, must be deducted in 2010. EXCEPTION: if the donation was mailed and postmarked by December 31.

3) Housing allowance for pastors must be in the form of a resolution by the Board or congregation **every year**. Contact NCCBA if you need a sample resolution.

4) CHRISTMAS GIFTS must be included as taxable income, in most cases, and included on the W-2 or 1099 for 2009.

RETREAT ALERT!

NOTE: There will be **changes in the Annual Pastors & Wives Retreat format**. This year we will be offering a seminar on Thursday morning and afternoon before the retreat. The theme of the seminar will be **Board and Leadership Development**. This will be presented by Jim Smith, the Regional Director for CB Southern California. The Retreat itself will begin with Thursday evening dinner and run through Friday evening entertainment. There will be no meeting on Saturday, so you can leave at your leisure.

We will be offering price options for just the seminar or just the retreat as well as a package price for attending both. Look for more details and plan to attend both--April 21-23, 2010, at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

Upcoming Events

ENGAGE January 29-30, 2010 Bethany Baptist, Peoria IL
www.bethanycentral.org --Click on **Ministries, then Sr. High**
Apologetics & preaching competition for youth

BREAKAWAY April 17-18, 2010 [see SYF Illinois website for details](#)
All-niter for all Illinois teens
Rally, gospel presentation, food and games

SAVE THESE DATES on your calendar

Pastors Seminar	April 22, 2010	Heidel House Resort
Pastors & Wives Retreat	April 22-23, 2010	Green Lake, Wisconsin
NCCBA Annual Meeting	April 23, 2010	Green Lake, Wisconsin

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Colfax IA YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Elk Horn IA
- First Baptist Church--Breckenridge MN
- First Baptist Church--Luverne MN

THANK YOU for your prayers--**Anthony Saul** is the new Youth & Worship Pastor at Squaw Creek Baptist in Marion, Iowa.

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

