

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

February 2007



Pastors/Wives Retreat Heidel House, Green Lake, Wisconsin, April 26-28

This is always a refreshing time for pastors and wives at the beautiful [Heidel House](#) resort. The retreat starts in the late afternoon on Thursday, April 26, and ends before noon on Saturday. Dennis Henderson will speak at session times, and his wife, Billie, will host a ladies brunch on Friday. Matt Hoffland will entertain and minister on Friday night. More information is available on our [website](#).

Come for a wonderful time. If you did not receive your invitation in the mail, registration is available [online](#) and a registration form is also at the end of this newsletter.

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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

Microsoft Software and More

Now available from the NCCBA office. The new 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.

Renewal of Focus

In the most recent Church Smart flier there is a book mentioned and reviewed, Knocking Over the Leadership Ladder by Paul Ford. In that review there were a couple of statements that captured my attention.

First, "In the Western world, the search for community is both real and pervasive. But while there is a strong desire for community, our approaches often fail. Too often, our church communities cannot move beyond wants, needs, or task fulfillment of the individual - thus, it is extremely difficult to build depth and lasting unity in relationships. Put simply, it is difficult to find communion of the Holy Spirit when the spotlight is on self."

Second, "God desires that we be His Kingdom builders, committed to the task of stewardship of what he has prepared in our lives and those he entrusts to us. The desire for earthly kingdom climbing pervades our culture, but God has designed a different model through his grace."

In mid January I made a trip to Torreon, Mexico. In Torreon I met with Doug Bytwerk and Tony Gomez. Doug is senior pastor at First Baptist, Spring Lake, Michigan, and Tony is the pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Torreon, Mexico. Jointly they head the Spanish American Mission. It is a small group that was started by Doug's father and Tony's father, a pastor in Mexico.

My purpose for meeting with them was to see if this group could help resource a number of our churches who are seeking to develop Hispanic ministries in their communities. While in Torreon, Doug and Tony took me on a tour of a number of the churches that have been started and to meet their pastors. All of the ones I met had a spirit that I found very humbling.

An example is Juan Baptiste: Juan lives in small town outside of Torreon. His home is a small (600? square foot) house with his wife and four children. He drives an old beat up Ford Festiva that only has first and second gear. The church is not able to pay a \$300 a month salary in order for him to be full time. To make ends meet he hand picks cotton. In speaking with Tony I found out that Juan will serve as pastor of that church until he dies. He has not thought of seeking a bigger or better ministry. His long term goal is training the next generation of leaders and be engaged in the planting of a new church in a nearby community that has no gospel witness.

The church building where Juan and the congregation meet is located on the edge of town. It is part adobe and part concrete block. It has two rooms off the back for Sunday school. They have around 100 that attend. When we took a tour of the building, Juan pulled Doug aside to ask him something. Each year Doug brings tradesmen to Mexico for construction projects. We were outside at the back of the building. Juan drew in the dirt next to the building a box (10' by 15'). His request, "Could the Mission provide the materials and crew to add another room to the building?" In other words, of all of things he could have asked for, with justification, his request was for something that would enhance the ministry, not his personal life.

I recognize that comparing cultures is like comparing apples to oranges.

NCCBA

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WEBSITE and ONLINE retreat
registration

However in reflecting on the comments of Ford, Juan and the other Mexican pastors, I find I am challenged. It seemed to me that they really understand that "it's not about me it's about Jesus" and "it's not about now but eternity". My prayer is, "Lord, make my focus on things that really matter to you and not on this world's model of success."

Don Shaw, Regional Director
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PASTOR CARE- "Enough Is Enough!"

The family I grew up in had a number of oft-repeated sayings that served as an effective verbal shorthand to let you know how things stood. This is one of them: "Enough is enough! And too much is plenty!"

As a child, I would hear this when I was pushing the limit in some direction or another, and I was about to step over that invisible but very real line that divided the acceptable from the unacceptable. It was usually said rather low-keyed and without anger. It was just a statement of fact. "Enough is enough."

The expectation was that my behavior would change and the stress that was mounting in the family system would be reduced or relieved. However, sometimes when stress is increasing, we are not able to reduce or relieve it quite so easily or so effectively. Sometimes the real issue is not how huge or heavy the concern is, but how long we carry it and whether we can take steps to lay it down. This morning I received the following vignette in an e-mail from a friend. I have no idea who the author is, but it contains some wisdom.

Stress Management: A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden."

Perhaps this little illustration can help us better understand what Jesus was offering us when He said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart. And you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Perhaps the burdens of our ministries become stressful because we try to deal with them alone for such a long time. We have the idea that we ought to be able to fix things-to "make it all better." We might even tell

people, "Everything will be alright." The truth is that we cannot fix it and everything will not be alright.

When we try too hard and too long to carry the responsibilities of ministry for others, they become too heavy. On the other hand, when we take them before the Lord and lay them down, sooner rather than later, we find rest and restoration. When it is time to shoulder them again, we can have the Companion and Co-worker par excellence of the universe under the burden with us.

Even if all we are doing is offering a cup of cold water (Matthew 10:42, 25:40), we need to not hold it too long without resting; when we rest, we need to rest in Him; and when we continue, we are privileged to be yoked in tandem with the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT
Interim Pastor, FirstBaptistChurch
Streator, Illinois

FATHERS, TAKE NOTICE

This month's topic is directed at those of you who are fathers. How are you doing at being a dad? I've got four kids that are now out of high school, and as I look back at those formative years, we had good times and we had some tense times. There are memories that just bring a warm sensation all over my body, and then there are those times that I really screwed up & it still makes me wince. We, as youthworkers, have the tendency to spend too much time with other people's kids, and not enough time with our own. My mantra, when my children were younger was..."I gotta go!" Does that sound familiar? We seem to rationalize our absence in the family, because "we're on a mission for God." If we're doing church work, then it's OK to ignore our responsibilities at home...or is it?

We recently held a city-wide youth event, of which part of the evening included creating a "My Space" account on paper. One of the questions asked was "How does your dad see you?" Listed below are some of the responses:

- he doesn't
- not worth it
- daddy's little girl...gone wrong
- I'm not worth his time, and I'm not worthy of his love
- his kid...unfortunately
- a disappointment. worthless. fat
- he doesn't want to. I am unwanted.
- dead, not important, not good enough
- I don't fit into our family
- my dad doesn't see me
- a geek
- I wish I knew
- a failure
- WHAT DAD?!?!?!?
- destroyed...only accessible by hatred

-I don't know how my dad feels about me because we never talk.
-NOTHING. That pretty much says it all. He doesn't talk to me. He never comes to see me. He never tries. He really doesn't care about me. I used to be his baby girl, but he has a new one now. I got replaced by a different girl and her mom.

There were many more cards just like these. As I read through them, they broke my heart. But they also reinforced my resolve to be a better dad. We all know, deep down, if we're the parent God wants us to be. If we've got things to change, when is a better time than right now to put some action to your words? These teenagers are crying out for a father to notice them. A father to hold them when they are hurting. A father to let them know that they are OK and he's going to be beside them all the way. A father that will follow God's example and demonstrate to them how deep his love for them is. A father that will verbally, daily, say to his kids "I Love You". Don't let your children grow up, echoing the same sentiments as those that you read about above. Put your family as your number one priority on your schedule, this week and in the weeks that follow.

Nate Schroder
Discovery Church
St. Cloud MN

BREAKAWAY

Junior and Senior High Students Don't miss the 13th Annual Breakaway event in Illinois and Indiana March 17 and 18, 2007. Chicago/Milwaukee Hockey Game, prizes, pizza, and gym facilities are just a part of this youth outreach. Contact Pastor Duane at (708) 474- 5400 for more details,

neonpa.storduane@netscape.net
[State Youth Fellowship website.](#)

Henry Spicer Scholarship Applications

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS This scholarship is available to high school seniors who will be attending college this fall. The student must also be a committed Christian and a regular attendee of a NCCBA affiliated church.

For more information or an application, call our office or go to our website and click on "Spicer Scholarship."

DEADLINE IS APRIL 2.

CHAPLAINCY - Built to Last

The theme for the 100th anniversary celebration of Bethany Baptist Church in Peoria while I was the pastor was "Built to Last". That idea ran through my mind last week as I read the reports from several chaplains. Dennis Newton went to Fort Campbell, KY in 1986 as a chaplain and along with three others was to begin a new service for soldiers. After four weeks no one showed up and they gave up and nothing was begun. The next year Dennis was the chaplain in charge and was asked to begin a ministry in the same place. Again for the first four weeks no one came. The others said it was just a repeat of last year but Dennis said let's keep hanging in there. The fifth week one person came and three months later forty people were coming each Sunday to worship. Dennis was assigned back to Fort Campbell in 2006 and today in a new building build special for that group over 200 meet each Sunday with over 100 women meeting each week for Bible study.

In 1996 Dennis became the resource manager at Fort Campbell and along with other chaplains began a contemporary ministry called "The Bridge". In 2005 when the 101st Airborne deployed to Iraq they had 175 meeting for worship. They needed another building and moved to a gym. Today they have 10 chaplains involved with two worship teams ministering to those who come. Here are two ministries begun by a CBAmerica chaplain that were "Built to Last."

Johnny and Ning Ning Cometa pastored in the Philippines before coming to the States to pastor and eventually enter the military as a CBAmerica chaplain with the Navy. While in the Philippines they led a young eighth grader to Christ named Juana Cisneros, one of their first converts in Samar, the least evangelized region of the Philippines. The Cometas recently received her letter telling them that she was now a missionary in China sharing Christ with the Nosu people. She will do Ethnographic Research, study Chinese and share Christ as a tent maker. Another ministry "Built to last."

God is at work through the ministries of our chaplains as they serve around the world. We have military chaplains in eight foreign countries ministering to our troops. Pray for them and their families and that God will use them to build ministries that will last. For more information about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruess@earthlink.net or 218-776-2813.



Thank You, Cathy!

Check out our new website and online registration for the Pastors and Wives retreat and the Resilient Pastor Seminar, thanks to Cathy Nehring, our webmaster. This took many hours of work, and we appreciate the effort and the new look very much!

Upcoming Events

Breakaway - Illinois State Youth Fellowship	March 17 & 18	More info...
Worship Summit - Marion, Iowa	April 20 & 21	More info...
Pastors and Wives Retreat - Green Lake, WI	April 26-28	Register online
Youth Pastor/Spouse Retreat - Green Lake WI	April 27-29	
Annual Meeting of NCCBA, Green Lake WI	April 27	

Pastors/Wives Retreat Registration

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY APRIL 13

___\$320 couple

___\$250 single

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Church _____ City/State _____

Mail checks and the above form to: NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773

Questions? Call Don or Jean 715-538-2298

Credit Cards are accepted for online registration only.

NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Elmurst, IL ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Bradford IL
- Mont Clare Baptist Church--Chicago IL
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Elk Horn IA
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI
- First Baptist Church--Big Rapids MI
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN
- Eureka Baptist Church--St. Croix Falls WI

Contact Our Office

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