

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

February 2008

## Pastors and Wives Retreat

April 24-26

[Heidel House Resort](#)

Green Lake, Wisconsin.

*Pastors: you should have received your invitation in the mail. If not, please call Jean at 715-538-2298 or go to our [website](#)*

This is the place to relax and be refreshed. Our speaker is Steve McVey of GraceWalk Ministries and the ladies will have a special brunch with Jill Swanson, an image consultant with a great sense of humor. Entertainment from Paul Arneberg of Jugheads will be Friday evening for all to enjoy.

More information about the speakers and entertainment is available on our [website](#). Register [online](#) or by mailing in your registration from the invitation.

The Youth Pastor and Spouse Retreat begins April 25 and ends the morning of the 27th, also at Heidel House Resort. Details and registration coming soon!

## Henry Spicer Scholarship

**High school seniors:** This scholarship is for those attending college this fall. The student must be a committed Christian AND a regular attendee of a NCCBA affiliated church.

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### Valuable Information for Your Church Growth

**NEW in 2008!**  
Customized demographic information now 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](http://www.Link2Lead.com)

### Natural Church Development

This is a proven tool that can help your church

Three \$900 scholarships were awarded last year. The amount and number awarded varies from year to year. For more information and an application, go to our [website](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298. DEADLINE IS APRIL 1.

## The Atom and the Church

Let me start off by stating clearly I do not have a natural inclination toward math and science. However, that does not mean I do not find these fields uninteresting. Over the years I have read numerous things from the various science disciplines that have helped me to realize how absurd it is to think that creation can be attributed to anything but God.

Recently I came across some information from the field of quantum physics that captured my attention. The writer referred to the atom. He stated that prior to the field of quantum physics it was thought that the atom was the smallest of matter. They were conceived to be solid, impenetrable elements; with emphasis on impenetrable.

Quantum physics contends there is no world composed of solid, individual parts unaffected by and unrelated to one another. When scientists sought to find the smallest elements, they found particles that were smaller than atoms. These particles became so small that there were not particles - only relationships. Subatomic particles can only come into being because of the presence of other particles. The writer goes on to state, "So we will never find a 'lonesome lepton' or a 'do-it-yourself quark'. Or, adapting 17<sup>th</sup> century writer John Donne's words, 'No photon is an island'."

Since I have read this and begun to digest it my mind has focused on several things. First, I find it amazing that as science learns more about creation the more it affirms God as the creator. Not only that, but as we learn about the make-up of the atom it reaffirms the importance of being relational.

For example, in 1 Corinthians 12 Paul deals with people who having a problem with understanding the value of the gift they each have been given. There were two different views. One view was, "since I am not---; then I am not really part of the body." The other view was, "if you are not---; then you cannot be part of the body." Paul's point is to remind everyone that all, no matter what the gift, are equally important and that all the gifts are necessary for the effective operation of the 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.

### 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 \$122 plus \$35 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](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING LAWS for your State on our [website](#) under "Resources"**

Putting this in quantum physics terms, the model of western individualism, do-it-my-way, do-it-yourself is not consistent with what are the implications of Paul's use of the human body and the importance of each part that makes up the church. Also from quantum physics there is the need for appropriate relationships for the church to be effective both for fellowship and mission.

Second, I began to think about what this means for us as CB's. The question for us is this: is there a Biblical basis for deliberately seeking to develop relationships and network with other CB or likeminded churches? I believe with certainty the answer is yes. Why am I certain? Among the eight regional directors we are coming to realize that each of us bring a different strength to the table. As we have come into an intentional relationship we are now seeing how we can be of benefit not only to each other personally but how this can benefit each of the regions. If this is what is occurring nationally then I truly believe it can happen regionally.



The challenge is for us to breakdown our desire for western individualism, the do-it-my-way, do-it-yourself way of doing things and model ourselves after the atom.

*Don Shaw, Regional Director*  
[donnccba@trivest.net](mailto:donnccba@trivest.net)

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## Pastor Care:

### VALENTINE'S DAY 2008

I have been sitting at the computer for several hours, chewing my mental and emotional cud about the events of yesterday. It is Friday morning, the day after Valentine's Day.

Yesterday began like lots of previous Valentine's Days. I got up early to sneak out into the garage and retrieve from the trunk of my car the gift, wrapping paper and card I had purchased for my wife. The evening before, the news reports were full of advice about how to celebrate, and good-natured banter about the pros and cons of, the approaching day emphasizing love.

After gift-opening and breakfast, I left for work, looking forward to returning home in the evening to continue the celebration. However, in mid-afternoon, shortly after 3:00 pm, the NPR radio station located at the campus of Northern Illinois University began announcing that a shooting incident had occurred on campus. The initial information was sketchy, but it was clear that something very serious had taken place. The campus is near enough to be "in the neighborhood."

My home-ward travel between 7 and 8 that evening was punctuated by both local and national news reports of this horrible turn of Valentine's Day into a day of hate, sorrow and sadness. By the time the 10:00 News came on, 6 people were confirmed dead and several others were in critical condition. It was being billed as the third most deadly university campus shooting in U.S. history.

When I arrived home I discovered a message on the cell phone which I had inadvertently left at home. It was from the team leader of the Critical Incident Stress Management team that I am a part of. It was a call for available team members to go to the local fire department headquarters to lend assistance. Fortunately and unfortunately, I got the message too late to participate.

Why fortunately and unfortunately?

Fortunately, because I was tired and wanted to be at home with my wife. It was a cold winter night, heading for a low of 0 degrees with 10-below wind chill. It was fortunate because I knew that those fire-fighters and law enforcement personnel were going to be profoundly affected by their involvement in the carnage, trying to save lives and evacuate the wounded. I wasn't ready to enter that depth of emotion. It was comfortable to sit at home and complain about how the news media were handling things.

It was unfortunate, because it was an opportunity to be used by God in the lives of some people who are helpers and who now needed help-help to process the impact of this event and to be able to go on helping. It was unfortunate because I know well those team members who were already on their way to the scene. I know what it is like to work along side them as a team in these situations and sense the resurgence of life in those traumatized by the event.

My point in all of this is to encourage us as pastors to be prepared to be a meaningful part of helping people, whether they are law-enforcement/fire-fighter people or not, who are touched by these kinds of events. A good start would be to build relationships with local police officers and fire-fighters. Another positive step would be some training in how to be more helpful in crisis situations. And of course, we need to be aware of our own emotional and spiritual situation and how to care well for ourselves, our family members, and our pastoral colleagues.

I believe that being present and helpful in times like these can bare fruit of eternal significance. I also believe that being present and genuinely beneficial in times such as these opens many doors for future ministry. When people see us as caring and competent, they will be more likely to seek us out on other occasions.

It is also important that we be able to lead our congregations in making God-honoring responses to these kinds of events. Both compassion and courage are important. Dealing well with crises is not just an emotional issue, it is a spiritual issue also. We need to be prepared to assist our church family in understanding how what we say we believe informs and shapes how we respond.

We never know in advance when things such as the shootings at NIU are going to happen. However, we can take steps to be prepared so that, when they do happen, we can be effective and beneficial as God's servants to hurting people.

Respectfully,

*Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT, Interim Pastor*

*First Baptist Church, Streator IL*

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## NEW CHURCH PLANT:

### **Imago Christi-Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

The day has come. We finally got off the ground in our new church plant in Cedar Rapids. January 5th was our inaugural worship

service with 60 in attendance. For the four weeks in January we have averaged 52 despite some horrible weather we have encountered. Several new people have come, and I believe we are slowly letting our presence be known in the Mound View neighborhood.

The contract we signed states that we will pay \$14,000 earnest money, \$1,000 a month for the first six months of lease, \$2,000 a month for the second six months of lease and \$3,000 a month for the third six months of lease, totaling \$50,000. All of this, according to the contract, will go toward the purchase price of the building. We must opt to purchase in July of 2009. The total price of the purchase is \$520,000 less the \$50,000 we will have already paid.

So many people have surprised us with their financial support of the work. Many in the Cedar Rapids community and beyond have generously given so this work may go forward. However, what is even more encouraging to us at this point is the financial support of those within the congregation. We ended up in the black at the end of January. Admittedly, our budget is small for the time being, but nevertheless, it is always encouraging to be in the black.

About once a month we have a fellowship time after the 5:30 Saturday service. This is always well received. Also, about once a month we try to have a special event such as concerts from well known artists in the Cedar Rapids area or events that are intended to draw in the community. Once the weather warms up, we are even thinking of the possibility of a Saturday barbeque in the parking lot.

The excitement is there and the determination is there as well. We have many faithful workers who are dedicating their time and energy beyond what we ever dreamed to make an impact on this community.

There is one final item I feel compelled to mention. Without prayer this work will not go forward. This is not our church; it is the Lord's church. Therefore every Thursday evening we spend an hour in prayer for the work, often praying specifically for visitors, potential visitors and people in the congregation. We also covet your prayers for this work. We want the gospel of Jesus Christ to penetrate more than ever the downtown area of Cedar Rapids. We would be honored if you would consider Imago Christi Church priority in your prayers. In addition, if the Lord should lead you, we value your financial support of a church trying to minister in a

needy neighborhood near downtown Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

***Ben Geho, Chairman of the elder board***

***Imago Christi Church  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa***

***Phone: 319-721-9853***

***website: [www.imagochristicp.org](http://www.imagochristicp.org)***



## **YOUTH: Did You Remember?**

Valentine's Day has come and gone. How did you do? Was your spouse or "significant other" duly impressed or are you still in the dog house for forgetting--again!?! My wife keeps reminding me about her first Valentine's Day gift after we were married. I thought an electric can opener was kind of cool. She had a different term for it. After all, it was motorized (kind of) and we didn't have one, so why not? I figured it would give me bragging rights with my guy neighbors. At least they would be impressed!

Why is it that we need a specific, once a year, day to remind us to love and care for others? Our teens are currently going through 1<sup>st</sup> John, and in 2:5-6 it tells us "But those who obey God's word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did." It's not just a Christmas and Easter thing, it's an ongoing lifestyle. Would those that we truly love believe us if we physically and verbally demonstrated to them as much love as we do for Christ? I think for a lot of us, we would either be sleeping in our car down by the river or be physically drug in to see a counselor (after we got out of the hospital from the beating that we got). Love is a conscious day in and day out lifestyle. It is verbal and it is physical. What type of words do you use to express to others that you love them? What kind of actions do you demonstrate to others to show them how deep your love for them really is? Can I truly say that I am living my life as Christ lived his, or am at least striving toward that end? I know that I, for one, need a LOT more practice.

And if Valentine's Day didn't quite turn out like you imagined or hoped for, remember--there's always a birthday coming up!

*Nate Schroder  
Discovery Church  
St. Cloud, MN*

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## **"The Gourmet Chicks Cookie Club"**

Hello, my name is Sylvie Côté-Nace. I am a CBAmerica prison Chaplain's wife. My husband is Rev.J Michael Nace, who works at Gowanda Correctional Facility in Gowanda, New York.

Recently I read in my local newspaper that the troops needed some items, and they are very grateful for goodies. That gave me an idea, and I started a new ministry. Since I am a gourmet cook and have a real passion to cook, I decided to recruit some of my friends that are excellent bakers. I then named my group "The Gourmet Chicks Cookie Club". We want to share our talent with appreciative soldiers who risk their life every day to keep us stay safe. So far there are 4 ladies in the club, and on February 7, by priority mail we sent, 65 dozen cookies, made with butter and all the best ingredients. The guys should receive the cookies for Valentine's Day.

I did not stop there, after feeding them with yummy cookies, I knew that our soldiers have need for certain items. I stepped in, and used my contacts and asked 4 churches in my little village, if they wanted to help us. So far The Perrysburg Seventh Day Adventist church, and the Lutheran church endorsed us 1000%, I am waiting for more church committees to approve my project. I asked the permission to put a cardboard box in their church and provide them with a list of items needed for the troops. I will collect the boxes every 3 months and send them at the same time that I send more cookies.

We took a commitment for one troop. The unit we adopted has 40 guys and we will take care of their needs as much as we can.

So every 3 months we will send them, cookies to uplift their soul, and we will send them boxes of items they need. Among the items they need are baby wipes, hard candy (Jolly Rancher), Pringles, jerky, Slim Jims, Single serving drink mixes to add to their water bottles, magazines, hand held games, hot sauces or spices. Personal Items: toothbrushes, shaving cream, foot care, skin care, chapstick, eye drops, baby powder, individual pack tissues, stationary etc.

I printed a list of needed items that the people can post on their fridge, and buy some of them when they come on sale. The person will realize that after all, you don't need to spend a lot to make a

difference. It will add up if each person takes time to buy an extra item or two when they shop and drop it in the box designated to this effect at their church.

Finally I also added an addition to this ministry. A friend of mine, Sherri, gave her e-mail address to "our" troop, and told them that if they have any special prayer requests to let us know, and we will gladly pray for them.

It is noted that each shipment will be accompanied with a nice letter from the "Gourmet Chicks Cookie Club", Bible verses and uplifting and encouraging words will be added to the letter. How about that?

For the ones who are concerned about the cost of shipping, worry no more, starting in March 3, 2008, you can go to the Post Office and ask for a PLO box, and they will provide you as many as you want. When the boxes are full and packed well, bring them back to the Post Office, and they will send the package priority mail and charge a flat rate of \$11.00 and this no matter how much the box weighs.

We need to bear in mind that no matter what are our political position and view in this war, that these soldiers are there and are risking their life in a daily basis and all that, so that we can be safe. For that they deserve to be recognized and taking care. Imagine the sacrifice they are doing.

My prayers and dream will be that my project could multiply all over the U.S.A and like that if a group adopts one troop, like I did, and take care of them, these brave soldiers won't be neglected.

For more information about how you or your church can minister to our troops at war contact Al Russell, the CBAmerica Director of Chaplaincy at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) or 218-776-2813.

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## **A Time for Prayer**

The Western Wisconsin's Cluster of NCCBA Pastors met recently. The Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning session, January 28-29, was given to prayer. Kevin Morris pastor of New Richmond's First Baptist Church led the group. Kevin challenged our thinking through Scripture reading and devotional thoughts from various sources. The BIG thing, however, was simply spending time in prayer with a group of likeminded leaders.

The group followed a pattern of prayer given by the Lord Jesus.



Initiating our prayer time was worship. We moved on to seeking the mind of Christ and intercessory prayer. All the guys that attended gave positive reviews of the need to do this annually. The setting at Arrowhead Bible Camp was conducive to the time set aside for this prayer summit.

*Eldon Carlson  
Bloomer Baptist Church  
Bloomer, WI*

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### **Conference at Community Baptist Church March 28-29, Fargo, North Dakota**

The CBC Annual Conference is intended to help individuals, families and households better understand and practically apply a biblical Christian perspective to all areas of life for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom.

#### **Conference description**

Adversity is hard to endure, and can even be harder to understand. It's easy to trust God when everything's going your way. But what about when things go wrong? Have you ever asked yourself the following questions:

- If God were really in control, why has God allowed this situation to happen?
- Why does God allow horrible things to happen to people and nations?
- Is anyone really in charge?
- If God is loving, powerful and wise, why am I in this mess?
- Is God punishing me by allowing these circumstances in my life? What have I done wrong?
- Can I really trust God with my life and my future?
- Can God use adversity to accomplish good in my life and in the lives of others?

If you have a desire to understand God's Sovereign hand in this world and to trust Him more in every situation, you will not want to miss this seminar.

### **About the speaker**

Jerry Bridges is a well-known Christian writer and conference speaker.

He is author of nine books including *The Pursuit of Godliness*, *The Discipline of Grace* and *The Pursuit of Holiness*, which has sold over one million copies. Altogether, his books have sold over 2.5 million copies, and several have been translated and published in 16 different languages.



### **Conference Registration:**

The conference is open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Attendance will be limited to 175 participants. A free-will offering will be taken to help defray expenses.

To register or for more information contact:

Community Baptist Church  
3535 25<sup>th</sup> St. S  
Fargo, ND 58104

Phone: (701) 235-5483  
Email: [office@cbcfargo.com](mailto:office@cbcfargo.com)  
Website: [www.cbcfargo.com](http://www.cbcfargo.com)

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## **ENGAGE**

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

**Annual Youth Apologetics and Preaching Competition  
Hosted by Bethany Baptist Church, Peoria, Illinois  
April 18-19, 2008**

### **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 MARCH 1.** Call Bethany Baptist Church at 309-692-1755 or visit the website below.

### [Complete Rules and Application](#)

#### Upcoming Events

<b>Jerry Bridges Conference</b> Fargo, North Dakota	<b>March 28-29</b>	<a href="#">Register at CBC's website</a>
<b>BREAKAWAY</b> Outreach for JR & SR High in Illinois	March 29-30	<a href="#">Info at SYF website</a>
<b>ENGAGE Competition</b> High School students Bethany Baptist, Peoria IL	April 18-19	<a href="#">Bethany's website</a>
<b>Worship Summit</b> , Cedar Rapids, Iowa	April 18-19	<a href="#">More info and registration</a>
<b>Pastors and Wives Retreat</b> and <b>NCCBA Annual Meeting</b> Heidel House resort, Green Lake WI	April 24-26	<a href="#">Register online</a>
<b>Youth Pastors/Spouse retreat</b>	April 25-27	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--Whitehall, WI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- First Baptist Church--Parkers Prairie MN
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN
- Artichoke Lake Baptist Church--Correll MN
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH

#### Contact Our Office

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - [nccba@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

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