

North Central CBA

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Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

February 2009

## Pastors and Wives Retreat

Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin, April 23-25, 2009

Come for a time of refreshment and relaxation at beautiful [Heidel House Resort](#). Spacious rooms, good food, and entertainment by actor Alan Atwood are all awaiting you. Our keynote speaker is CBAmerica's National Executive Director, Dr. Stephen LaBar, and the ladies will have a Friday brunch with guest speaker Vicki Smith, Women's Director of CB Southern California.

More information and registration by check or credit card are available [online](#) or by mail.

*Senior and Associate Pastors: Your brochure should have arrived in the mail. If you need another one, it can be printed from our [website](#) or call Jean at 715-538-2298.*

## PRO-ACTIVE PRESCRIPTION

In [Vintage Church](#) by Mark Driscoll and Gary Breshears there is a long letter that Mark read to his congregation confessing that in his love of Jesus and the love he became physically, emotionally and spiritually drained. As he came to terms with his state of exhaustion he realized he needed to not only change his work schedule but most serious of all he needed repent of bitterness, unrighteous anger, control and pride.

What initially impresses me is that Mark would stand before the Mars Hill Church of several thousand and be totally transparent

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**Natural Church  
Development**

about his ministry limits and spiritual state. Based upon the action of Adam and Eve in the garden the more natural thing to do is to cover up and deny there is anything wrong. The proof of this is most often played out when we are confronted by potential or actual bad news. Our first response is to deny and even though the information could lead to serious negative consequences unless accepted.

Also what impresses me is the fact that Mars Hill Church took steps to enable Mark to not only continue to minister but to be able to minister in areas he is most gifted. In other words the congregation and leadership demonstrated a level of maturity that is not often found in churches.

In reflecting on this for myself and us as pastors the words of Jeremiah come to mind, "The heart is desperately wicked and deceitful above all else. Who can understand it?" The issues of our hearts and the sin that resides there should be a vital concern for us in ministry. All of us are aware of people who have crashed. I think if we were able to fully examine all of the factors that lead to the crash we would find at some point there was a heart issue that was not dealt with.

God was able to get Mark's attention before he crossed the crash line and in the process get him to look not just at the way he did ministry but also the matter of sin that was residing in him. There is another passage that comes to mind from the Psalms, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." The thought comes to mind that, would it not be better for us to take proactive measures in not only recognizing our ministry limits, but also in addressing sin that does keep seeking to take residence in our hearts? Rather than being forced either by a crisis or crash to deal with things that diminish true ministry.

Norman Shawchuck, one of the pioneers in church conflict resolution, advocates that a congregation will reflect who the leader is. If this is true, I believe it is, then maybe we should step back from seeking the latest leadership technique and have God search and test us so as to remove offensiveness and lead us to where both we and the ministry should go.

In saying this, I am not advocating that there is no value in finding ministry tools that can assist us. Rather let us take the time to allow

### Available for Your Church

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### 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](http://www.Link2Lead.com)

### Ministry Quick Links

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[Worship Summit in Iowa](#)

### Microsoft Software and More

Microsoft Office Pro Plus

God to help us to focus on the area of our lives that is most threatening to ministry which involves both us and those we are called to serve.

*Don Shaw, Regional Director*

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.

## PASTOR CARE

### ARE YOU SEEING RED?

The chances are you are seeing lots of red today. Here we are again, just after Valentine's Day. I won't mention that it used to be called Saint Valentine's Day (that is another article). However, I will mention that the arrival of this "special" day in mid-February faces men with a replay of the anguish and anxiety that gripped us less than two months ago-what to get our wives that will convince them that we really do love them.

My anxiety and my interest about this issue was piqued a day or two ago when I heard a 15-second blurb on the radio (I know, the P.C. word is sound byte; but I am really conservative). I hesitate to mention this because I don't remember the facts about where the information came from. I do remember clearly the content.

The announcer was commenting on surveys about what women valued most highly as Valentine's gifts. I was really surprised to hear that numbers 2, 3, and 4 were cards, candy, and jewelry, not necessarily in that order. However, number 1 was always the same: a love letter from her husband.

While it was surprising, it also made a great deal of sense. What could be more meaningful and effective to express our love, commitment, devotion, passion, and appreciation for our wives than a heart-felt letter-in our own words, and I would suggest our own hand writing-saying all those things we try to convey with cards and candy and other gifts. And yet, we have been convinced that all those other things can do a better job.

That blurb got me to thinking about the last time I wrote a love-letter to my wife. I don't remember the exact date, but I am very aware of the exact situation and can place it within a week of the date. It was in the first week of July 1992. I was in Korea, stationed along the DMZ (De-Militarized Zone) with a Field Artillery unit. On the 9th of July, I would be boarding an airplane that would take

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RESOURCES**

me back home, after a one-year "separated tour"-Army language for "no family members allowed." During that year, many love letters had been received and sent, each one cherished and kept. They are still in a box up on a shelf somewhere, along with those we wrote to each other over the years whenever we were separated by military duties. My wife and I keep saying we ought to destroy those letters before we die, because we don't really want anyone else to read them. But we don't want to give them up, either. We don't reread them, and yet we know they are there, and we remember how important and significant we are to each other.

What a sadness, that the last time I wrote a love letter to my wife was nearly 17 years ago. That is until now. My wife asked me what I was going to write about this month, and I told her about the radio blurb. With a mischievous twinkle in her eyes, she said, "Well, you know what that means, don't you." With an equally mischievous twinkle in my eyes, I said, "I do."

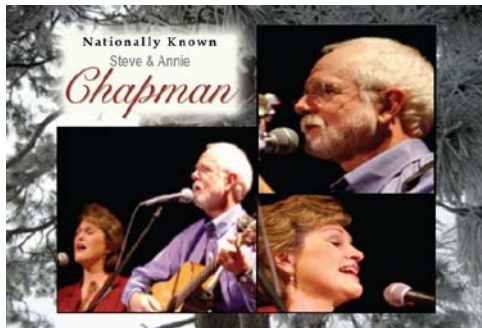
May I invite you, encourage you, to join me in starting a new or renewed tradition of writing love letters to our wives, not just at Valentine's Day, but frequently throughout the years ahead. Who knows what that might do to refresh, renew, revitalize, reinvigorate, grow our marriages. It might even spill over into our congregations. Who knows?

*Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT  
Stillman Valley, IL*

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## A CHAPMAN WEEKEND



First Baptist Church of Pequot Lakes, Minnesota is hosting Steve and Annie Chapman for a weekend of music and stories for all. Go to [the Trailside Center website](#) for more information and tickets or call the church at 218-568-4794.

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# Scholarships for Seniors

The Henry Spicer Scholarship is awarded each year to high school seniors planning to attend college in the fall. To qualify, an applicant must be a committed Christian AND a regular attendee of a NCCBA affiliated church. The amount and number varies from year to year. For more information and an application, go to our [website](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298. **Deadline April 1, 2009**

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## YOUTH SECTION: The Heart Is the Start

"What is our religion? Is it a pattern of failed actions or is it a set heart change to move into a peace beyond this world that must be shared with others?"

In the context of James 1:27, this question was recently posed to us by a fellow minister of the gospel.

Before you read our responses, take a moment and consider your own answer first.

As we think of heart change and sharing with others, Jesus' words Matthew 22:37-40 (Great Commandment) and Matthew 28:19-20 (Great Commission) come to mind. In Matthew 22, Jesus talks about loving the Lord with all of our heart, mind and soul and loving our neighbor as ourselves. In Matthew 28, Christ calls us into action on these principles when he says, "go and make disciples", describing that in part as "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

It should be noted there is a need for heart change to happen first in order for life change to occur. If there is no heart change, then why would there be any mind or soul change? And if one's mind and soul are not conformed to Christ, why would someone tell others about their friendship with him? As we ponder the question above, we both agree with the implied statement that it must be a set heart change, which comes from God. Once we experience that, we are, like Paul, "compelled to preach" (1 Corinthians 9:16).

When, in youth ministry, we see students whose lives are not conforming to Christ, oftentimes the assumption is that a simple step of preparation or sin-avoidance was missed. For example, we

say or think things like:

"If she had just avoided going to his house, she would not be pregnant."

"If he would not hang around those friends, he wouldn't be smoking."

"If they avoided going to the party scene, they wouldn't have gotten drunk."

We assume a simple "we see the effect, so we know what the cause was..." mentality. When we do this, we unintentionally present a legalistic morality that is about jumping through hoops instead of actual heart change. How would our evaluation of our students' lives be different if we considered heart change first? We submit for your consideration a thought process that might go something like this:

"If her heart was right, she would not be dating a non-Christian in the first place. What void is she trying to fill?"

"If his heart was right, he would be sharing Christ with these friends with both his words and actions. Why is he not passionate about this?"

"If their heart was right, they wouldn't risk their witness at that party. Why is that such a temptation?"

As we consider the heart, it often is more difficult to figure out the REAL reason a student is struggling. It is easy to tell students to avoid sin. It is much harder to teach and model to students a heart wildly pursuing Christ.

Even we as youth leaders tend to think of our spiritual lives as an amateur "performance," when in reality we just fail to obey what the Scripture is truly telling us. Our heart is not right. This failure is not just in our actions but in our attitudes, our thoughts, our words, and our deeds.

So we leave you with 2 questions:  
How is your heart?

What are the actions of your students revealing about theirs?

*Adam Zappetta*

*First Baptist Church, New Richmond, WI*

*Craig Morris*

*Westside Church, Aitkin, MN*

## **YOUTH PASTOR/LEADER and SPOUSE RETREAT**

Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin  
April 24-26, 2009

Youth Leaders: You should be receiving an invitation in the mail this week. Registration can be made by mail or [online](#)

For details about the retreat contact Pastor Bill Badal at 815-895-3116 or [pastorbill@tbc.net](mailto:pastorbill@tbc.net)

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## **BREAKAWAY - March 21-22**

All night event for teens in the Illinois area

- Wolves Hockey Game
- Pizza
- Basketball, climbing wall & more
- Gospel presentation

Contact Duane Keleman at 708-474-5400 or email [neonpastorduane@netscape.net](mailto:neonpastorduane@netscape.net)

Complete information at the [State Youth Fellowship of Illinois website](#)

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## CHAPLAINCY: Blessing in the Philippines



Chaplain Brian Hargis serves as a chaplain in the West Virginia Army National Guard. He is waiting to transition to Army active duty within several months. Brian recently finished a three week missions trip to the Philippines. In 19 days he preached, conducted seminars, and taught 26 times. Over 4,000 people were ministered to and 416 accepted Christ as their Savior, including his taxi driver! More than 60 surrendered to full-time Christian service and Bible College. 11 were baptized in the China Sea and five

more in a mountain stream. He also had 2 baby dedications.

Brian also was able to minister to hundreds of service members of the Davao Police Force and the 10th Special Infantry Division. One trip that involved driving, riding dirt bikes and walking into the jungle their group brought antibiotics, pre-natal vitamins, and medical supplies to local villagers. They also took in a PA system, big screen and projector and food to feed the village children. Brian preached to over 300 that night and saw 65 people give their lives to Christ. Through a translator he shared the gospel with a man dying from a brain tumor. With tears in his eyes the man accepted Christ. He was carried to a nearby hospital but within two hours word came back that he had died.

Our chaplains have many stories like this to share. God is using them to reach a variety of people for Christ in many countries. We appreciate your prayers and financial support.

For more information about the CBAmerica chaplaincy ministry you can contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or e-mail me at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net).

# DEDICATION

On March 8, 2009, Faith Community (former FBC ), West Concord, MN will be dedicating their new worship center. In 1999 Faith Community daughtered New Life in Wanamigo, MN. Faith at the time was a church of 150 and it released 60 plus and their senior pastor. Dave Breederland was the associate, and he remained as the new senior pastor at Faith. God has blessed both New Life and now Faith, which has grown to where they have replaced their old facility with a new one. We rejoice with them and pray that God will continue to bless both churches as they seek to make disciples and win the lost in their respective communities.



## Upcoming Events

<b>CHAPMAN EVENT</b> Trailside Center, Pequot Lakes MN	February 20-21	<a href="#">Tickets and information</a>
<b>BREAKAWAY</b> overnite outreach for JR & SR High in Illinois	March 21-22	<a href="#">Info at SYF website</a>
<b>Pastors and Wives Retreat</b> Heidel House Resort Green Lake WI	April 23-25	<a href="#">Register now!</a>
<b>NCCBA Annual meeting</b>	April 24	Heidel House, Green Lake WI
<b>Youth Pastors/Spouse retreat</b> Heidel House Resort Green Lake WI	April 24-26	<a href="#">Register online</a>
<b>WORSHIP SUMMIT</b> Conference for worship leaders Cedar Rapids, Iowa	May 1-2	<a href="#">More information</a>

## Special Pastor Information



Ordinarily when a church calls a new pastor we make a short and simple announcement. However, First Baptist Church of Lansing, Illinois, has recently called **Bryndan Loritts and his wife Lucretia**. Lansing is a community south of Chicago that is beginning to become multiethnic. Bryndan is an African-American who will be pastoring a church that is overwhelmingly white. We believe this to be a very positive and important development both for the church and for the impact this will make in the future. Please pray for Bryndan and the church as they seek to reflect Christ and present the gospel to those that

make up Lansing.

**David and Verna Cripe** are leaving First Baptist Church in Breckenridge, Minnesota, after serving there for 27 years. They are retiring and will be living in Park Rapids. David and Verna have been faithful to Christ and to NCCBA. They will be greatly missed both by the church in Breckenridge and by us.

## NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

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

## Contact Our Office

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

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