

North Central CBA

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Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

February 2010

NEW! Pastors Seminar

with NCCBA's annual

Pastors & Wives Retreat

at Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin
April 22-24.

Come for a time of refreshment and relaxation at beautiful [Heidel House Resort](#) . New this year is an optional **Pastors Seminar** on Thursday morning which includes lodging for Wednesday night. Spacious rooms, good food and entertainment by **Headin' Home Quartet** from Colfax, Iowa, are all awaiting you. Our keynote speaker is **George Kenworthy**, previously a pastor for 32 years and currently founder and president of Hope for the Hurting Home. Friday features a **Ladies Brunch** with returning speaker Vicki Smith, Women's Director of CB Southern California.

Register for both the Seminar & Retreat for the best deal! More information and registration by check or credit card are available [online](#) .

Senior and Associate Pastors: Your brochure with registration information should be arriving in the mail this week. This brochure can also be printed from our [website](#) or call Jean at 715-538-2298.

SCHOLARSHIPS for High School Seniors--[Click here](#) for details in this

newsletter or go to our [website](#) for an application. Deadline April 1, 2010.

Where's The Wow?

I attended college in Quincy, MA. In my senior year I had a car and in driving around I found a spot along the ocean that captured my attention. It was elevated and from it you could see a large expanse of beach, rocks jutting out in the sea and some typical New England architecture. During an extended nor'easter I decided to take a ride to the spot. When I arrived I saw huge waves crashing in the shore line, pounding both the beach and the rocks. As I looked at the sea I realized just how puny we are as humans and how mighty the God of creation is. My profound response to this revelation was "wow."

I realize at this point that from my description you may not fully grasp how profoundly my understanding of God was impacted by what I saw that day. Mankind is capable of achieving many things, which includes the ability to create devices that can generate enormous power. However, nothing can compare with the power of God.

In keeping with this train of thought I have seen some other examples of "wow." Over the last several years I have made four trips to Mexico. Each time I have seen the "wow." It had nothing to do with seeing the awesomeness of God in creation. Rather it had to do with seeing the churches I visited were all growing, not by transfer growth, but as a result of people responding to the gospel. What also leads to the "wow" is that this is not the result of ministry tools and training.

Now do not jump to the conclusion that the training and tools we have available should be dismissed or ignored. I truly appreciate what I have gained in seminary and other training venues that I have been to. I also believe that the tools we have available for assessment and leadership development are important. However, the question that comes to mind for me is, "have I become too professional?" In other words, am I not truly relying on the God of the "wow" and instead trusting in my tools and skills.

In my connection with all of you since 2003 I am absolutely convinced we all desire to see the "wow" that God poured out as the church began to expand after the Day of Pentecost and Peter's sermon. In considering the actions of the early church, corporate

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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

prayer was a vital aspect of their community practice. In Mexico, the one church that grew by a thousand (vast majority by conversion) over a five year span meets six days a week (5 a.m. to 6 a.m.) to pray. The overwhelming majority of their prayer time is spent focusing on the unsaved, not on health and wealth issues.

Zachariah reminds us very clearly, "It is not by might nor by power but by my Spirit, says, the Lord." I believe that if we are to see the "wow," then we are going to have to truly rely on God, not just with our words but in truly surrendering to him.



Don Shaw
Regional Director
donnccba@trivest.net

PASTOR CARE

Last Will and Testament

Last month I wrote about the after-math of Christmas and invited some of my fellow pastors to join me in losing weight and becoming more physically fit. This month I am writing about a subject that is probably just about as popular: preparations for death. I suspect that my reason for selecting this subject will be equally encouraging.

I recently was assigned the task of representing my employer at a gathering of pastors. My display table was in the hallway between the two doors into the two main assembly rooms. From early morning until mid afternoon I watched pastors come and go. I was impressed with the number who were seriously over-weight, often struggling to walk. Being a keen observer of people, I often thought to myself, "There goes a heart attack waiting to happen." Not very nice, am I, for a caring compassionate counselor?

Then my thoughts traveled a short distance, to wondering how many of those pastors had an up-to-date will. I thought about that because Sandy and I had finally completed the process of signing new wills on the Friday before that event. We had talked about it for several years. We got more serious two years ago when we signed the mortgage on a new home. We even asked the lawyer how much he would charge. But we just accomplished it recently.

service for all NCCBA churches. Call Don at 715-538-2298

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

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.

The final motivation came through the death of one of Sandy's nephews. Unfortunately he did not have a legally effective indication of his desires. He had communicated his wishes, but not in a form that would allow the executor of his estate to follow them. People whom he wished to benefit were totally left out.

In Genesis (the book of beginnings) chapter 27 we have the account of Jacob stealing the blessing intended by his father Isaac for his brother Esau. Two chapters earlier Jacob "purchased" Esau's birthright by capitalizing on the perceived extremity of the moment. The next six chapters (28-33) details the fall-out from this disruption of Isaac's intended end-of-life desires.

Several years ago there was a lot of interest in people returning to the practice of pronouncing blessings on their children and others they love. More recently the catch words have been about leaving a legacy. The emphasis has been on the spiritual part of these concepts. However, I wonder whether our spiritual emphasis has left us, once again, being so heavenly minded that we are no (or little) earthly good.

As it stands now, what will be the after-math of your potential death? Will your estate be handled in the way you desire by the person you wish to have handle it? Will those you desire to bless receive the blessings you intend? I know these are not pleasant issues to think about or to plan for, but they are real and necessary. My will was nearly 20 years old, and things had changed a great deal in those years. I suspect that some of us do not have a legally sufficient will. I encourage each of us to take a serious look at our preparations for the after-math of our step out of this world into eternity.

After Christmas Math Report: first month, lost 10 lbs. and 1 inch. Giving honor and glory to God! How are you doing?

Yours in Christ's love,

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT
Stillman Valley, IL

YOUTH PASTORS:

If you drive down 4th Street in Long Prairie, Minnesota during the

Highly
recommended.
Email the office at
nccba@trivest.net

evenings it would not be uncommon to see my office light or my house lights on until the wee hours of the night. That is because I am a "night person." I love the stillness and peace that exists after 11 PM. My mind is sharp and it is when I tend to be the most productive. Consequently, mornings can be a bitter time in my life. I can appreciate a sunrise, but I figure that if God really wanted people to see a sunrise He would have put them in the middle of the day.

Imagine my "enthusiasm" when I came to First Baptist Church and found out that I inherited a weekly time of morning devotions with my youth group called "D-Groups." I think the "D" was supposed to stand for devotions. However, when I realized that this tradition happened twice a week at 7 AM, I quickly dubbed the D in "D-Groups" to stand for the word death (of me personally).

I'm not sure that I will ever become a morning person. However, I have found the beauty in spending time with the youth before school each week. I could make a sarcastic joke about how the kids only show up for juice and doughnuts, but that would be a lie. Pastries may be a perk, but they are not why the students come. In a world where individuals are constantly on the go, how ironic is it that on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, teenagers taught me to slow down, BE STILL, and give God the first part of my day.

This afternoon there will be multiple students showing up for mission trip interviews. Tonight, I'm going to a girl's basketball game to watch Brooke drain a few three pointers in her game against a conference rival. Tomorrow I'll be taking four students to a leadership conference at Bethel University, and I should arrive home just in time to teach the Sr. Highers on Sunday evening. I'm sure many of you can relate to my schedule because this scenario basically sums up a week in the life of a youth pastor.

I once heard a pastor say that one of Satan's plans is to make people busy. That way people will fail to recognize their need for a Savior or they will find themselves weak and susceptible to temptation. Perhaps those are a couple reasons why we are instructed to "Be still, and know that I am God" in Psalm 46:10. Therefore, find the time to BE STILL today and don't become so busy with ministry that you neglect to minister to your own soul.

Go bless,

Craig Sanborn

YOUTH PASTOR/LEADER AND SPOUSE RETREAT

Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin

April 23-25, 2010

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

Reduced price this year! For details about the retreat, contact Duane Keleman at 708-474-5400 or by email neonpastorduane@netscape.net

Henry Spicer Scholarship

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. Three \$500 scholarships were awarded last year. 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.

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From the Truth Project: DOES GOD EXIST?

There is an outstanding series that will help prepare your high school kids for college, Does God Exist?. It is produced by the same group that did the Truth Project. We can offer you this series which includes ten sessions on DVD and ten student books for \$50.89 plus \$10.00 for shipping.

Retail for the same set is \$110.89. If you would like to get a

preview of why you should consider this go to www.trueu.org and check out: The Toughest Test in College.

Go to College at Your Home Church

Would you be interested in being able to offer college level material in your local church? Would you be interested in being able to facilitate in providing a bachelors degree from your local church? Are you interested in being able to develop your current and next generation leadership?

If answered yes to any or all of these we would encourage you to look into a resource we are connected with. Antioch School of Evangelism and Church Planting is a resource that will help equip your church for all of the above. We have three churches in the region that have become certified-- Forest City Baptist, Rockford, IL; FBC Jackson, MN; and FBC Whitehall, WI. If you would like further information contact Don Shaw at 715-538-2298.

Upcoming Events

BREAKAWAY all-niter for Illinois teens Rally, gospel presentation, food & games	April 17-18, 2010	Details at SYF website
Pastors Seminar Pastors & Wives Retreat NCCBA Annual Meeting April 23, 2010	April 21-22, 2010 April 22-23, 2010 Heidel House Resort	Register for Seminar & Retreat on our website
Youth Pastor/Leader & Spouse Retreat	April 23-25	Register on our website Heidel House Resort 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--Luverne MN

Thank you for your prayers. Peter Erickson is the new Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Breckenridge, MN.

Contact Our Office

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

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