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## North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

January 2007

Dear Ministry Partner,

Welcome to the new format for E-Central E-mail from NCCBA. Let us know how you like the changes.

### 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.**

[Link to Spicer application](#)

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

### Ministry Quick Links



## Remembering What Is Important

In my spiritual journey there were things that I thought, beliefs I embraced, and traditions I practiced that have changed. These changes have been the result of being introduced to different ways of looking at things, coming to understand the Word of

God in deeper ways, and being challenged to look at traditions as a means to an end not an end. I truly hope and pray that the changes I have made and will make in the future will help me to bring glory to God and to finish well.

Today we are living in an era where change in how we do church is on the minds of many. For my 87- year-old mother it is extremely difficult. However, if I ask her to think about changes that will help her great-grandchildren be involved in the church, it helps her. Yet, she still desires the things that were meaningful to her when she was young. There are times when I, too, struggle with change. I hear the innovators and see what appears to evidence of their success. Yet, does that mean anything goes as long as the church is full and everyone seems to be enjoying it?

Currently I am reading **Praying: Finding Our Way Through Duty to Delight**, by J.I. Packer and Carolyn Nystrom. In the early part of the book, Packer makes the statement that if we are going to have a proper view of prayer we must have a proper view of God. In line with this assertion Packer declares, “We hear people say, ‘I like to think of God in such-in- such a way . . .’ Let it be said, loud and clear, that this ‘I like’ mindset guarantees that all concepts of God that we form by speculation and wishful thinking will be seriously wrong.”

This quote by Packer reminded me of something I read by A.W. Tozer. I cannot remember the title, but there was a statement that he made the essence of which has stayed with me. It went something like this, “A study of history will probably show that no nation is greater than its religion, and it will absolutely show that no religion is greater than its view of God.”

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These two great men and their respective statements remind me that there are certain things that must not change. They also remind me that a new thought or different slant on things does not mean something better is being introduced. For me, their thoughts help me to keep my balance and realize there are things that are constant for every church generation. They remind me that sound theology is vitally important; that we need good theology so that the gospel is accurately proclaimed and believers properly disciplined.

I am not a big fan of New Year's resolutions. However it is my prayer for those of us who make up North Central CBA that we will resolve to have passion for sound doctrine as we passionately seek innovations in doing church that will help us to communicate to the unchurched.

Don Shaw, Regional Director

[donnccba@triwest.net](mailto:donnccba@triwest.net)

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### **Pastor Care**

“Know Your Limits”

For the second Fall in a row I have been spending a lot of time in the basement. My 88 year-old Father-in-law has been helping me do some remodeling. Last year we put in a bathroom prior to my daughter's wedding in October. This year we have been covering the poured cement walls with insulation and drywall. With many years of experience as a farmer, there is not much about fixing things that Dad doesn't know. Even if he doesn't know for sure, he has done enough things that are somewhat like the issue at hand that he usually can figure something out that works very well. I have learned a great deal from him during these weekly sessions in the basement.

One of the most important things I have learned is a renewed respect for limitations. I have become aware of the limitations of my knowledge, skills and abilities pertaining to building. I also have learned from Dad about accepting your limitations. At 88 years old, he has to acknowledge that there

are some things he cannot do any longer. That acknowledgement comes hard sometimes, but he says it and hands me the necessary tool and coaches me in accomplishing the task.

As Pastors, we sometimes, maybe even often, have a hard time acknowledging our limitations. One way that this shows up is that many pastors live their lives with no margins. Many of us like the margins in our books, so that we can fill them with interesting thoughts that come to us as we read. We are glad that there is some room left so that we can connect our thoughts with the things that stimulated them.

However, we often live in such a way that there are no empty white spaces around the activities of our lives. There are no margins. Therefore, when something happens that is unplanned for, we are automatically in overload, we have exceeded the limits of our knowledge, skills and abilities, because there is no room to accommodate those new things.

I want to encourage you to very carefully examine your life, as a man, as a husband, as a father, as a pastor, to see if there are margins—empty white spaces—around the pages of your life. If there are none, I encourage you to look for things to let go of, to hand the tool to someone else. Then you can adjust to new unplanned-for events and new opportunities without overloading,

Pastor Nick Bell, LMFT

Interim Pastor, First Baptist Church, Streator IL

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### **Lessons from An Illegitimate Child**

I have been senior pastor for five or so years now, and it has been a journey to find out how I can most effectively minister to my church and to this generation. I must confess that I never have the confidence that I am doing things 100% correctly, or even 50%. Can you relate? Yet during this time I have learned quite a few helpful ideas about how to try to stop playing church. These ideas come from the Emergent

church movement (which, as many emergent types will tell you, isn't a movement or a church). Emergent is also seen as the illegitimate child of evangelicalism and the postmodern generation. To me, it's simply re-thinking how we do things in the evangelical world, questioning all presuppositions, and changing things. You change things not to be "relevant" (whatever that means), but to be better representatives of Christ to our world. I certainly don't agree with everything some emergent authors say. My church, by no means, can be called an emergent church. However, I have learned some tips from this illegitimate child that has helped me in my journey as a shepherd of the flock and a sheep in the herd.

**Leaders should try to be fellow travelers and not tour guides** - The typical "tour guide" image of a church leaders is that they have "found the way" (spiritually speaking) and they tell the group how to get there. The "traveler" image of church leaders is that they collaborate more with people (yet still have vision), they are "on the way", and journeying with everyone else. I have let it be known from the pulpit that I don't know it all, that I am always trying to appreciate the mystery of God and I can't relegate Him to three points per Sunday. I share that I am just as messed up as anyone who is in my church, probably more so. And guess what? It frees people to open up about themselves.

**Pastors should try to be facilitators and not only teachers** - The typical "teacher" image of pastors is that their job is to be the fount of wisdom and the congregation's job is to absorb it and lock it away somewhere. The "facilitator" image of a pastor is to make it so that God's Truth flows not from just one source, but from many sources in the community of the church. For almost a year now I have been opening up the Sunday morning sermon time to allow dialog from the people in attendance. Most times it goes well, a few times not so much. But the idea is that God works in people's lives, and these workings are just as important as my work when putting together a sermon. This is a step in establishing real community as you hear things that may enlighten, enrage, or entertain you from fellow travelers. I am open to their ideas & insights and it blesses me to no end.

**I have also learned-** \*Worship at church can be about silence, candle lighting, art, and ancient meditation styles as well as three stately hymns or four peppy choruses. \*Jesus

did not believe in the idea of target audiences in His ministry. \*Not everyone needs to be in an “intimate” small group, and some people grow better in a more open, social environment. \*Evangelism isn’t a show- down with the unbeliever. I can learn as much from them as they can from me, and it’s important that I do. \*Community full of shallowness & small-talk is safe. Community of open and honest talk is life- changing, but it has to start at the top--like at elder meetings.

Thanks for reading my ramblings. I am learning as I go. If you want to dialog about these and other things, e-mail me at [Klamman1@mac.co m](mailto:Klamman1@mac.co.m). “All things I thought I knew, but now I confess; the more I know I know, I know the less.” – John Owen

*Mike Klamecki is senior pastor of New Hope Community Church in Villa Park, IL, and loves Jesus, his wife, his three daughters, his church, smoothies, incense, books, and Macs.*

## **Chaplaincy Report**

It is exciting to stand back and watch God work in the lives of people. Miki West is a retired Army Chaplain and is now working as a chaplain in a VA Medical Center. In a recent report from Miki he relates this story. “For several years I have taught a restaurant Bible study that grew out of a "spirituality class" at the VA Medical Center. It's made up primarily of Viet Nam veterans. It ranged from two to six guys. Herald and Dale were the spark plugs for it. Herald received Jesus through the study, and I was encouraging to get him into a church. He did and made a public profession of his new faith. The church changed pastors and the new pastor is a Viet Nam veteran. He began participating in the study and developing relations with the guys. Herald brought a friend, Bob, and he got saved. Then they both were baptized. Tom came to the baptism to make a video recording for Herald and began attending church. At Halloween, several of the guys helped the church put on an event for the neighborhood kids and at the "adult part" of the event, Herald and Tom's wives prayed to receive the Lord. Pray for these new believers. They are reaching out through

their relationship networks and drawing others to the Lord. Pray for Pastor Rich as he enfolds them into the church.”

Thank God for our chaplains and for the opportunities they take to share Christ with people. This past year we added nineteen new chaplains to our CBAmerica Chaplaincy family. Pray for them and the variety of ministries they represent. For more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net)

## 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](mailto:neonpa.storduane@netscape.net)

[State Youth Fellowship website](#)

### For Your Info

**Microsoft Software and More** is 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.

**Church Treasurer Reminder** As of August 2006, all CASH donations must have a dated receipt from the church showing the amount, in order to be claimed as a tax deduction. Also, donations that were physically received or *postmarked* in 2006 can be counted as 2006 donations.

### Upcoming Events

Worship Summit, Marion IA

April 20 & 21, 2007

[More Info...](#)

Breakaway (Illinois State Youth Fellowship)	March 17 & 18, 2007	<a href="#">More Info...</a>
Pastors and Wives Retreat, Green Lake WI	April 26-28, 2007	
Youth Pastor/Spouse Retreat, Green Lake WI	April 27-29, 2007	
Annual Meeting of NCCBA, Green Lake WI	April 27, 2007	<a href="#">All events will soon be available to register &amp; pay online</a>

**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
- First Baptist Church--Jackson MN
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN
- Eureka Baptist Church--St. Croix Falls WI

**Thank you for your prayers! Scott Jennings is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Lake Crystal MN**

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

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