

## North Central CBA

## E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

January 2008

Make plans now to attend the annual **Pastors and Wives Retreat** April 24-26 at beautiful [Heidel House Resort](#) in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

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.

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

Registration coming soon online or by calling the office at 715-538-2298.

## How Are We Doing?

It has been nearly a year since we formalized the covenant. While we would like all of the churches to sign it, the more important issue is "are we beginning to see a change from independence and self-reliance to interdependence and the sharing of resources"? I am greatly encouraged by some of the things that are happening.

This past year the Wisconsin cluster has met for several 24 hour events. The result of this to this point in time has been a sub-regional youth retreat, a sub-regional prayer summit and the vision of eventually coming together to plant a church. We have also been approached by a church in Kenosha which has sent in their

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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 with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism.

application to become part of NCCBA.

In November I met with the Michigan cluster. What was encouraging was not only the number that came, but as the meeting unfolded there were concrete discussions about doing couples retreats and youth events. A number of the churches have been doing them individually. These discussions were on how they could come together. Also we have been approached by a very healthy and growing church in Ortonville. They have asked for an application to join the NCCBA.

However, the launching of Imago Christi in Cedar Rapids, Iowa,



is a template for us all. Last year Richard Marsceau, pastor of Noelridge Park Church, revealed both a vision and opportunity to start a church in the downtown area of Cedar Rapids. A church was leaving and offering the property at a significantly reduced price. To make a long story short, both CBA and NCCBA have been able to contribute financially. But starting a church involves more than just money. One of our churches in the area has commissioned one of their key families to join the project. Another of our churches is providing its worship leader once a month to help. Noelridge will be contributing part of those who attend to Imago Christi. Another Iowa church is voting to give a significant monthly contribution for the next eighteen months. Richard will be first to tell you that all this has not only led to the launching but an overwhelming blessing.

There are other clusters who are planning and meeting as well as pastors who are deliberately seeking out other CB pastors for fellowship. I also want to remember that there are ways that we can also do kingdom work by joining other churches in our local

**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"**

communities that share a deep desire to communicate the gospel. Hopefully you will all find this an encouraging reminder that, **"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."**

Ecc. 4:9-12

*Don Shaw, Regional Director*

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

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## **Pastor Care: "Caught By the Bug"**

There is a man in the church of which I am the lead pastor who is a "bug guy." He makes his living, and I think it is a decent living, killing bugs. He just returned from his annual bug convention. Every year he is required to attend this week-long gathering to learn the latest and best information on how to get rid of the bugs that so often infest our surroundings and produce devastating results.

However, for all of the expertise and skill that he and others have in getting rid of those pesky bugs, an extremely virulent and persistent bug devastated our community Sunday. The pastor of one of the most successful churches in our community was removed from his position because of this bug. And the most amazing aspect of this situation is that he seems unaware of how infected and damaged he is by it.

By now you are probably sure that I am referring to the Lust Bug. I have sat at my computer for over an hour trying to not write this article, searching for something new and fresh and more interesting to address this month. I could not get away from the sense that this is what I must talk about. I know I have done so before, and I know this Lust Bug does not die easily. Just when you think it is under control it breaks out in some unexpected manner.

I was invited out to eat after the evening service Sunday and sat across the table as one of my leading men told me about what had happened that day and how deeply wounding it was to his wife, who respected this pastor highly. In a 2 ½ hour meeting that congregation had confronted one of the most destructive things that can happen to a church. Perhaps the worst part of the story for me was the reported expectation of the pastor, who intended to continue his extra-marital affair, that he would be allowed to remain in the

community and attend that church.

As I raise this issue again, there are two responses that deeply concern me. First of all, I wonder if you thought, even for a fleeting moment, "That could never happen to me." 1 Corinthians 10:11-13 sounds a warning to all of us. The temptations to lust, whether they be sexual or appeal to some other appetite, are continually present and can infect us in ways and at times when we least anticipate them. However, the only way we can be successful in dealing with them is when we recognize them for what they are. We will not look for the way out our faithful God provides unless we are aware that we are being seduced by some sort of lustful desire.

Secondly, I wonder if, even for a fleeting moment, you thought, "That could easily be me right now, if only they knew-" If that happened, please do not push that reality out of your mind. If there is something in your life that could cost you your marriage, your family, your ministry, if it were discovered, now is the time to address that fact in humility and honesty before God, and with the help of others who can assist you in finding victory and freedom in Christ Jesus. Please do not go on thinking your secret is safe and under control, and that you can pursue it without being damaged and ultimately brought down by it. Seek help before the Bug has infected you so severely that there is no way out but down. While I cannot promise that dealing with it now will not be costly, I can promise you that the longer you wait, the more costly it will be. And while I cannot promise you it will not be costly, I can promise you that seeking and finding God's "way out" will bring life and health and fulfillment and meaning that the Lust Bug can never deliver.

I share these thoughts, not as one who is exempt from the Lust Bug, but as one who battles it in many variations on a continuing basis. I pray God uses them in even just one life to prompt a godly repentance and a Spirit-filled transformation. Amen.

*Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT, Interim Pastor*

*First Baptist Church, Streator IL*

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## **Private Worship**

We as youth pastors always encourage our youth in many disciplines: church going ,Sunday school, youth group, sharing of one's faith. These are all good, but one thing that slips out of our instructions is how to be a Christian all by yourself and God. I

mean in their private place, as a private Worshiper. New Testament believers did not think that religion was only meant for Sundays. Does God need a building or a group for Him to be worshiped? I believe in corporate worship, but I also believe that every believer can and must worship God alone.

Are we not all priests? Why do we always need others to make devotion to God? Let every priest lead worship to his God daily on his own in his or her own home, room or car. Then make your private places, places of Joy and Temples of Holiness and let us teach our students that they are kings of their private places and have the authority to enter the Holy Of Holies with boldness, as Hebrews says. One reason why the early church had such a blessing was because her members had such private places. Youth pastors, teach your youth group to be such priests and kings of their quiet time. May the Lord bless you as you pour out your life in your students.

Your fellow worker,

*Bill Badal*  
*Pastor, First Baptist Church, Sycamore IL*

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## **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.

Three \$900 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. DEADLINE IS APRIL 1.

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## **GOOD IDEA SECTION**

### **"Daring to Share"**

Small town and rural churches sometimes struggle to "attempt great things for God, expect great things from God." Taking risks goes against the rural mindset that is by nature conservative. But given the right motivation and preparation, the people of Laporte Community Baptist Church have definitely risen to the challenge by daring to share with our community in recent months.

In September, 2007, we kicked off "Supper On Us", or the Midweek Meal. This is a free meal for anyone in the community who wants to stop by for supper. The meal is part of an attempt to turn the church "inside out" on Wednesday nights. In other words, the focus is completely on reaching outside the church doors and encouraging people to come see what's happening inside.

The results have been nothing short of amazing. Children, teens, parents and grandparents rub elbows in our cramped church basement from 5:30 to 6:30 PM each Wednesday. Our regular folks are encouraged to move from table to table, getting acquainted on a deeper level with people who don't normally show up at church. Numbers have varied widely from the low 40's to more than 100 for large Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach nights. The meal leads into our children and youth programs, while selected adults meet to support the ministry in prayer.

We have many reasons for praise as God accomplishes minor miracles each week.

People routinely volunteer to help in the kitchen now, who had never been in the building 3 months ago. Adult "seekers" have heard the gospel while sitting in on the Youth Bible study. We've noticed a lot of new faces in the pews on Sunday morning as well, much of it directly related to the "buzz" generated in the community on Wednesday nights. Children and adults are meeting Christ as Savior and growing steadily.

Now the trick is sustaining the effort. While the financial burden has not been as great thus far as we had projected, there are other issues that constantly come up because we are taking risks for God. Where do we put the youth group, now that we have 17 kids rather than 7? And how do we minister effectively to children and teens who come with big baggage from messy home lives? How do we follow up on all the new faces suddenly showing up at church? (One answer: have them over for Sunday dinner at the Pastor's house). But at least these are all growing pains, not dying pains.

God is at work, changing the hearts of his people in Laporte, even as we seek to meet needs in His name. It's a messy process, and we'd love to have it all figured out; but we're coming to see that He doesn't have a conflict-free plateau in mind for us on Wednesday nights (or any other time). Rather, His is calling us to hold tightly to Him, while he takes us for the ride of our lives!

*Steve Daggett  
Laporte, MN*

## **Have I Got A Job For You!**

We need more chaplains! That is the cry of our military leaders. This year the Army needs 290 more chaplains, the Navy wants some 40 and the Air Force needs 25. They are now willing to pay to get you. Here are some incentives from the Army: they will pay \$4,500 a year towards your seminary tuition for three years. This comes with a four year commitment to the Army Reserves. While in seminary you can enter the Chaplain Candidate Program up to age 43. There is now a \$10,000 bonus for eligible chaplains for the Army Reserves. This is paid when you finish the Chaplain Officer Basic Course. This has a six year commitment to the Reserves. They are now also offering a \$20,000 Clergy Loan Repayment Program for men who have completed their seminary education and qualify for the Reserves. This carries a three year commitment. The Navy also has new incentives. Interested? Contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) for details.

Our chaplains led hundreds to Christ last year. We added 21 new chaplains to our chaplain family in 2007. We now have a chaplain in the FBI. We are opening a new ministry by adding a chaplain to the Christian Music Industry. He will travel with and be a pastor to Christian music groups as they tour our nation. We are grateful for all who support this ministry financially. This was our best year for giving. Thanks for your prayers and support as we begin a new year of ministry to those who rarely attend church but have deep spiritual needs. There are great opportunities for ministry. Come join our ranks.

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### **FREE CUSTOMIZED INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHURCH AREA**

**NEW!** Link2lead can now provide demographic information about your church's area by *drawing the area, or choosing a county or zip code*. Please call Don here at the NCCBA office, 715-538-2298, or visit [Link2Lead](#) .

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## **WESTERN WISCONSIN/TWIN CITIES PRAYER RETREAT**

The CBA pastors of western Wisconsin are conducting a mini prayer summit and are inviting Twin Cities' pastors to join them.

Date: January 28 and 29, begins at 1:00 PM on the 28th

Place: Arrowhead Bible Camp, New Auburn, WI

Cost is \$35.00 which includes lodging and meals. Attendees must bring their own bedding.

Person to contact is Wade Duroe: (715) 723-1054. He will need your information if you plan to attend by January 21.

## **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 their website: [www.bethanycentral.org](http://www.bethanycentral.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Pastors Mini Prayer Summit**  
Wisconsin/Twin Cities  
New Auburn, Wisconsin

January 28-29

Contact Wade Duroe  
715-723-1054 by January 21

### **BREAKAWAY**

Outreach for JR & SR High in Illinois

March 29-30

[Info at SYF website](#)

### **ENGAGE Competition**

High School students  
Bethany Baptist, Peoria IL

April 18-19

[Bethany's website](#)

Worship Summit, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

April 18-19

[More info and registration](#)

Pastors and Wives Retreat  
and NCCBA Annual meeting

April 24-26

Heidel House resort, Green Lake WI

Youth Pastors/Spouse retreat

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

## **END OF THE YEAR FINANCIAL REMINDERS**

- 1) Church donors CANNOT deduct donations until a written receipt is received from the church. (Tax return cannot be filed)
- 2) Contributions received in the offering plate after December 31, must be deducted in 2008. EXCEPTION: if the donation was mailed and postmarked by December 31.
- 3) Housing allowance for pastors must be in the form of a resolution by the Board or congregation every year. Contact NCCBA if you need a sample resolution.
- 4) CHRISTMAS GIFTS must be included as taxable income, in most cases, and included on the W-2 or 1099 for 2007.

## Contact Our Office

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

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