

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

January 2009

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. Four \$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.

Deadline April 1, 2009

RESOLUTION

I do not know about you and the idea of New Year's resolutions, but I have never really been a big fan. However, this does not mean I am opposed to being resolute about things that I think are of high value. One of the things that I value highly is finishing well. For me I have way more years behind me than ahead of me and time seems to be passing rapidly.

As I began ministry I thought that finishing well would be defined by blasting through the finish line and following me would be a resume of measureable successes. The churches that I served would have all grown and the growth was by evangelism. I would have seen the churches add staff and ministries that would not only reach the unsaved but also effectively minister to the saints, leading to true discipleship.

In This Issue

PASTOR CARE
YOUTH: Evaluation Is the Steering Wheel
West Concord MN
CHAPLAINCY: Year End Report
FIRESTORM Books
Financial Reminders
Ministry Quick Links
Microsoft software
Upcoming Events
Contact Our Office

Natural Church Development

Available for
Your Church

At this juncture I can safely say that there was some growth in the churches I served but only some from evangelism. I had some staff but mostly part-time. There were some ministries developed that were designed to reach the unsaved and to help the saints grow, but nothing earth shaking.

This past year (2008) I read through the Bible chronologically. As I was reading the Prophets I was struck by how little measureable success they had. Using the standard that we often do to measure success, finishing well, it would seem that they were not successful. I wondered if that is how they envisioned their life of ministry would be. I cannot be sure, but I think they would have enjoyed a better outcome. As a result I doubt that their placement form would have a high degree of circulation among churches looking for a pastor or staff. Yet in spite of this, I believe from the perspective of heaven they finished well, because they were resolute in faithfully serving God.

A reason for making this assertion on my part lies in some things that I have come to realize over the years. To begin with, having pastored and lived 28 years in rural America, no matter how good a farmer is in managing his business, if there is not enough rain, sun and proper temperature the crops will not grow. In other words, there are things the farmer has absolutely no control over. The farmer, whether he is a believer or not, must depend on the common grace of God for both rain and sunshine.

For a while now, I have wondered what if God called us to minister in a season where there is no measureable success. In one of the songs Steve Green sings there is a phrase "will He find us faithful." That is a good question because when things are booming it seems easier to speak of being faithful, but if God should choose to place us in the opposite, will he find us as resolutely faithful.

This is a proven tool that can help your 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.

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

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)
[Link2Lead](#)
[\(demographic info\)](#)
[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)
[Worship Summit in Iowa](#)

Microsoft Software

As we look to the future we have no idea what may unfold. The financial collapse was maybe not unexpected by some but most of us were not prepared. We have yet to see what the total impact will be on local churches and regional or national ministries. Also we have no idea as to what might happen in terms of terrorism or some catastrophic natural disaster. Irrespective of the circumstances, I believe we need to be resolutely faithful, not just for the next year, but for as long as God gives us opportunity whether it be in times of great fruitfulness or in times when God chooses to let us minister in a season of dryness.

Don Shaw
Regional Director

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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 for your State on our website under RESOURCES

PASTOR CARE

Welcome to the Deep Freeze that is NCCBA territory these days. It is really cold! However, there is the promise that it will warm up a bit in the next few days. That will be a relief for sure.

Several months ago I was reminded of another kind of Deep Freeze that many pastors endure on a continuing basis. My wife Sandy and I took a four-day weekend trip to the East Coast to visit our son and his family. As our plans came together, our son called to ask whether I was willing to have breakfast with their pastor. I agreed. Our breakfast turned into a two-hour time of sharing joys and sorrows, and discussing options for dealing with thorny personal and church issues.

The pastor was in a Deep Freeze, having no one that he could honestly and forthrightly talk with about these issues without concern about how the information or he would be treated later. I know by experience the impact of this kind of isolation as a pastor. And I am sure that many of my NCCBA colleagues have experienced it and/or are experiencing it now. All too often, we are stuck between competing interests, confronting Solomon-level decisions with no ready sword to cut through the issues.

The transformation in my brother pastor's countenance was enough to tell me that the time was well spent. Webster's New World College Dictionary states that the source word for countenance literally means the "way one holds oneself." Sorting through the implications of how things were different for this brother pastor has been an interesting

journey. I will not give the specifics, for obvious reasons, however I am confident that many facets of his life were profoundly affected. I am sure of that because mine were also.

I believe it is time for us, if we are in this kind of deep freeze, to hit the escape handle! We need to make the decision to look for someone we can trust, even if we have to pay them, so that we can talk openly and honestly about the things that burden and isolate us from our own families and our congregation members. There are many things that militate against our doing this-fears of betrayal, past experiences of failure-things that tell us not to take the risk. However, I believe that it is worth the risk to discover the freedom and peace and joy and confidence-the transformation of countenance-that is available. Break out of the cold into the warmth of genuine fellowship. We are, after all, in the same boat with the Master of wind and wave.

*Nick Bell
Stillman Valley IL*

YOUTH SECTION: Evaluation Is the Steering Wheel: Helping Your Ministry Fulfill Its Purpose

John looked around his church one Sunday morning. There was so much activity and so much of it very good. Some programs seemed to have the direct blessing of God while others were, well, not so blessed. John was always reticent to call an end to something, even when it looked like a failure. "It's often hard," he pondered, "to determine what God may be using." In ministry, fruit often comes over time. Yet people and resources were always limited. John thought to himself, "How do I know what we are doing is producing the fruit we want to see? Are these activities the most effective use of God's people and resources at this church?"

Many pastors and ministry leaders perceive that God's work is invisible and thus we should leave "success" or "effectiveness" to God. I have heard many claim "I will be faithful and God will work out the details." While this is certainly true, the problem is "how do we know we are being faithful in what God has called us to do?" The answer is that God calls us to evaluate and discern, in both our ministries and our

lives.

Many elements in ministry resist easy measurement and are impossible to quantify. Difficulty in making judgments does not negate the need for pastoral judgments. Pastors make judgments constantly for those to whom they minister. Whether subconscious or careful, everyone evaluates. The Bible implies the need for judgment in its qualifications for leadership; being hospitable, not greedy, able to teach, not quick tempered and many others (1 Pet 5:1-3; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Tim 3:1-12; Acts 20:28-31). Judgment entails a form of evaluation. Job asks, "Where shall wisdom be found?" Judgment, discernment and wisdom are major concerns of Scripture and must be considered by the pastor. Paul describes evaluative judgment when he writes, "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves" (2 Cor 13:5). We see this on a wider level in the critique made against the church by Paul in Galatians and Christ in Revelations. Harold Westing states that we are to "critique the ministry of fellow Christians (Col 1:28), leaders (1 Tim 5:17-19), and our own activities (Col 3:16-17)" God commands that we test the spirits (1 John 4:1) and evaluate the fruit of a teacher's life (Jas 3:1). Merton Strommen notes that in the New Testament "evaluation of a type seems to be obligatory-an evaluation that wakens concern, points out need, indicates direction, and provides an occasion for joy."

Several key things to understand about evaluation:

Evaluation is pervasive: The question is not whether we should do evaluation. Everyone performs evaluation constantly, whether they acknowledge it or not. The question is whether that evaluation is recognized and can thus be guided. Evaluation that is ignored or denied gains powerful and harmful control over our ministry.

Evaluation directs decisions: Many people perceive evaluation as a rear view mirror, only looking backward and only half-useful. However, whatever we use to judge effectiveness in our ministries will steer programs and actions. The way we verify the completion of goals controls our path. Evaluation is much more like a steering wheel. It has the actual power to guide, change and even determine our decisions.

Evaluation improves our ministry: The pastor seeks to understand and improve, to foster growth in discipleship and relationship. Thus, the real purpose of evaluation is not simply greater understanding, but transformation. Evaluation is vital if we want to improve our ministry and effectiveness.

Evaluation frames what we see: Evaluation is actually an integral part of our philosophy, whether we acknowledge it or not. It frames

what we see thus altering what we perceive as reality.

Elliot Eisner emphasizes the importance and "desirability of weaving many types of nets." Evaluation is a term to describe "the deliberate use of many methods to gather evidence...information gathered through a variety of formal and informal assessments...Understanding can only be developed and evoked only through multiple methods" of evaluation (Wiggins and McTighe 1998). If you want to see what is going on in your ministry, then you must cast multiple nets.

Casting multiple nets means that when we evaluate our ministries, we are looking for more than we are expecting. The nets we cast must be much wider than a single objective or measurement. If our conception of evaluation is limited we will not know what is going on, and our response to the needs of the ministry will be anemic. Many types of nets are desirable for ministry evaluation. If your objective is to catch bass, but the net is for salmon, you will produce a salmon catch. If your objective is spiritual growth, but you only quantify bodies in attendance, attendance will be what you aim at and produce irrespective of your philosophy of ministry.

The following is a list of best practices for ministry:

- Form communities to use the hard data and intuitive knowledge available. Communities can take the form of a network or a mentor with whom a pastor discusses what is happening in his ministry.
- Consider sources of information. Has the pastor talked to parents, volunteers, elders, other pastors and the children? Have they observed, discussed and asked? Each source may be biased, perceive only one piece, or be plain wrong but that's why each is needed: The minister has the same failings.
- Consider the questions asked, not just the information gathered. Every question has an assumption and thus there are assumptions in the questions that are asked in evaluation. Multiple questions are often needed in order to seek evidence of what is going on.
- Look below the surface for underlying causes. What is seen is only the tip of the iceberg. Qualities of a ministry as well as biblical and philosophical issues must be searched out and made explicit.
- Seek "depth perception." Pursue methodologies and sources of information that use both lenses of data that are qualitative and quantitative in nature.
- Gather evidence over time. Many of the most valuable efforts will bear fruit in the future or slowly.

- Compile evidence continuously. Many of the most valuable efforts will bear fruit incrementally. The minister must be diligent in knowing what is happening as it changes. Evaluation helps the pastor steer as he drives.
- Evaluation can be done at the end of an event or program but is best when it is ongoing or continuous.
- Compile evidence with rigor. Simple implicit judgments that do not consider bias, reliability or other viewpoints lack the qualifications for true discernment.
- Create a culture of evaluation. A single evaluation is not powerful enough to stand against the prevailing system. The above practices are directed toward creating a culture of continuous improvement within the church.

As John looked around that Sunday morning he knew the questions he asked would form his opinions. His snap judgments could not escape his own limited perception and bias. He was going to make decisions. Ministries would be supported, changed, cut back or eliminated. The growth of his people depended, in part, on his ability to see with clarity the real picture of the ministry God had entrusted to him. It was time to do some evaluation.

Mike Severe
Illinois State Youth Fellowship

Mike Severe grew up conservative Baptist where he still holds his church membership. He has served over ten years as a youth pastor and has a Ph.D. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is currently teaching in the School of Christian Education at Toccoa Falls College. Mike can be reached at MikeSevere@tfc.edu



West Concord, Minnesota

On November 23, 2008, Faith Community Church held its first worship service in its new facility. After groundbreaking in August of 2007, the building passed its final inspection on November 18, 2008. The 8,286 square foot building is all on one level and utilized the skills of many of the church people during its construction. It is highly visible with its entrance off State Highway 56 which runs through town.

The facility is designed to be multi-use and it incorporates many items from the old church building which was constructed in 1903. After five plus years of meeting in the local middle school, the church people are happy to be in their own facility again. The church held an open house for the community on Saturday, December 6, 2008 as part of a city-wide Christmas celebration.

A March 8, 2009 formal dedication service is planned with Dr. Don Shaw and other pastors.

**Submitted by
Pastor David Breederland**

Address: NOTE new location and email

Faith Community Church

305 State St. N.

P.O. Box 128

West Concord, MN 55985

507-527-2245

faithcom@kmtel.com

CHAPLAINCY: Year End Report

CBAmerica is presently represented by 40 active duty chaplains; 3 Air Force, 7 Navy, and 30 Army. Eleven are stationed overseas and the others are stationed all around the USA. We also have 36 chaplains representing CBAmerica in the National Guard/Reserve of the military. There are 8 chaplains serving in Veterans Medical Centers, 10 prison chaplains, and 6 women chaplains. There are 25 chaplain candidates. These are men looking to go into chaplaincy when they finish school and complete pastoral experience required to be chaplains. The rest of our chaplains serve in the following ministries: Retired, Civil Air Patrol, Civilian Hospitals, Industrial Settings, Nursing Homes, Law Enforcement, FBI, Fire Departments, State Prisons, Professional Sports Teams, Bus Companies, Retirement Centers, Campus Ministry, and Music and Arts. There are over 247 chaplain families representing CBAmerica. Keep them in your prayers. This year we endorsed 27 new chaplains and 11 candidates. Several are waiting to hear from military accessions boards meeting in January and February.

I just returned from Washington, DC where we have several chaplains serving. One of the goals of the military is to



"Honor the Dead". Army Chaplain Harry Rauch was hand picked to be the Senior Chaplain at Arlington Cemetery and in this role oversees some 30 funerals each day. The horse drawn wagons, band, trumpeter, soldiers and chaplain all help give a sad event a dignity and honor those who served their country deserve. Pray for Harry as he trains other chaplains to do this ministry and as he does many funerals himself. He has many opportunities to share Christ with the families of those being buried. We are honored to have chaplains in this high

profile position.

Air Force Chaplain Mark Campbell was just hand selected to begin a newly created chaplaincy position in the Pentagon with Military One Source. He will be serving those who assist families of deployed military personnel. Pray for Mark as he begins this new ministry and for his wife Shelly, an Air Force Nurse, who will be joining Mark soon at Andrews Air Force Base where she will work in the base hospital. They are on a waiting list for base housing. Pray a home will soon be available to them.

If you would like more information about chaplaincy please contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or chapruss@earthlink.net.

FIRESTORM Books Available

The book FIRESTORM, by Ron Susek, is available from the NCCBA office for \$12.50 each. Give Jean a call at 715-538-2298, email nccba@trivest.net or mail a check to NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

END OF 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 2009. 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 2008.

Upcoming Events

ENGAGE

High School speaking competition

January 30-31

Info at www.bethanycentral.org

BREAKAWAY

overnite outreach for JR & SR High in Illinois

March 21-22

[Info at SYF website](#)

Pastors and Wives Retreat

SAVE THIS DATE!

NCCBA Annual meeting

April 23-25

April 24

Heidel House Resort Green Lake WI

Green Lake WI

Youth Pastors/Spouse retreat

April 24-26

Heidel House Resort Green Lake WI

WORSHIP SUMMIT

May 1-2

[More information](#)

Conference for worship leaders

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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 OfficeNorth Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - nccba@triwest.net**[Forward email](#)****[✉ SafeUnsubscribe®](#)**This email was sent to nccba@triwest.net by nccba@triwest.net.[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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