

## North Central CBA

## E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

July 2007

## Regional Prayer Summit September 24-27, 2007

This event is open to all men of NCCBA churches and is held at Cedar Lake Bible Conference Center in Cedar Lake, Indiana.

Comments from a new participant last year:

"I'm also experiencing a freshness in ministry and life that I had been missing for a long time. God has revived my heart, renewed my vision for ministry, and given me a new passion for His Word and lost humanity. I can't wait for next year's Prayer Summit." (October 2006 newsletter--see Archives on our [website](#) for the full article)

Steve Daggett, Laporte MN

Registration is easy: online at [www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com) under EVENTS with a deposit of \$25 by check or credit card. Or send a check with the registration form at the end of this newsletter to: NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

## Good News--Bad News

While the title begins with good news let's start with bad news. Recently I read a report from LifeWay Christian Resources. "**Of the 300 million people in the United States, [less] than 20% regularly attend church.**" We may have a sense of this but in order to understand this in a visual way go to a mall on a Sunday morning.

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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

[CBAmerica](#)  
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(demographic info)  
[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)

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However significant those numbers are there is another one that I found staggering. The research suggested, "**close to 7.9 million people may be leaving churches annually. Crunch the numbers, and you realize that our churches are probably seeing more than 150,000 people walk away each week.**" In other words we not only have the significant challenge of increasing numbers of un-churched we now are facing a major challenge of the de-churched. So the logical question, why do people become de-churched? The report listed four main reasons for the de-churched.

**First**, many are leaving because of lifestyle. The particular lifestyle issue was relocation. **Second** was disillusionment, in particular a major cause for this is they perceived the pastor to be judgmental, insincere and lacking good preaching abilities. **Third** was discontentment with church; a significant number said other members were judgmental and hypocritical. **Fourth**, a quarter of those who leave expressed a change in beliefs or simply lost interest in religion.

Now for the good news: 62% said they are open to the idea of returning. This leads then to the logical question; what can we do to get them to return? Between the article and a little creative brainstorming we can come up with a list of options. However, I want us to look more carefully at the reason people are leaving because "they perceived the pastor to be judgmental, insincere and lacking good preaching abilities."

For those of us who are pastors it is not easy to hear that we may be a reason for people leaving the church. The fact is a major reason people enter ministry is because they care about people. Also, based on the placement forms I have in my file they all have the gift of preaching. Yet, while the criticism may seem unfair or inaccurate we need to stop and listen. In the book Never Call Them Jerks Arthur Paul Boer states, "no matter how unfair your critic may be there is always an element of truth." He then suggests, "it is our task to find what that truth is and own it."

So what is the truth here? It seems to me that what is being said is people want a pastor who is a servant. Recently I read an article from INC. Magazine which focused on the fact that many of the most successful companies (Southwest Airlines and Starbucks) have a servant leader model rather than the typical CEO model. In other words, the leadership in this paradigm of management seeks to both listen and respond to their employees and staff.

It seems to me what those who are leaving the church are saying is

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that we are not heard or cared for by those who are leading. Here is a question that comes to mind. As pastors, have we become more driven by managerial techniques than how can we best serve those Scripture calls sheep? God states in his word, "**Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must become a slave. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many** (Matthew 20:26b-28 NLT)."

Additionally, it seems that people want us to become better communicators of Scripture. This is a tough one because we are all being compared to someone on Christian radio or TBN who is extremely creative and gifted. However, that is not an excuse for us to not aspire for more quality in our messages. We cannot simply tack a verse at the end of some clever narrative and think we are feeding those who sit before us. Better preaching is not necessarily being clever but making certain that what is being proclaimed is not only grounded in Scripture but speaks to the real issues people face today. We should aspire to be "**a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth** (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV)." This is not only true for the church and de-church but also the un-church.

As fellow partners in ministry let us seek to both be good news to those who come under our care and to hear good news from the platform we speak from.

*Don Shaw*  
*Regional Director*  
[donnccba@triwest.net](mailto:donnccba@triwest.net)

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### WHAT'S MY LINE?

Remember that old TV show, *What's My Line?* An unassuming contestant appeared before a panel to be grilled for several minutes before the panel attempted to guess the contestant's profession. Let's give it a try. I'm a 51 year old mother of 4 children ages 18-24. I love to read, take long walks and watch live performances of Shakespeare's plays. I have absolutely no interest in sports. In fact this year I actually sat through the entire Super Bowl without watching a single play. I have no musical ability, cannot carry a tune nor play the guitar.

What's my line? I am the director of youth ministries at a mid-sized church in a southwest suburb of Chicago. Surprised? Me too.

When our elders realized that we needed someone to lead our youth ministry, they came up with my name. Why? Because I was already deeply involved in youth ministry as a volunteer and loved those teens. They were willing to overlook the fact that I most definitely did not look like any youth director they'd ever seen. They just noticed that I was already doing part of the job, loved the Lord and the teens, and God seemed to be using my ministry for His glory.

Now let's play another game. What's my point? See that retired bus driver who sits in the second row every Sunday morning. Did you know he prays every day for your ministry and for each of the teens by name? In fact after all those years of praying for them, he probably knows them better than you do. Take a look at that quiet middle aged woman in the dated outfit who always sits alone. She is an empty nester now but she raised 6 teens who taught her how to listen and give some great advice. She misses listening and she still has some great advice to give.

Did you ever notice that college kid sitting in the back row? He may not possess the wisdom of experience but he has learned some important lessons these last two years, some of them the hard way. The teens look up to him and he can still remember what they are going through right now. He has some vital insights for them and they will be more than willing to listen to him. What about that overworked Mom with two toddlers and a baby? People keep asking her to work in the nursery and she keeps turning them down. She isn't saying no because she is too busy but because she can't imagine spending any more of her day with babies. She is desperate for conversation and the chance to share all she has learned. And she could use some good babysitters. The teen girls would love interacting with her and with her children and both would be the richer for it.

What's my point? This summer when we are looking for leaders for youth ministry we need to broaden our scope. There are many unlikely candidates sitting all around us on Sunday morning. They love the Lord and they love our teens. What a great combination! And as in any ministry opportunity, they will benefit from using their gifts for kingdom work and we will benefit from their particular perspective and insights. We will be blessed by their unique gifts and fresh outlook and they will be blessed by our teens and the opportunity to use their gifts for the glory of God. So let's drop the stereotype of the perfect youth worker and open our eyes to all the potential surrounding us. I never would have picked Peter or Matthew to be disciples. How about you?

*Joan Vana  
New Hope Church  
Alsip, IL*

## Chaplaincy Update

Two men from our region have been accepted by the military for service. Vincent Hokkanen will be sworn in to the Minnesota Army National Guard September 19th. Pray for Vincent as he begins his ministry to the Guard. Shane Vande Vrede was picked up for active duty with the Army and is attending the Chaplain Officer Basic Course now at Fort Jackson, SC.

Pray for Ivan and Aileen Arreguin and their five sons. Ivan serves the Army at Fort Campbell and his unit is gearing up to deploy for a



**second** tour of Iraq. It is not easy to leave your family behind for a year and put yourself in harm's way. Pray for Ivan as he goes this fall. He is with the 101<sup>st</sup> Air Assault and had good ministry during his last deployment but things were different in Iraq then. Pray for his safety and for his family back at Fort

Campbell. This is a picture of Ivan when he returned home from Iraq a year ago.

Darin and Lori Dunham and their three children serve the Navy out of Norfolk, VA. Darin was deployed to Iraq, did an unaccompanied tour in Okinawa, served a tour with his family on a small island on the coast of Italy and is now deploying the end of July on a ship out of Norfolk with a troop of Marines headed for the Middle East. Pray for Lori as she stays behind with the little ones and for Darin as he leaves his family behind to serve his country. There is a cost to follow Jesus and I appreciate the many families that are willing to pay that price to serve the Lord. They need our prayers and support during these deployments.

Continue to pray for Sandra Haggray, wife of Warren Haggray an Army chaplain at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. Sandra had a double lung transplant June 18 and is doing well. She was home after a week and a half in the hospital. Pray for her continued healing.

We want to thank those of you that have prayed for the sale of our home in Long Prairie, MN. We sign papers for a purchase agreement July 17 and are scheduled to close August 24. Thanks for sticking with us in prayer for the last 26 months.

For more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russell at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) or by phone: 218-776-2813.

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### **Gordon MacDonald workshop is October 24.**

Don't miss this opportunity for questions and answers with Gordon MacDonald on the topic of "Resilient Leadership."

For Pastors and leadership staff, at Parkview Community Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, 9AM to 3PM.

Registration is \$39 and can be done [online](#) or mailed to the NCCBA office, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

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## **Henry C. Spicer SCHOLARSHIP recipients**



Ann Goetschel is from Nerstrand MN, attending New Life Church. She plans to attend Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, studying mathematics, physics and pre-med.

Jessica Jentink attends Calvary Baptist Church and lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She will be studying at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, this fall with an emphasis in Bible and Music.





Michelle Dietz lives in Lambert, Minnesota, and attends Storden Baptist Church. She will be attending Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, majoring in Art Education.

## Prayer Summit Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773

Deposit of \$25; Balance of \$130 paid at summit

(or register online with a credit card or check

[www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com) )

### Upcoming Events

National Leadership Summit, Edina, MN

THIS WEEK July 18-20 [info at CBAmerica.org](http://info.at/CBAmerica.org)

Prayer Summit, Cedar Lake, IN

September 24-27

[Register at our website](#)

Gordon MacDonald Seminar, Glen Ellyn, IL

October 24

[Register at our website](#)

### NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Elmhurst, IL ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Long Prairie, MN YOUTH PASTOR
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson, MI YOUTH/ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- Mont Clare Baptist Church--Chicago IL
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- First Baptist Church--Parkers Prairie MN
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN

Thank you for your prayers! Bruce Peterson is the new pastor at Big Rapids, Michigan, beginning August 1.

Allen Grover is the new pastor at Ganson Street Baptist in Jackson, Michigan.

Elk Horn, IA, and St. Croix Falls, WI, now have long-term interim pastors.

**Contact Our Office**

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - [nccba@triwest.net](mailto:nccba@triwest.net)  
North Central Conservative Baptist Association | P.O. Box 568 | Whitehall | WI | 54773