

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

June 2007

2007 CBAmerica Leadership Summit "Leading Together: Building Trust in the Covenant Community"

July 18-20, Edina, MN, COLONY PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Open to anyone interested in strengthening community and building relational integrity. Marty Giese of Park Rapids, MN will be one of the speakers, addressing a men's session.

For registration and schedule information go to the [CBAmerica website](#) or call the national office at 720-283-3030. **Special hotel discounts are available until July 3.**

What Does a Covenant Community Look Like?

Now that the new covenant has been adopted for our Region, the next issue is: what does this look like? Let me give you an example from CBNW.

Green Mountain Bible Church had been declining and the members desired to revive the church. They found the man they believed God wanted to help the turnaround but there was a slight problem. They did not have enough funds to move him from back east to Clark County, WA.

Other CB churches in the area became aware of the need. Through the efforts of two of these pastors and the respective churches the funds were raised. One of the pastors who was responsible for this stated, "This is just a small baby step in the kind of things we can do together as churches. When

In This Issue

What Does a Covenant Community Look Like?

Pastor Care

Youth-Muslims in Our Community

Chaplaincy-Urgent Prayer

Prayer Summit

NCCBA

Upcoming Events

NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Contact Our Office

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opportunity came, we decided we should respond to this as family and God did the rest. We're a family of churches and need to be involved together in the ministry God has given us."

Another pastor who was also involved stated, "Through this relationship we were instantly connected. It was a healthy partnership of like-minded churches full of joy in the Lord. It is neat to see the CB body of Christ connected"

Currently we have two churches that are engaging in missiological tasks. Noelridge in Cedar Rapids, IA has an opportunity to purchase an older but well maintained church property in their local downtown. If they are able to purchase this property it will open up a unique opportunity to have the only gospel witness in downtown Cedar Rapids. At the present time they are seeking to determine what God's will is in regard to the current Noelridge body. The Regional Board has given money to help hold the property until it becomes clear. (See picture)



A second missiological opportunity is opening up in Worthington, MN. For several years the church has been praying about and seeking to develop a way to plant a Latino church. A key issue has been finding the right

Latino to pastor a church. This past January when I traveled to Mexico a potential individual came to light. Since then the use of a building and free housing has become available. Getting the pastor here and funding still needs to be worked out.

At this point we need to ask, what would a covenant community look like for North Central CBA? It would seem logical that those churches in closest contact to these communities would seek to find ways to support these opportunities like the churches in CB Northwest. However, we could also expand this out to the entire region.

Yet in order for this to become a reality, I think there are at least three things that need to be true about us. First it involves letting others know what is going on. All of us have probably been called to the carpet because we did not visit someone who was in some need. Quite often the reason for

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not making contact was lack of knowing. You can not respond to something you know nothing about. It involves the desire to want to know what is happening in the lives of others. I am not suggesting that we become a nosy busybody. However we do need to express to others we do really care what is happening, both the good and the bad.

Another factor is that one has to be willing to sacrifice. There are very few of us that have unlimited resources. However, it is not out of abundance that Jesus is blessed and blesses. The account of the woman who gave her last cent was commended by Jesus. Helping other churches or becoming involved in a missiological project in the region will require some measure of sacrifice.

There is one more element that I think is vital. We must learn to see beyond our own provincial concerns. Too often we get so embroiled in the tyranny of the urgent and what is happening in our ministry that we fail to see outside of our little world. We need to rub shoulders with others and hear what is happening. We need to dream of what could possibly happen if several would come together.

What does a covenant community look like? Let's begin to journey together and see what God can do through us for his glory and honor.

Don Shaw
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PASTOR CARE- The Rest of the Summer

By the middle of June, many of us are already thinking and talking about "the rest of the summer." We have been immersed in planning VBS, children and youth summer camp stuff, all-church picnics, etc. On top of all that we are already wrestling with fall issues, such as preaching schedules, Sunday School curricula, missions conferences, etc. Perhaps, somewhere in all of this, we have forced in a week or two (two?) of vacation. We may be lamenting that the summer is already too short to accomplish all that needs or should be done, let alone the things I want or wish to do. All too often it becomes clear that summer is seldom a time for rest. "The rest of the summer" is not about having time for recreation and refreshment and rejuvenation. It is not about REST, but rather BUSYNESS.

REST is an important part of our walk of faith. The fourth of the Ten Commandments makes this clear (Deuteronomy 5:12-15.)We are to follow God's example and instruction by abstaining from "work" one day out of every seven. I wonder how many of us really observe the Sabbath, or even come close for that matter.

By now, most of those reading this are saying, "I just don't have enough time to do nothing for a whole day." Our concept of rest is that of doing nothing rather than not working. The three verses in Deuteronomy (13-15) that explain the Sabbath commandment conclude by reminding the people of God about their slavery in Egypt.

Could it be that God was and is saying that we are not to be like slaves, working all the time for a master who is never satisfied, doing things that are never completed or finished?

What does it mean to rest, to not work? And what is our attitude toward rest? Do we take our idea of and attitude toward rest from Proverbs 6:9-11 or Matthew 11:25-30? The Proverbs passage talks about the evil of wrong attitudes and actions toward work and the outcome of that way of thinking and acting. Always sleeping or resting will bring poverty and scarcity.

On the other hand, Jesus calls us who are weary and heavy burdened to find rest in Him. However, the image He gives of rest is not one of doing nothing, but of doing things in tandem with Him. Perhaps Proverbs 6 and Matthew 11 are not opposites after all! Perhaps they teach the same things. Rest is not about doing nothing. It is about doing the right things at the right time. Keeping the Sabbath is not about inactivity, it is about one day in seven being hedged, set apart, sanctified, and sequestered for our God and our relationship with Him.

It is not about doing as much as it is about being. It is about remembering who our life comes from and that He wants us to "really live!" (John 10:10). One article is too limited to make reference to all of the biblical teaching about living our life to the fullest under God's direction, but one thing is clear. Whatever we do, whenever we do it, should come out of our love for and willing response to our sin-forgiver and life-leader. I believe that one of the clear teachings of the Sabbath is the need to have actions that re-create us and fill us up. Part of keeping the Sabbath is

discovering what things fill us up and what things deplete us.

One simple test is whether you feel invigorated or drained by some activity. I am not talking about whether there is tiredness during or after an activity, I am talking about whether the overall impact is positive or negative. Some people can run miles and be pumped up afterward, while others will never run without being empty afterward. Some can read for hours and be refreshed. For others reading will always be drudgery. Can a person who works as a gardener care for his or her own roses on the seventh day and keep the Sabbath? I think so!

All of us need to discover the different kinds of actions and activities that are re-creative for us, and then make sure that we do those things. God and I working in the woods to clear out dead trees and underbrush so that new trees can grow is hard work. I come home exhausted, muscle-sore, sweat-soaked, dirty-and alive and invigorated, renewed-it has been Sabbath-time for me. What are the Sabbath-time activities that fill your life to overflowing with the reality of God alive in you? Find them and do them, one day in seven, regularly? Have a happy and blessed Sabbath this week and the "rest of the summer."

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Muslims In Our Community

What do your students know about the beliefs of their Muslim friends?

"The ruling is that you are to kill the Americans and their allies - civilians and military - this is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it. To those who believe in Allah and wish to be rewarded, you must comply with Allah's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever you find it." That sounds like someone you would like to have living next door, doesn't it?

Most of us, and our students, don't know a whole lot about Islam and the worship of Allah other than what we read or see in the media. Many Muslims are moving into our school districts and sitting next to kids from our youth groups, but do our teens really know what these new students believe or how to reach them for Christ?

The basic premise that is being thrown around is that we all worship the same God, only He is known by different names. This

theme has been touted from our president, from Oprah and from all sorts of government officials at every level. Even some religious leaders have joined the bandwagon. But this premise is not true. According to Islam, Jesus was only a prophet and a good man. He is not and was not God. To believe this concept is blasphemy to them. Jesus was only one of many prophets that were sent to confirm faith and obedience to Allah.

The greatest difference between the two faiths is the personal quality of God. In Islam, it is hoped that salvation is earned through one's good works. One must love Allah in order for Allah to love that person in return. There is no security for the believer of Islam. One is left wanting and waiting for the will of Allah to be accomplished. Good works can only give one hope for heaven, but never the guarantee of such. Since God is removed from the equation, the question of whether one is admitted to heaven is left unanswered until the Day of Judgment. Love is never part of the equation. The religion depends upon a sense of duty and a desire for payback.

Given the historic hostility between Christians and Muslims, one must build bridges and friendships before attempting to present the gospel. Earning a hearing takes time and discernment. A great way to develop a working knowledge of Islam is to do a study of it in your youth group. Do a comparison study of Mohammed and Jesus Christ. What did they teach? How did they live? What are their true followers like? Then do the same thing with Islam and Christianity.

With a world that is becoming more and more accepting of this religion, it is incumbent upon us to give our teenagers the necessary tools that will be needed to intelligently discuss this topic and hopefully dissuade others from joining it. One of the best books that I have read on this topic is "Unveiling Islam" by Ergun and Emir Caner (Kregel Publications) . It is an insider's look at Muslim life and beliefs. We can't afford to join the rest of our nation and ignore this topic, hoping it will go away.

Nate Schroder
Discovery Church
St. Cloud, MN

Urgent Prayer Needed

Chaplain Warren and Sandra Haggray serve the Army at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. Warren was deployed to Iraq for a year, then attended the Chaplain

Advanced Course in Columbia, SC for six months and then was sent to Korea without his family. He was gone some 27 months from his wife and daughter. Warren and Sandra have an eight year old daughter, Esther. He is presently the chaplain for a medical battalion of trainees at Fort Sam - from 1,200 to 1,500 soldiers strong. He has no chaplain assistant and is extremely busy with his work. His wife Sandra has a rare lung infection and has just been put on the list for a double lung transplant at the University Hospital in San Antonio, TX. She is told she could have the surgery any time in the next several months.

Since they could be called at any time they must remain within two hours of the hospital at all times. When the call comes she will spend anywhere from one to six weeks in the hospital depending on her progress - rejection is a major concern. This is a last resort for treatment. If she rejects the transplanted organs life will be over for Sandra. It is a very high risk surgery.

This couple needs our prayers. We also have an Air Force couple serving in the San Antonio area and as the Lord would have it they live very close to the Haggray home. Pray for the Campbells as they minister to the Haggray family. We will give you updates as we get them. Thanks for praying.

For more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@earthlink.net or 218-776-2813. Check out Chaplaincy articles on the CB website at www.cbamerica.org.

Prayer Summit 2007

Come for an informal but intense time of prayer together with other men from NCCBA churches. For details and registration go to our [website](#) or mail the \$25 deposit to: NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

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.

Upcoming Events

National Leadership Summit, Edina, MN **July 18-20** [Register at CBAmerica.org](http://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--Elk Horn IA
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI
- First Baptist Church--Big Rapids MI
- First Baptist Church--Parkers Prairie MN
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN
- Eureka Baptist Church--St. Croix Falls WI

Contact Our Office

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