

North Central CBA

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Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

June 2009

Spicer 2009 Scholarship Recipients Announced

Each year graduating seniors from NCCBA churches are eligible to apply for scholarships provided from the Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Fund. Applications are reviewed by a committee against the criteria stated on the application. While scholastic accomplishments are important, the students are also evaluated for other activities in which they are involved at school and church. Career goals, the educational institution involved and the benefit to the applicant are also given strong consideration.

Applications were submitted this year by 13 highly qualified students. Unfortunately, funds were not available from the Spicer Fund this year due to the economic downturn of the past year. We are required, as stipulated in the agreement for the fund, to use only those funds in excess of a minimum balance of \$35,000. The intent of the donor was to insure that the fund will be in existence for future generations. With such an outstanding group of applicants the Board of Directors designated \$1,500 from interest earned on other accounts. While this may not be possible in coming years as we wait for the balance requirement to be met, this action was taken with the hope that all of the applicants will be encouraged because of the demonstrated excellence with which they have honored God.

Therefore, with the funds available, three scholarships in the amount of

\$500 have been awarded to:



· Timothy Daggett from Laporte Community Baptist Church in Laporte, Minnesota, will be attending Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota, majoring in Public Relations.

· Elizabeth Griffith from First Baptist Church in Shabbona, Illinois, will be attending Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.



· Tara Slippy from Calvary Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who will be attending Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana, studying Child Education or English Literature.

We congratulate these students and pray for all the applicants as they take the next steps in their walk of faith as they begin college this fall.

As the Board considers how to provide funds in the near future while waiting for the fund to once again meet the stipulated balance, one other possibility is new donations that could be added to the fund or placed in a special account. If you are interested in blessing worthy students from our

churches contact the regional office at 715-538-2298 or nccba@trivest.net to discuss this further.

*Art Cotant
Chairman, Scholarship Committee*

Duty And The Gospel

During my most recent road trip I listened to a program that focused on D-Day June 6, 1944. For nearly an hour various portions of the diaries and letters of some of those who survived Omaha Beach were read. I majored in history, so programs like this I find very interesting. This one was no exception. In fact, it was one of the most interesting programs on this subject I have heard. As I was listening there was a recurring theme these young men (1944) either stated specifically or clearly implied - duty.

I have been thinking about duty since then and have come to realize that when one embraces duty one also embraces paying a price of some kind. For just the American forces on June 6, 1944, it meant that over 3,000 of them would die on the beaches of Normandy and thousands of others wounded. It meant knowing full well they could be wounded or killed, they pressed on until the task was done. It meant that for them they would have scenes of carnage indelibly etched in their memories. It also means that we are here today in a world that has been shaped by what has been called the "greatest generation."

However, there is another reason why I am writing this and you are reading this, and this is because of someone else who accepted his duty. Before the foundation of the world it was determined that God the Son would come and die on the cross for sinners. As we all know it was a task which required much. Paul in Philippians 2:5-11 gives us a glimpse. We also find in Jesus words in the garden where he prayed and sweat drops of blood, "Father if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me . . ." He also added as he continued in prayer, ". . . yet not as I will, but as You will." He paid the price so that you and I could be freed from the penalty of our sin.

As I think about the significance of that, I also have to realize that there is a duty that comes to those that experience forgiveness. The

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duty is that we are called to become faithful obedient servants of Christ Jesus. Jesus put it in these terms, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." These are not words those involved in marketing would find appealing. Why would anyone want to connect with something or someone who calls for the removal of me and the embracing of death?

In spite of this, I have come to the conclusion that my duty/our duty as one called to serve is to declare what Jesus declared to those in his world. The issue is still the same, outside of faith in Christ one is under the wrath of God and heading for hell. This is not a friendly message but as I see it as one who has been by grace enlightened, it is my duty/our duty to present the gospel. It my duty/our duty to do this so that people are not confused about who is to serve whom, and why it is urgent we must be clear no matter the cost.

Don Shaw
Regional Director
donnccba@trivest.net



PASTOR CARE:

"What Did You Say?"

My wife has been hearing that question for a long time. Sometimes it was asked in a pleasant tone and a smile, but more often it came across with an edge of irritation and a scowl. She often felt that I was angry at her and blaming her for my inability to hear. The truth is that my frustration and irritation (really, anger) was at myself. It was partly because I knew my hearing was damaged and partly because I was afraid it was getting worse. Perhaps this same sort of thing happens when we become frustrated and irritated with God when we can't hear Him.

In the April newsletter, I wrote about needing to see an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist. The short answer on the outcome is that I now have an ear tube in my left ear and am awaiting sinus surgery in early July. Yes, the ear tube is just like what children often need when they have frequent ear infections.

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](#)

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[\(demographic info\)](#)

[Illinois State Youth](#)

[Fellowship](#)

Microsoft Software 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

I seem to recall something about "unless you change and become like little children" (Matthew 18:3). We are tempted to restrict the application of this verse to entering the Kingdom of Heaven. However the passage is actually about being great in the kingdom. "Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4). It was when I finally acknowledged that I could not hear well that I found the assistance I needed.

The search for answers to the ear blockage led to the discovery that my sinuses remained full of infection despite three courses of antibiotics, hence, the planned surgery in July. Only by clearing up the problem in the sinus cavities will my general health and well being be restored and my hearing less likely to be impaired further. Perhaps, as I suggested in April, there are other areas of our lives-physical, emotional and/or spiritual that need to be cleaned up or cleaned out for us to clearly and freely hear God and others.

However, the discoveries also included knowing that the hearing in my right ear has suffered a 30% reduction because of nerve damage. That cannot be repaired or restored; it can only be compensated for by using a hearing aid. The reality is that years of ignoring or neglecting ear care-protecting my ears from harmful stuff-have taken their toll. Since learning about this loss, I have become much more attentive to and passionate about protecting my hearing. I wear not only ear plugs but also ugly yellow ear coverings when I mow the lawn as well as when I use the chainsaw.

I conclude with a couple of pithy challenges. Are you protecting your physical hearing properly? Are you encouraging others to do the same? I am sure the 23-year old blacktop laborer operating a skid loader without ear protection thought I was meddling when I told him (I'm old enough to be granted that sort of privilege) he needed to take care. Obviously, the additional questions are about our emotional and spiritual hearing. Are you able to hear well both your own emotional messages and those of others? And, perhaps most importantly, are you able to hear God, others and yourself spiritually? I will not presume to know the answers to these challenges for you. However, if I can help you discover them, please contact me. Phone: 815-645-2438. E-mail: nsbell@peoplepc.com.

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT
Stillman Valley, IL

YOUTH SECTION:

You Are a Youth Pastor

In our modern day, convenience culture, it is very easy to fall into the "fast food" trap in youth ministry. If your church mail is anything like ours, you could sign up for 20 conferences, 10 music festivals, and 5 leader trainings a week. In addition, you could fund your youth ministry by selling pens, pizzas, and parasails. Each of these offers promises to aid your ministry and make life easier. While both of us have responded to these things occasionally, the truth is, you are a youth pastor. You are the shepherd of the flock God has given you. We feel it is time that we, as youth pastors, step up and take charge of our ministries again. It is time to stop leasing our ministries out to other ministries to do the work for us. However, we would not offer that challenge without giving you some advice of things we have learned the hard way.

Some of our advice to consider:

1. Get organized. Yes, I know by nature of your job you are likely an abstract, extroverted, Type A personality. (Consider yourself a rare breed if you don't have at least 1 of those characteristics!) By nature, you feel that by taking time to organize your ministry you are "wasting time that could be better spent with students".

However, we make this argument: The more organized you are now (and yes, you can still be flexible to the Spirit's leading in the future, too), the more quality time you will have to spend with students later on. For example, if you came up with a rotation of teaching material for your Youth Group, and take time to organize it, suddenly you are not "shocked" about some lesson plan coming up, and even better, if you file it right, in 3 years all you have to do is dust it off, update it with some new illustrations, and consider how God has been working in that area in your life. Your effort to get organized is paying off with more stress-free and guilt-free time with your students. Craig has taken time to enter contact information and attendance information in the computer for all people involved with his ministry over the past 7 years. As of today, that is a record of over 1200 people. To start from scratch entering that today would be painful, but to add 5-10 people a week is relatively simple. And, if he doesn't want to, he doesn't have to hand-address envelopes or camp brochures ever again!

2. Have confidence in yourself. Every youth ministry worker we have known has felt beat up, dishonored, and worthless at sometime

or another. So if that is how you feel right now, welcome to the club! We could both tell you stories of seemingly insignificant things for which we have been called out. I'm pretty sure some of our stories would be hard to beat! (But for the record, we'd love to hear yours, too!). However, understand that you are in a spiritual battle and God has placed you there for a reason. You are his person for your job. You are there because you can more effectively minister to your flock than Franklin Graham, Doug Fields, or that guy at the church across the street. For the most part, most of the big, championed youth ministries exist because someone came in with the passion to be the best youth leader they can be. You may never have a youth ministry of 1000 students. But if you don't take care of the current sheep God has given you, why should you expect to be entrusted with more?

3. Critically evaluate other ministries you use. Both of us have stopped participating in ministries that no longer lined up with our ministry philosophy. This is not to say we learned nothing from them, but that no longer was the positive of what was being provided greater than the negatives that came along with it. And I promise you, there are negatives with any ministry out there! Forget tradition. If you can do it better or cheaper in some other way, or you see that it is no longer effective to your ministry (or even worse, detrimental), drop it. Of course, be ready to defend your position, and have criticism come your way. However, it is your job to guard your flock. Over the years, we have even left ministries for a season, and come back to get involved at a later point in time, when it was clear that we were on the same page again. However, the care of our flock must always come first.

4. Create something of your own. Start small if you need to. Craig started by writing his own curriculum back in college. By making a continual small investment in writing curriculum, a great library of messages from the past have been created, which can easily be referenced as needed. Adam was part of an outreach at a former church, and sensed that it would be beneficial to create a similar outreach in his current ministry. This outreach has a positive growth trend and is opening doors to ministry opportunities that he would not have had otherwise. Since that point, we have gone on to create and revise 6 devotional books (with 2 more to come). Are they as polished as something you can buy through Group or Youth Specialties? Certainly not! (Or at least not yet...). But they are personalized, and designed to meet our students where they currently are spiritually. And of course, it's great for youth ministries on a limited budget, as all it costs is your time, and the

paper and ink it takes to print them.

5. Work closely with like-minded ministries. When you find a ministry that has a similar ministry philosophy as you, especially another church, take time to explore if there is future ministry opportunities. Once we figured out that our ministry philosophy was basically the same, it was natural for us to start working together to create more programs.

6. Find your weaknesses and attack them with your strengths.

In our ministries, we both saw a weakness for leadership & camp counselor training. Craig had ideas of a "boot camp" week during the summer (an idea borrowed from other ministries) but was not able to get it off the ground. So after collaborating and keeping some of the elements we liked, we re-launched it as Youth Adventure Mission, or YAM. YAM is a backpacking and hiking trip we take our 8th grade and up students to the Porcupine Mountains in the UP of Michigan. In just 2 years and 3 trips, we have started training at least 12 students from our ministries to be leaders in their church and youth group as well as preparing them to be our future counselors at camp. We are preparing to train about 10 more students in July. Backpacking and camping is something we love, and we had a weakness, so we combined them for a great ministry. Similarly, we combined on camp, drawing from our years of service at other camps to run and staff our own week, as well as keep the cost down. (Seriously, other than us, who runs a week of church camp for \$130 nowadays?!). We have revived interest in camp at our churches, brought church people on board with our ministry, and are seeing great successes. Glory to God!

If you are a bit nervous about taking these steps, fear not. We didn't take time to highlight all of our massive failures-and there are too many to count! However, growing in humble confidence that God has chosen us to shepherd our flocks, is allowing our ministries to thrive under God's calling. Over Labor Day weekend this year, we are offering training for any youth leader who wants to learn the premise of a YAM trip-educate you with the knowledge and resources you need. And then, you can take it home, tweak it for your ministry-and perhaps be teaching us how to run an Ultimate YAM trip sometime in the future. We're sure you can come up with great ideas to improve it! Contact us if you have interest in joining us for this training.

To view brochures for YAM and our camp, [click here](#)

Adam Zappetta, Primary YAM Contact
First Baptist Church, New Richmond WI, (715) 246-2700
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Craig Morris, Primary Camp Contact
Westside Church, Aitkin, MN, (218) 927-2728 ext. 2#
WestsideYouth@gmail.com

A "Must Read" **Father, Son, & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles & Relevance**

Review by Don Shaw

We are encouraging you to put on your "Must Read" list Father, Son and Holy Spirit by Bruce Ware. This book takes a look at the Trinity as the model for how relationships are to work. We have copies available for a donation of \$10 (retail is \$17.99). If you cannot afford the \$10, let us know. We believe that it is more important for you to have the book than to cover the cost.

Call the NCCBA office, 715-538-2298 or send a quick email request to nccba@trivest.net .

Urgent Request for Prayer

We urgently request that you pray for Grace Community Church, Osage, Minnesota, and its satellite campus in Bagley. This church is facing a monumental financial and organizational crisis which is having a profoundly negative impact on the gospel. This situation has led to the necessary resignation of the senior pastor. We also request prayer for Bill Ullom (the senior pastor who has resigned) and his wife Brenda.

Housing Allowance Amendments

Pastors do not pay income tax on the portion of their pay that is designated in advance as "housing allowance." This amount is limited to what is actually used for housing expenses and what is the fair rental value of the pastor's home. This amount MAY BE AMENDED during the year

when larger than normal housing expenses are expected, such as purchase of a new home, a balloon payment, or major remodeling. This amendment costs the church nothing, but must be made before the unexpected expenses are paid.

Call or email the office for a sample Housing Allowance resolution or mid-year amendment resolution. 715-538-2298 or nccba@trivest.net

Upcoming Events

Michigan Pastors Cluster June 15, 10 AM to 1 PM Call Mike Wetzig, 231-853-6021
Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna MI

CBA Summer Summit July 6-8 [Register at the CBAmerica website](#)
Loveland, Colorado

Youth Adventure Mission (YAM) Training for Youth Leaders
Wisconsin/Minnesota Labor Day Weekend
Contact Adam Zappetta 715-246-2700 (Wisconsin) [email for Adam](#)
or Craig Morris 218-927-2728 (Minnesota) [email for Craig](#)

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Squaw Creek Baptist Church--Marion IA YOUTH & WORSHIP
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Colfax IA YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Streator IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- First Baptist Church--Elk Horn IA

Contact Our Office

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - nccba@trivest.net

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