

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

June 2010

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

We of the NCCBA have the privilege of honoring High School graduates with the Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Fund. Applications are reviewed by a committee according to 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 4 highly qualified students. Each were given a scholarship from the \$1500.00 of funds set aside by the NCCBA Board.



Allison Abodeely
from Calvary Baptist
in Cedar Rapids IA
plans to attend Grace
University in NE,
majoring in
Elementary Education



Emily Buchanan from
New Providence Baptist
in Greencastle IN will
attend Huntington
University in IN, with an
emphasis in Music and
English



Jamie Jentink from Calvary Baptist in Cedar Rapids IA will be going to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, with a course of study in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)



Rachel Stern from Calvary Church in Muscatine IA is planning to attend Iowa State University and major in English

We congratulate these students as they take the next steps in their Christian walk when they begin college this fall.

Phil Butler
Chairman, Spicer Committee 2010

True Pleasure

Recently I have just finished reading, [Thieves In The Temple](#) by G. Jeffery MacDonald. MacDonald's main focus is that the church in America is too interested in being consumer friendly and not concerned with calling people to live lives worthy of the gospel. He asserts that if one is a professing Christian, then your life style should be radically different than that of common culture.

For example, he asserts that Christians should be characterized by a life of self-control. He cites several examples of where the Christian community has self-control issues; divorce,

In This Issue

[PASTOR CARE](#)
[YOUTH PASTORS](#)
[Software Available](#)
[Accreditation for Antioch](#)
[CLUSTER NEWS](#)
[Ministry Quick Links](#)
[NCCBA Churches in](#)
[Need of a Pastor](#)
[Contact Our Office](#)
Natural Church
Development

bankruptcy and weight (obesity). What he notes is that among those who profess Christianity, the percentage of divorce, bankruptcy, and obesity is equal to those who do not. In fact, he points out that seventy-five percent of American clergy are either over-weight or obese, which is more than twice the national average. (This plays a key role for group insurance for those in ministry.)

The question that logically arises is, why? The answer is that we live in a world that bombards us with the pursuit of personal pleasure. A key factor in the examples of divorce, bankruptcy and weight is the pursuit of personal pleasure. The pursuit of what gives me immediate pleasure is key to these and other issues.

One of the requirements in my D. Min program was to take an OT course. I chose one on Job. In the first session the professor asked this question, "Would you serve God if the only pleasure you were to receive was to meet Him face to face?"

Job is a man who God declares is the most righteous man on earth. We also know of his wealth and prominence. Yet God allows him to lose his wealth, children, health and prominence. As Job struggles with this he argues with his "comforters" that he has not sinned, and if he could meet God face to face God would realize His error.

God does give Job his desire to meet him, but before he allows Job to speak he asks a series of rhetorical questions. Half way through Job responds, but it's probably different than he had envisioned. In essence he realizes he put his foot in his mouth.

God continues and in the very early part of the second series he asks Job two questions, "Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be right?" In the last word from Job he in essence admits that everything God does is just. To put in the context of the professor's question, Job has met God and now he is satisfied.

But doesn't Job get all his wealth, children, health and prominence back in abundance? Yes he did, but note, Job never asked for it nor did he assume that would be the outcome. I am of the conviction Job would have been completely content with just meeting God face to face.

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At this juncture of my life I am more fully aware of what will bring me true pleasure. It is to not just finish well but to hear, "Well done" by the God who chose and called me by His grace. However, to accomplish both of these I still must, as Paul says, "But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

I must confess even as the majority of my life and ministry is past, the desire for personal pleasure still is strong. However, to be true to the gospel, to what is glorifying to God and to be truly counter culture I must find my pleasure in God alone.

Don Shaw
Regional Director
donnccba@triwest.net

PASTOR CARE

What You See Is...

Yesterday evening I picked up a book that I had started reading several months ago. It had been setting on the lamp table next to my recliner, ignored because I had watched T.V. in my free time, often through my eyelids. The novel, entitled "The Visitation" by Frank Peretti, raises some very interesting issues early on (I'm on page 115). They are the same issues that I frequently raise with my counseling clients.

The story is about a burned-out Pentecostal pastor who has stayed in the same rural community after resigning his pastoral position. His faith has been challenged by recent events, leaving him even more disillusioned and hurting, feeling abandoned and disconnected from God. Then things begin to happen that are not only extra-ordinary but also contrary to what is expected to be from God, i.e. a weeping crucifix in the Roman Catholic sanctuary, angels (?) promising that Jesus is coming to town soon.

The obvious issue is to figure out what really is happening. Are people really seeing and hearing what they seem to be experiencing? If they are, what does it all mean? Which of the many possible explanations and/or interpretations is correct? Whose point of view is actually on target?

Several days before I read this, my wife had made the

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RESOURCES
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NCCBA is now able to perform background checks for member churches. Call Don at the office, 715-538-2298.

MEDIA
RESOURCES
Father, Son & Holy
Spirit:
Relationships, Roles
& Relevance

This book by Bruce Ware is available from the NCCBA office for \$10. Highly recommended. Email the office at nccba@triwest.net

From the Truth
Project: DOES GOD
EXIST?

This is an outstanding series that will help prepare your high school kids for college. It is produced by the same group that did the Truth Project. It

observation that the meaning we give to things often changes significantly from time to time. She had been out in the yard pulling up weeds. Part of what she was pulling up was grass, which we were working hard to grow in other near-by places. That stimulated the question: what makes a weed a weed. My father-in-law, a life-long farmer, says a weed is anything growing where you don't want it. I would add to that, growing there more than you desire.

In counseling my clients, I often am asking them to take a fresh look at what has been happening in their lives, especially in terms of what they think/believe those events mean. The way we interpret or give meaning to some of the simplest things that happen to us can truly be revolutionary, transformational, to use a current buzz word. To use a phrase one client stated, "Nothing is changed, but everything is different!"

What is really going on in your life, in your marriage, in your family, in your ministry, in your church? Is God at work? Are there spiritual weeds growing? Sins flourishing? Too much of a good thing taking place? Things happening that don't fit your expectations? Things not happening that you think ought to happen? Things that would prove God is at work, and that leave us empty and disappointed when they don't?

In all of this the challenge to each of us is this. Are we sure that we are understanding things properly, accurately, truthfully, from God's perspective? As I read Scripture, I find that there is a strange mixture of confidence and humility, of boldness and hesitancy, of taking action and of being passive, of being sure and of wondering. I believe that the key to keeping our relationship with God, other people and our selves fresh and vibrant and healthy is to be humbly confident, to be cautiously bold, to be carefully active, to be tentatively sure. We are to be founded on the Word of God, condiment in His character, sure of His promises, strong in His power, unwavering in His truth. And at the same time we are to be aware of our frailty, our proneness to sin, our limitations of perception, our lack of knowledge and wisdom. We need to remember that we often remember what we should forget, and forget what we should remember.

We need to hold on tightly to what God has revealed about Himself, ourselves, and each other. We need to hold on lightly to

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Antioch School of Evangelism & Church Planting

Go to College at Your Home Church
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Would you be interested in being able to offer college level material in your local church? Would you be interested in being able to facilitate in providing a bachelors degree from your local church? Are you interested in being able to develop your current and next generation leadership?

If you answered yes to any or all of these we encourage you to

what we believe all of that means, how we respond to all of that emotionally, and what actions we choose to take in the light of all of that in any given situation. That which is revealed is absolutely sure and certain. That which we believe it means, how we feel about it, and what we do is always open to reevaluation, adjustment, challenge and change. While God is perfect, unchanging and reliable, we are imperfect, changeable and often mistaken/wrong/sinful.

Keeping the balance between these two realities is not simple or easy. However, when the balance is proper, the outcome for us is the fruit of God's Holy Spirit abiding and evident in us. I pray that this balance will be increasingly present in each of our lives and ministries.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT
Stillman Valley, Illinois*

YOUTH PASTORS: *Your Response*

It wasn't that long ago that I had a conversation with a youth pastor named "Roger" who told me many of the scenarios he was dealing with in his youth group. He explained to me where a student's father was also his grandfather and how another student's father was also her uncle. The stories of sexual, verbal, and physical abuse were overwhelming. Many, if not most of his students lived with stepparents or other relatives who lived "Jeckle and Hyde" lives as alcoholics and drug addicts. I was shocked by these real life stories that neither Hollywood nor Steven King could write on his own.

As he was telling me these things I began to grow concerned with his personal well being and the burdens that he was carrying. Therefore, I finally stopped him midsentence and asked him a question. I said, "How are you able to carry the burdens of your youth and persevere through the spiritual battle?" I was equally shocked at his response because I was expecting to hear something like "God, my family or my daily quiet time."

Instead, his answer to my question was an online computer game called, "Final Fantasy 8." To be honest, I don't know much

look into this resource. **Antioch School of Evangelism and Church Planting** is a resource that will help equip your church for all of the above. We have three churches in the region that have become certified-- Forest City Baptist, Rockford, IL; FBC Jackson, MN; and FBC Whitehall, WI. For further information contact Don Shaw at 715-538-2298 or by email nccba@triwest.net

about the Final Fantasy series but regardless it begs me to ask the question, Where do we as youth ministers turn when we are weak? When we are the most vulnerable where do we go and where should we go?

In Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus was tempted by Satan in the desert. In verse two it says that after forty days the temptation came. It was after the fast, not during. In youth ministry temptation often comes after the retreat, after the mission trip, after the camp, and after the speaking engagement. Why? Because we are weak and we are hungry. Jesus was not only physically hungry but he was emotionally and spiritually hungry as well.

In verse 4, Satan tempted Jesus to turn the stones to bread which I believe symbolizes relief or comfort. Now, the bread in and of itself was not evil unless that is what Christ turned to fill his void. In the same way,

- Television in and of itself is not evil unless that is where we turn to be replenished.
- The internet in and of itself is not evil unless, that is where we go to find relief.
- Golf in and of itself is not evil unless that is what we use to escape.
- Alcohol in and of itself is not evil unless that is where we turn in a crisis.
- Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream in and of itself is not evil unless that is where we turn to find comfort.
- Sleeping in and of itself is not evil unless that is what we do to cope.
- Football in and of itself is not evil unless that is where we turn to for meaning.
- Your wife or girlfriend in and of herself is not evil unless that is who we turn to find significance.
- Your husband or boyfriend in and of himself is not evil unless he is who you turn to find validation and your identity.

Our spiritual fill, our replenishment, our relief, our escape, our comfort, our coping mechanisms, our meaning, our significance, our validation and our identity cannot and was never meant to be found in the things of this world.

In Matthew 6:19-21 it says "Do not store up for yourselves

treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We tend to think of treasure as an object such as a car, stereo or gaming system. But the truth is your treasure may not be an object at all. Your treasure may be a feeling. Your treasure may be a sensation. It may be a feeling or sensation of being indestructible, a feeling or sensation of being above reproach, a feeling or sensation of living on the edge or a feeling or sensation of living life without consequences. These are all feelings or sensations that are achieved through sinful behavior - a behavior where Christ is momentarily replaced by Satan on the throne of our lives.

After two attempts at tempting Jesus, Satan eventually tried to tempt Him with all the kingdoms of the world. He told them that they would all be His if He would only bow down and worship him. But the fact is that this is what Satan was really asking Him to do all along. If Jesus had turned the stones to bread or thrown Himself off the temple He would have actually been bowing down to Satan. He would have given into temptation and made Satan lord.

My point is this - that's what we do over and over again. When we bow down and turn to other things for relief instead of Christ we are in effect calling Satan our lord. Had Jesus bowed down, his ministry would have been destroyed and ended there. So for those of us that have been in ministry for awhile, when we declare Satan as lord by turning to the things of this world for relief, the ministry will slowly be destroyed. Maybe it's only a baby step but baby steps turn into yards, yards into miles and miles turn into self destruction and fallen ministries.

If it had been you out in the desert and Satan came to tempt you, what would he do it with? You have just had an incredible spiritual experience and you find yourself alone in your house, in your car, in your office or in the hotel room. Satan walks through the door, lays down three stones at your feet and says, "What an incredible experience you just had. You must be exhausted." And instead of saying, "Turn these stones to bread" he says...

- "Turn these stones to a Play Station 3"
- "Turn these stones to the internet"
- "Turn these stones to sleeping for the next 16 hours"
- "Turn these stones to pornography"
- "Turn these stones to ice cream, cookies, or chocolate"
- "Turn these stones into your husband, wife or neighbor"

Once again, these things are not by themselves evil. But, if these are the things we turn to to find relief and comfort, would we be in fact bowing down to Satan? That youth pastor I told you about, it would not be uncommon for him to go 2-3 days in a row finding relief and comfort in Final Fantasy 8. That's 2-3 days of barely eating, barely sleeping, not turning on the lights, not answering his phone, not getting up for a stretch, and not leaving his Lay-Z-Boy chair.

- What if when we were weak, we spent 2-3 days in God's Word?
- What if when we were weak, we spent 2-3 days praying?
- What if when we were weak, we spent 2-3 days fasting?
- What if when we were weak, we spent 2-3 days memorizing scripture so that when we are dragged out into the desert we can respond the same way Jesus did, with scripture?

What does the "bread" represent in your life? If you recognize it, are you willing to sacrifice it? If you are not willing to sacrifice, are you willing to at least give God equal time? Do you know what your bread is? If so, does anyone else? Does your wife? Does your husband? Does your Sr. Pastor? If not, get some accountability. If nobody knows what your bread is, the main ingredient might be a little something called Pride.

According to proverbs 16:18, PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL and I am tired of seeing pastors and youth pastors fall from grace. I am tired of everyone assuming that it would never happen to them. I'm tired of it going unspoken because of the fear of offending someone else. We need to come along side each other, not to plan events but to pour into each other as Christ poured out His life for us. Lone Rangers in ministry are despicable and easily entangled. Therefore, let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of

doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Go bless,
(Youth) Pastor Craig Sanborn
FBC, Long Prairie MN

Survey Results for Youth Pastors

Matt Slippy's "Theological Temperature" youth ministry survey results have been emailed to all NCCBA Youth Pastors. If you did not receive it, please call or email Jean at the office, 715-538-2298, or nccba@trivest.net

NEW 2010 Software Available

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2010, Windows 7 and the new Adobe products are available for lease at wholesale prices to our member churches. Call Jean at 715-538-2298.

Antioch School is Accredited!

The [Accrediting Commission of DETC](#) met on June 4-5, 2010 and granted accreditation to the Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development.

The Antioch School is the first truly church-based and competency-based academic institution to receive accreditation by an agency recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). We are very proud of this accomplishment because DETC does not grant accreditation quickly or easily. Our process took several years that included extensive Self-Evaluation Reports, a thorough Curriculum Review, an intense Site Visit by a six-member team, and specific Progress Reports.

Accreditation means that the quality of the Antioch School's degree programs has been affirmed by a rigorous peer review process of a respected, independent agency. The Antioch School will be listed in the next edition of the Directory of Accredited Post-Secondary Institutions published by CHEA. This will greatly facilitate transfer of credit and acceptance of

prerequisite degrees by other academic institutions.

However, DETC accreditation is just the most recent form of affirmation of the quality of Antioch School programs. We have already been endorsed by leaders of churches, church planting movements, and church networks, as well as other high profile ministry leaders.

Please rejoice with us in the news of this great achievement.

From the Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development

Area Cluster News Corner

The **Michigan Cluster** met Monday, June 7 at Bethel Baptist Church in Jackson. There were about ten guys in attendance which included a couple of lay leaders. Director Don Shaw was also in attendance and shared some ideas about holding a mini-retreat which include both staff and lay leadership from the churches.

There was also discussion of the book "**Fusion**" by Nelson Searcy which had been given out at our last Cluster Meeting. The book discusses the subject of assimilation and offered ideas about how to help first time visitors "stick" and eventually become active members of our congregations.

*Mike Wetzig
Ravenna Baptist Church
Ravenna MI*

OPERATION OF WIRELESS MICROPHONES IN THE 700 MHZ BAND IS PROHIBITED AFTER JUNE 12, 2010

We heard about this new law and thought we should let you know about it just in case you weren't aware of it. It's a law that could affect you if you use wireless mic's. Use this link to visit the [FCC's web site](#) and view the Manufacturer's Equipment List to see if your church or ministry is affected by this new ruling.

