

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

March 2009

Deadline: April 1

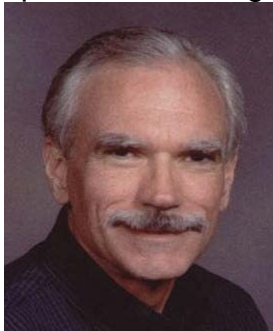
Pastors and Wives Retreat

Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin

April 23-25, 2009

Come for a time of refreshment and relaxation at beautiful [Heidel House Resort](#).

Spacious rooms, good food, and entertainment by actor Alan Atwood are all awaiting you. Our keynote speaker is CBAmerica's National Executive Director, Dr. Stephen LaBar, and the ladies will have a Friday brunch with guest speaker Vicki Smith, Women's Director of CB Southern California.



More information and registration by check or credit card are available [online](#) or by mail.

If you need a brochure, it can be printed from our [website](#) or call Jean at 715-538-2298.

Not A Time for Denial

In the past 24 hours I have had two pastors send me a link to an article in the Christian Science Monitor. The title of the article is "The Coming Evangelical Collapse." The author asserts that within 10 years evangelical Christianity will experience a major collapse.

He lists seven reasons why he thinks this will occur. I want to

In This Issue

PASTOR CARE
Good Idea Section
Scholarships
YOUTH: Winter Retreats
Youth Leader Retreat
More Good Ideas
Ministry Quick Links
Microsoft software

focus on the two that resonated with me. First he asserts, "Evangelicals have identified their movement with the culture war and with political conservatism. The evangelical investment in moral, social, and political issues has depleted our resources and exposed our weaknesses. Being against gay marriage and being rhetorically pro-life will not make up for the fact that massive majorities of Evangelicals can't articulate the Gospel with any coherence. We fell for the trap of believing in a cause more than a faith."

Second he asserts, "Evangelicals have failed to pass on to our young people an orthodox form of faith that can take root and survive the secular onslaught. Ironically, the billions of dollars we've spent on youth ministers, Christian music, publishing, and media has produced a culture of young Christians who know next to nothing about their own faith except how they feel about it. Our young people have deep beliefs about the culture war, but do not know why they should obey scripture, the essentials of theology, or the experience of spiritual discipline and community. Coming generations of Christians are going to be monumentally ignorant and unprepared for culture-wide pressures." (I would encourage you to read the entire article - <http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0310/p09s01-coop.html>)

In my opinion he is saying that we who call ourselves evangelicals have forgotten we are to be proclaiming the gospel. Also we are also not teaching sound theology either from the pulpit or in the material we use for teaching within the church.

Our initial reaction may be one of defense or dread. Those of us who react defensively would declare that if anything is true of Conservative Baptists, we are defenders of sound doctrine. That is what led to our formation, and the pursuit of doctrinal purity has made us what we are. As a result, we may want to dismiss his assertion in regard to theology and doctrine. Those of us who respond with dread are reacting to the wars that have been waged and the splits and acrimony that have resulted. Therefore there may be the inclination to dismiss his assertion fearing another round of doctrinal wars that are more often hermeneutical rather than theological.

As a result we will probably continue doing what we have been doing. However before you decide, we should take into consideration some other facts. For example, a 12/19/08 Pew Forum survey reveals this, "among white evangelical Protestants, 72% of those say many religions can lead to eternal life and name at

NCCBA

Upcoming Events

Contact Our Office

Natural Church Development

Available for Your Church

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](#)

least one non-Christian religion, such as Judaism or Islam or no religion at all, that can lead to salvation." Albert Mohler, President from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, calls it "a theological crisis for American evangelicals. They represent at best a misunderstanding of the Gospel and at worst a repudiation of the Gospel."

Additionally, over the last year I have encouraged those of you who read this column to familiarize yourself with the books *unChristian* and *The American Church in Crisis*. They are not encouraging reads, and we may not agree with some of their conclusions. However, they add to the merit to the statement found in the article cited above as well as the data from Pew Forum.

So whether we like it or not, we are facing a crucial time. To date it seems that we have looked for programs that will help us become successful. However, it would seem that programs are not the solution, but returning to truly proclaiming the Gospel and not shying away from essential theology. Both are needed for the sake of those under the wrath of God and for equipping the next generation.

Don Shaw
Regional Director

donnccba@trivest.net

PASTOR CARE: Elder Care

I have been impressed lately, in my counseling ministry, with the growing needs of our aging population. The percentage of my clients who are over 65 years of age is increasing significantly. This is also true of those who are what used to be called the elderly elderly-those over 85. Obviously, the people I am seeing are not the "usual" older persons, since they have sought professional counseling for some reason.

The most interesting observation about this increase, however, is the discovery that these older persons often have many years of unspoken hurts and fears. I had one 77-year-old woman tell me about childhood and teenage physical and sexual abuse. She quietly confided in me that she had never told anyone else about those things. I felt very sad to hear that she had born that burden alone all that time.

I have two things I want to encourage you to think about in terms of

[Worship Summit in Iowa](#)

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

pastoral and congregational ministry. The first one is to make sure that as pastors we take time and energy to minister to those who are older. I must admit that nursing home visits have never been high on my list of enjoyable activities. However, I must also admit that every now and then, those moments spent with an older saint have yielded precious opportunities to share God's love and grace in powerful ways. I recall one such moment, holding the hand of a terminal person, praying out loud the assurances of faith in Christ and feeling the tension go away as the peace of God flowed in. It was exquisite to be there.

Yes, older folks can ramble (of course, pastors never do). And yet those ramblings often hold clues to underlying needs that may never have been discovered or acknowledged. Experiencing God's peace and joy in old age may be enhanced by someone listening well and by God's grace responding in love and truth.

The second thought is to consider getting others involved in ministry to the elderly. Our most traditional way is holding devotional services in nursing home facilities. That is a good place to start, as long as it includes personal contact with the residents before and after the service. Beyond those kinds of opportunities, I think it is important that older people sense and believe that someone came just to see just them. I remember people asking me whether I had made the trip just to see them. I often foolishly responded by assuring them that there were other people to see or other reasons to be in the neighborhood. I wish God had made me wiser sooner.

Currently there is a great deal of concern about caring for our returning combat veterans, especially those seriously wounded and disabled. Some are in veterans' hospitals and rehabilitation facilities, while others are in private homes and care facilities. Some are young and some are old. Our World War II and Korean War veterans are still with us, although passing away rapidly. A revitalized ministry to these men and women just might be a source of great joy and satisfaction to your congregation.

My desire in all of this is to encourage us to look for ways to care for those who are older and to continue to give them opportunities to talk about things they may have kept secret for a very long time. Meeting them with God's love and grace, and declaring his forgiving and/or healing power can be life changing even at 90.

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT
Stillman Valley, IL

GOOD IDEA section:

Garden Needs, God Provides

(from a recent email to NCCBA--
used by permission)

Just wanted to let you know what our church is doing this year. Because of the economic situation, we are going to plant a large garden in the back yard of the church and give away the produce to families in need in our church and community.



Another church in our school district, but in a different town, is going to put in a garden also. They already have a committee and donations coming in to cover the costs. They have measured out a 50'x80' garden. I'm thinking we may put in a 40'x100' garden here. The local FFA from the high school is going to start the tomatoes for us.

With tomatoes comes the need for cages. That has been answered today. I was thinking about putting a press release in the papers looking for old fence line to make 100 tomato cages and look for old stakes. Yesterday morning I had a grave side service at the Marietta cemetery (a tiny, tiny town southeast of Bushnell). On my way there I passed a field where they were rolling up the fence line. After leaving a note on one of the tractors concerning the wire, I got a phone call last night that said we could use it. The phone call was from the guy hired to pull up the fence and haul it away.

With the help of several people, we headed out to get the fence line after lunch today. On my way out there, I get a phone call from the farmer who owns the land. He said we could have it, but he was concerned about how brittle it was. I told him I thought it would be ok since they did have it all rolled up. I told him what we were doing, and he said he would talk to his sons about planting an acre or two of sweet corn for us to give away! He also will have old steel fence posts for us to use once they get them pulled out. As we were rolling the fence rolls onto a cattle trailer, the farmer pulled up in his truck and was talking to us. He had talked to

his sons, and they said they would plant the sweet corn! The pastor of the other church that is putting in a garden was with me the whole time this happened today. We know that it was God providing all this! We were so excited with what God did today!

Maybe this is an idea for outreach that other churches could do if they have the space to do it.

*Dave Eden
First Baptist Church, Bushnell IL*

Applications must be postmarked by April 1

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. 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.

YOUTH SECTION:

Winter Retreat Reports from State Youth Fellowship, IL

Approximately 10-12 churches joined together for our annual winter youth retreats in January! A Youth Pastor from the State Youth Fellowship directs each retreat. Jr. High Blizzard took place January 2-4, followed by Sr. High SnoCamp January 16-18. Pine Trail camp (Michigan) was our host for both retreats. For more information on Pine Trail Camp, go to www.pinetrailcamp.org. The primary purpose for each retreat was for spiritual growth to take place in each of the students lives.

Blizzard '09 was directed by Jason Wilson, and co-directed by Joan Vana. Our speaker was Pete Sutton, (Jr. High Youth Pastor at Christ Community Church of St. Charles). He did a great job speaking - reviewing early chapters of Exodus with the life of Moses, reminding us that life is not about us, it's all about God - He's in charge! The worship band was from Sycamore/DeKalb, IL led by Ben Kampmeier. He had just returned from being at Hillsong

in Australia! Both Ben and Jason were active in SYF when in high school - it is exciting to have former SYF high schoolers serve this way! We had around 120 students & staff attend this year.

SnoCamp '09 was directed by Andy Polheber. Our speaker was Manny Rocha (Sr. Pastor at Glenview Evangelical Free Church). He took us through passages from

I John with the theme "Walking in the Light" - very relevant to students & staff! Dave Pikel (me) led a Concert of Prayer on Saturday Night - a great time of prayer & praise. The Josh Weaver Band led us in worship throughout the weekend - wonderful times of worshipping the Lord together! We had around 145 students & staff attend this year.

"BREAKAWAY '09"

Our annual jr. & sr. high evangelistic outreach event called "Breakaway" is coming up March 21-22. Duane Keleman once again is directing this event. Last year we had 600 in attendance (472 teens!) from 26 churches. It was estimated that 21% of the students attending last year were not yet Christians, and reports showed approximately 10% (half of the unbelievers attending) received Christ that night!

Pray for a great spiritual harvest - not just of salvations at the event, but solid seed plants that the Christian students can follow up on in the future - for those not yet ready to respond positively to the gospel.

HEIDEL HOUSE '09

REST, REFRESH, RELATE, & REFUEL!

North Central CBA

Youth Pastor/Leaders & Spouse Retreat

April 24-26, 2009

Sure hope you can join us for our annual weekend getaway at the Heidelberg House. If you haven't received a flier yet, be sure to contact the NCCBA office at nccba@triwest.net or call 715-538-2298. We will have our own schedule, separate from the Senior Pastors & Spouses. The purpose is for rest, relaxation & relationships. We have three sessions (Fri PM, Sat AM & Sun AM). Thus, a lot of time is left to rest, enjoy the surroundings, etc.

Grace n Peace 2 u,

Dave Pikel

www.cometolifeministries.org

YOUTH PASTOR/LEADER and

SPOUSE RETREAT

**Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin
April 24-26, 2009**

For details about the retreat contact Pastor Bill Badal at 815-895-3116 or pastorbill@tbc.net For directions and amenities available at Heidel House, visit [their website](#)

Registration can be made [online](#) or by calling 715-538-2298.

BREAKAWAY - March 21-22

All night event for teens in the Illinois area

- Wolves Hockey Game
- Pizza
- Basketball, climbing wall & more
- Gospel presentation

Contact Duane Keleman at 708-474-5400 or email neonpastorduane@netscape.net

Complete information at the [State Youth Fellowship of Illinois website](#)

Another GOOD IDEA:

Ministry to the Men and Families of Bravo Co., WI National Guard.

Recently, 130 soldiers of Bravo Company based at Wisconsin National Guard Armory in New Richmond left for a 1 year deployment to Iraq. This is their second deployment in four years. Some of the current and former soldiers of the unit attend First Baptist Church and interest grew in showing God's love to the soldiers and their families.

Rev. Allen Russell was invited to the church to present practical ways in which military families can be helped by

local congregations. He continues to be a very helpful resource. A Company B ministry team was recruited and met with the Army chaplain who will go with the troops to Iraq.

The ministry team also met with the leader of the Family Readiness Group (FRG). This is the support group consisting of soldiers' wives and parents who plan events for the families during the time of deployment. The stated purpose of the First Baptist ministry team to the FRG was, "We are here to serve and support you as you support the Bravo Company families." The First Baptist team was welcomed and invited to provide personnel for a family day picnic at the armory, prior to the soldiers' departure. About 500 people attended as the ministry team served food, provided child care and free massages. A local VFW Post supported the ministry team by providing funds for food.

At a deployment ceremony about a week later, the ministry team provided a continental breakfast and the pastor of First Baptist was asked to be part of the send off program by offering a prayer for the men and their families. The church also made available small laminated copies of that prayer to all in attendance. About 900 copies were taken. The church obtained military version pocket New Testaments through the International Bible Society and these were made available to every soldier.

Pastor Morris has been adopted as the assistant to the chaplain and the church has entered into a relationship with the Wisconsin National Guard as a Partner in Care congregation. The ministry team meets monthly with the Family Readiness Group to provide encouragement and support. Upcoming events include a monthly birthday party for the soldiers' children and the provision of child care for children at the armory while moms attend training sessions offered by the Red Cross. The ministry team can distribute articles and information on resources through the monthly FRG newsletter.

Church volunteers look forward to helping in a variety of ways including simple home repairs, some counseling, and automobile maintenance. This unique ministry involves a variety of people from the congregation for specific events. People have the opportunity of using their skills and interests in targeted events that do not take up large amounts of time. The ministry team is the constant fixture, serving to recruit

volunteers and keep information before the congregation through a display in the foyer.

The team provides a list of 10 soldiers' names for each Sunday's bulletin, encouraging people to pray for the men and their families. The First Baptist team will walk with the families through this deployment and look for open doors to share God's love and truth.

*Submitted by Kevin Morris
First Baptist Church, New Richmond WI*

CHAPLAINCY: Weeping & Rejoicing

Chaplain Russ Guppy is a Law Enforcement Chaplain with Tacoma-Pierce Chaplaincy in Tacoma, WA. Here is a note from his recent report.

"One of the biblical principles of chaplaincy ministry, especially at the personal one-to-one level is 'to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep,' according to Romans 12. This was tested the other night when I was called to deliver a death notification to a mother and father, that their 28 year old son had died a few hours earlier...by his own choice. The young police officer who accompanied me was bravely experiencing this for the first time. Fortunately, the parents were both home when we arrived around 7 p.m. Of course, it was devastating, but these middle-aged parents displayed an uncommon composure amidst their shock, grief and tears. I counted it a privilege to be there with them, to quietly assist them at the worst moment of their lives, and even to weep with them. In the 2 ½ hours I was with them (the officer left after about 35 minutes), that may have been the most helpful thing...I would have stayed longer but I had a plane to catch at 6 a.m. the next morning."



Russ flew to Washington DC to serve as a chaplain at the FBI Academy for two weeks duty as the temporary resident chaplain. There were about 380 new agents there, and about 250 veteran police leaders for executive-level training called "The National Academy." While there he was able to 'rejoice with those who rejoice.' As resident chaplain, he gave the invocation prayer and

benediction for the formal graduation of 40 new FBI agents. Several hundred family members and friends were there to "rejoice" for this celebration.

Thanks to all who pray for our chaplains and provide financial support to CBAmerica Chaplaincy so our chaplains to serve in chaplaincy...to be on-scene to both weep and rejoice. For more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy you can contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or at chapruss@earthlink.net.

Upcoming Events

BREAKAWAY overnite outreach for JR & SR High in Illinois	March 21-22	Info at SYF website
Pastors and Wives Retreat Heidel House Resort Green Lake WI	April 23-25	Register now! DEADLINE April 1
NCCBA Annual meeting	April 24	Heidel House, Green Lake WI
Youth Pastors/Spouse Retreat Heidel House Resort Green Lake WI	April 24-26	Register online DEADLINE APRIL 1
WORSHIP SUMMIT Conference for worship leaders Cedar Rapids, Iowa	May 1-2	More information

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- 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 Office

North 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](#).

North Central Conservative Baptist Association | P.O. Box 568 | Whitehall | WI | 54773

Email Marketing by

