

North Central CBA Newsletter

Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus March 2011

April 1 **DEADLINE** for registration!

[Pastors Seminar with Leith Anderson](#)

begins with Wednesday night lodging

Two Sessions (lunch included), Thursday, April 28, 2011

[Pastors & Wives Retreat](#)

All Church Staff Invited

Ted Kluck, Keynote Speaker

Co-author of [Why We're Not Emergent](#)

([by Two Guys Who Should Be](#)) and [Why We Love the Church](#). Both titles by Moody Press

Thursday & Friday lodging, Two delicious dinners

April 28-30, 2011

Ladies Brunch Friday morning

NEW LOCATION: [The Abbey Resort](#) Fontana, WI (on Lake Geneva)

Brochures and detailed biographies are available on our [registration page](#).

Call the office 715-538-2298 or email nccba@trivest.net with questions about the seminar or retreat. There will also be a special thank you Friday evening of the retreat to Don Shaw for his years of service to NCCBA.

Henry Spicer Scholarship deadline is APRIL 1st. [Click here](#) for an application or [read more details in this newsletter](#)

Once in a while there are things written that are truly worth reading. Leo Cumings (Bethel Baptist, Jackson, MI) sent this to me, written by a woman in his church. We both believe that we should put it in the newsletter. I hope you will take the time to read and to digest what is written. -- Don

Grief of a Different Kind

I have to admit, there was a {quiet} grieving process for Dave and I when we realized that our parenting adventure was going to look very different than we had originally dreamed it would.



I don't talk about it that much because we have *always* believed strongly that *all life*

is precious. For us, there were so many worse things that we could hear than, "Your son is not going to do the normal things that most kids do, he is severely brain damaged".

For instance we could hear that our son was not going to make it (Yes, been there done that).

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**Natural Church
Development**

We did hear that - *and there is just no comparison.*

Or we could hear that one of our children did not want anything to do with the God who created them. To me, that would be far, far worse.

Given our stance on life issues, and our faith, I don't often contemplate the less harsh, but nonetheless

heartfelt, grieving process that Dave and I went through pertaining to our son, K.



Yes, we had grieved that year. We had grieved the death of our firstborn, we had grieved lost dreams, and we had grieved an innocence that no longer had a place in our small family.

We grieved a world that had made an immeasurable departure from everything God had intended for it. A world where death now stalked the unsuspecting and robbed the faithful.

...And there was a different kind of grieving later on that year. It was more gentle to us. It did not cut deep, but its presence was there. It snuck into the back of our minds when we contemplated the future. It wrapped around dreams of T-ball and little boy giggles - running across the yard with reckless abandon.

How Healthy is 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.

NCD 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.

Valuable Information About Your Church's Area

Customized demographic information available about your church location. This is a free service for all NCCBA churches. Call Don at 715-538-2298

Ministry Quick

We let it all sink in, and then we knelt and thanked God for each breath that K took on his own. Truly miraculous. Every breath, every beat of his heart was like God saying "Yes, he can" while the doctors said "He can't". And even in the midst of that, there was a *legitimate place for this soft grief*.

Dave's excitement was undeniable when we found out that the precious little ones in my womb were both boys. What dad doesn't dream of everything he can do with his sons? *He did*.

When our reality hit after their birth Dave's love was big. It was tangible. *And yet he grieved*.



My grief hit in stages, as is the nature of this process.

I wanted to figure it all out. Get to the bottom of each issue K would face. Read up on it, ask all the right questions.

*Untangle it,
unpack it,
unravel it.*

And **then**

I wanted to fix it.

Go to all the right doctors. Put in all of the hours. Undo what

Links

[CBAmerica](#)

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE
REPORTING laws by
State on our
[website](#) under
RESOURCES**

**New Staff
Background Checks**

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@trivest.net

nature had so cruelly done to my little boy.

work

myself

to utter

exhaustion...

...fixing it.

Fixing **him**.



And *then*, well then I hit the insecurity stage. And this phase was measurable in years, not weeks.

This stage said, "This is too big for you."

"What are you doing?"

"You have no idea how to fix this!"

"You don't know how to love him the way he needs to be loved."

This stage hurts.

This stage is hard.

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 includes ten sessions on DVD and ten student books. Our price is \$50.89 plus \$10.00 for shipping.

Retail for the same set is \$110.89. If you would like to get a preview of why you should consider this go to www.trueu.org and check out: The Toughest Test in College.

Antioch School of Evangelism & Church Planting

Go to College at Your Home Church

(Accreditation by [DETC](http://www.detc.org))

Here is a peak into the broken theology that sometimes takes up residence in my brain:

At times I imagine that God has lists. Lists of people and what they can handle. He bases what he allows in their life, on what they can physically and emotionally handle.

...And I was pretty sure that he had accidentally gotten my list mixed up with some one else and someone else's tolerances mixed up with...mine.

Here's the good news: *Then came the healing stage.*

Healing in my heart,
healing in my parenting,
healing in my marriage,
healing in my spiritual life.

Truths became concretely laid into the very core of my being.

God does not make mistakes.

He is not capable of accidents.

**He does not choose the equipped, he equips the chosen.
And I am chosen.**

This is a really, **really**
significant one right here:

K does not need to be fixed.

He needs to be nurtured.

Let me tell you, each one of these phases of grief still enters into my life every now and then. But since the healing phase has been activated I have TRUTH to combat the GRIEF with.

Truth that puts a smile on my face and a song in my heart.

Truth that compels me to

nurture,

love,

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 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@trivest.net

Software Discounts

accept,

surrender.

I had to write this today, because in the last several days I went through some degree of each of these stages of grief in reference to K.

Again.

Decisions had to be made,
strategies sifted through,
and I just really needed wisdom.

In response to all of that, I began to sort through this rarely shared grief.

And in doing so, a few more pieces of the healing puzzle locked into place.



Wendi

BIG savings on software!
Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2010, Windows 7 Professional, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Acrobat and other Microsoft and Adobe products are available for lease to member churches. [Click here](#) for an order form.

CLUSTER LEADER THOUGHT CORNER:

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17: 20-23

In many ways, my thoughts for this cluster corner could end with the above quote from Jesus' High-Priestly Prayer. What more needs to be said? I read Jesus' words in today's context of church polity and politics and my first thought is: what is Jesus thinking right now about how I relate to the rest of the body of Christ? The idea of "complete unity" of course smacks of dangerous thinking to us as Baptists. "Autonomy" and "independence" are so firmly fixed in our institutional DNA that we struggle to come to terms with unity. And I'm not just talking about political or institutional unity.

Naturally, as Protestants, we abhor the kind of monolithic institutional unity that produced the horrors of the Inquisition, etc. But sometimes I wonder if our loathing of these abuses from the past hasn't pushed us to an equally disastrous extreme: we are so wired for independence that we no longer have any instinct for unity at all, either institutional or relational.

Jesus' prayer was that we would be ONE as he and his Heavenly Father are ONE. What keeps us from being ONE within the body of Christ? Are we really too busy, or are we really just content to hide in our offices? Are we too busy, or are we really just afraid to open ourselves to the contact and questions of our pastoral peers? Relationships are messy; even pastor-to-pastor relationships. Are we willing to take the time and pay the price of real relationships with other like-minded Christian leaders?

Reading the news of current trends in our nation seems to reveal Satan's blueprint for disrupting and discrediting the Church: Divide and conquer. Isolate, demoralize and destroy. Even with the support of a godly "Band of Brothers", ministry can be tough. Without it, ministry will eat you up and spit you

out. Whose blueprint are you following? If you find yourself isolated and alone in ministry, then swim against today's tide of individualism and isolation, and join a cluster with like-minded men of God. If you don't have an NCCBA cluster in your area, start one. I'm sure Don Shaw would be thrilled to hear about it. If you don't have other NCCBA churches in your general area, then seek out the fellowship, encouragement and professional stimulation of like-minded pastors from other groups. I think Jesus would approve. *"So that the world may believe that you have sent me . . ."*

*Steve Daggett
Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND*

YOUTH PASTORS:

News from State Youth Fellowship-Illinois www.syfil.org

Winter Retreat Reports

Approximately 8-10 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 7-9, followed by Sr. High SnoCamp January 14-16. Pine Trail camp (Saugatuck, Michigan) was our host for both retreats. The staff there does all they can to provide a friendly, fun, Christ-honoring atmosphere! The primary purpose for each retreat was for spiritual growth to take place in each of the student's lives.

Jr. High Blizzard '11 was directed by Jason Wilson, and co-directed by Joan Vana. Our speakers were Andy Sabaka and Nate Wolf - close friends themselves since high school, (roomed together at Moody Bible Institute too!). They spoke on friendship - giving great Biblical examples as well as stories from their own lives - related well to the middle schoolers! The worship band was from Jason's church (Harvard Ave. Ev. Free Church in Villa Park, IL). We had around 130 attend from 8 churches.

Sr. High SnoCamp '11 was directed by Gary Lisle, and co-directed by Christian Constante. The theme was "Who do YOU say I AM?". Our speaker was Jason Draper (Bible Teacher, Coach & Worship Pastor) - great messages from the gospel of Mark - "Look up!", "Let Go!" and "Lose it". Dave Pikel (me) led

a Concert of Prayer on Saturday Night - providing multiple experiences to interact with the Lord individually and in groups. Resonate was our worship band, led by Nate Miller - from DeKalb/Sycamore area churches. I heard several say that Resonate provided worship experiences that were better than ever before - PTL! We had around 150 students & staff attend from 10 churches.

BREAKAWAY "11"

Our annual jr. & sr. high evangelistic outreach event called "Breakaway" is coming up April 16, 17 (9:45 pm - 7:00 am)! Joan Vana is our director this year. This event usually draws 600-700 students & leaders from 20-25 churches. Each year we try to check how many unbelievers are brought, and the average is 25-30%! Major work is being put into this event--especially the rally portion where we'll have music (by Grits), comedy (by The Green Room), and several challenges from our speaker (Pete Sutton), which will include a clear gospel presentation. Then after pizza, we'll go to three events for 2 hours each (Lifetime Fitness, Orland Bowl, & Odyssey Fun World).

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. See www.syfil.org for more info.

Grace n Peace 2 u,
Dave Pikel
www.cometolifeministries.org

Henry Spicer Scholarship

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 of scholarships varies from year to year. For more information and an application go to our [website](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298.

Applications must be received in our office or postmarked by April 1. [Back to Top](#)

Streator IL Update

The Streator Citywide Revival is moving right along. We'll have nightly meetings until March 27. We've had several salvation decisions even though the emphasis is on personal revival for folks who are already believers. We've had wonderful stories of people beginning to step out with boldness and faith.

Seventeen pastors or Christian leaders are preaching and seven worship bands are participating.

We had a "Jericho Drive" on Sunday, March 6. A bunch of us just drove all around the outskirts of town, praying all the way. When we got back, we all gathered in the church parking lot and then shouted and blew our horns for a solid minute. Just to bring down the spiritual walls in Streator! It was a blast...literally! (By the way, we cleared it in advance with the police...who thought it was a great idea).

We raised almost \$2,500 for charity during the first week and over \$1,000 more in just the last two days. People are being SO generous. All the contributions are donated to recognized local charities.

Several counties all around us are watching closely. A couple are already planning similar revivals after Easter. Some charismatic folks called yesterday and said that God had given them a vision of this spreading all across the Illinois Valley. That was exciting to hear.

People are talking it up. The charities are telling everybody about the donations. On any given night, we have people from 10-12 churches here and they are all going back with a good report to their congregations. Of course, when each pastor comes to preach, he brings along a bunch of his members. The media coverage has been fantastic. The local newspaper keeps putting us on the front page.

We have our own Facebook page. Just do a search for "Streator Revival" and you'll learn all about us.

Finally, we are live streaming it worldwide on the internet. The picture isn't so hot, but the sound is fine. Go to www.streatorevangelistic.com and click on the screen at 7 pm. Try it. People in a dozen states already have.

The meetings have been very powerful, but I would have to say that we don't have a true revival yet. That can only come from God. We're beseeching Him. We've called a fast for Saturday, March 12. It's our first Youth Night. I can't imagine a more vital audience we need to reach than the young people of our City.

Rev. John Schmidtke
First Baptist Church of Streator, IL
Contact John at: pastorjohn-fbc@mchsi.com
or 815-672-2460

Fire in Blaine MN

On December 28th the building caught fire and sustained over \$300,000 damage. The fire department used a new product, a previously unused 'gel' which extinguished the fire literally in seconds. Consequently, most of the exterior of the building is still intact. The building was insured for \$506,000 and we are currently trying to determine whether to repair the building or demolish and build an addition to our present building. We will appreciate your prayers as we seek God's will in this matter.

Pastor DelRoy Johnson
Oak Park Community Church
Blaine, Minnesota

CHAPLAINCY:

Our God is Powerful

One day Moses and God were having a discussion about the complaint the people were making concerning not having meat to eat in the wilderness. God told Moses He was going to provide meat for them. He told Moses in Numbers 11:18-20, "Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will have to eat it. And it won't be for just a day or two, or for five or ten or even twenty. You will eat it for a whole month until you gag and are sick of it. For you have rejected the LORD, who is here among you, and you have complained to him, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?" When Moses questioned the ability of the Lord to feed meat to so many people the Lord replied "Has my arm lost its power? Now you will see whether or not my word comes

true." It is so easy to doubt the Lord's power in our lives. Here are several of our chaplains who need God's power in their lives.

Chuck and Erika Searl (active duty Army at Fort Leonard Wood, MO) and family are on their way to Montana to bury Erika's father. Pray for their safety and comfort as they meet with other family members. David Lundell a chaplain in the Veterans Medical Center in San Diego is getting treatment for leukemia. Dave had a great outreach to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Vets. Pray for Dave and Rose as they serve there and that Dave's treatments work. Mark and Shelley Campbell (both active duty Air Force in Washington DC) where Shelley is an AF nurse and Mark serves as the executive officer in the Chief of Chaplains office for the Air Force. Shelly is undergoing chemo treatments for cancer. There are just three of our chaplain families needing prayer and a touch from the Lord.

I recently visited Fort Lewis, WA and our chaplains stationed there. I tried to visit Ken Hegtvedt. He returned my phone call and let me know he was now serving in Washington DC not in the state of Washington. Ken is now the chaplain in the United States Surgeon General's office. This is a very high profile position. Pray for Ken as he has many contacts with officials in the government and has input into their lives.

We have a number of excellent candidates waiting for active duty with the Army. The Army is being very selective now and it is getting harder to get chaplains on active duty. Pray for six of our men waiting to hear if they have been selected. There are hundreds of applicants applying for a dozen or more jobs. What is impossible with man is possible with God.

If you want more information about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or call 218-776-2813. I will be attending the NCCBA Pastor's retreat in April at the Abbey Resort in Fontana WI.

Upcoming Events

2011 Pastors' Seminar/Pastors & Wives Retreat

Pastor's Seminar April 28

Pastors & Wives Retreat April 28-30

NCCBA Annual Meeting April 29

[Register online now](#) April 1 deadline

