

Subject: May News from North Central Conservative Baptist Association

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

May 2007

NEW Board members for 2007:

- Dr. Kevin Morris**, *Board Chairman*
First Baptist Church, New Richmond, WI
- Rev. Pat Phinney**, *Board Vice Chairman*
Colony Park Baptist Church, Edina, MN
- Rev. Michael Wallman**, *Board Secretary*
Hayden Heights Baptist Church, St Paul, MN
- Rev. Bill Badal**
First Baptist Church, Sycamore, IL
- Rev. Nick Bell**
First Baptist Church, Streator, IL
- Rev. Phil Butler**
First Baptist Church, Colfax, IA
- Rev. Art Cotant**
Discovery Church, St. Cloud, MN
- Rev. Steve Daggett**
Laporte Community Baptist Church, Laporte, MN
- Rev. Mark Friday**
First Baptist Church, Pekin, IL
- Pastor Lee Willis**
Hillcrest Baptist Church, Muscatine, IA

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Valuable Information for Your Church Growth

Demographic information about your church location is available as a free service. All NCCBA churches are listed. Call Don at 715-538-2298 if you have questions.

www.Link2Lead.com

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)
[Link2Lead](#)
(demographic info)

NEW Statement of Faith and Covenant
Approved at the NCCBA membership meeting, April 27.
Everyone should have received a copy by e-mail or by snail
mail. These documents will also be available on our
website, www.nccba-gc2.com

NEW member of the NCCBA region:
First Baptist Church of Shabbona, Illinois. Please add their
address and e-mail to your directory.
First Baptist Church, 209 N. Nokomis St., Shabbona IL
60550. fbcsbabbona@yahoo.com. Phone: 815-824-2425.
Pastor Joel Badal.

NEW NCCBA church directory is being mailed this week.
If you do not receive yours by May 23, let Jean at the office
know, 715-538-2298.

The Best Book

I am writing this article from my church office. There are shelves that run along two walls holding hundreds of books that have become part of my library over 29 years of ministry. The number of volumes is still growing but at a much slower rate. There are many valuable works that I pull off the shelves every week written by authors and scholars I highly admire. Some books have become like old friends - familiar tools of the trade related to teaching and preaching.

I can honestly say that I would trade them all for one book - the Bible. In matters of personal daily living or ministry responsibilities, the wisdom, comfort, direction and perspective of God's word is unmatched by any other volume. For example, the first three chapters of Revelation give us a valuable perspective that can be applied to our NCCBA regional church fellowship. Each of the seven churches the Apostle John wrote to was no more than 30 or 40 miles from their nearest neighbor. While the distance separating them was not that far, their ministry situations were unique. The messages to the churches reveal a picture of ministry that is as true now as it was then. Churches had strengths. There were things that they were doing well for the glory of God. There were problems in churches that needed to be faced. Those churches knew what it was like to press on with kingdom work in a

[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)

Microsoft Software and More

Now available from the NCCBA office. The new Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$122 plus \$35 for the installation media. Adobe, Norton, and hardware are also available. Call Jean at the office, 715-538-2298, for price quotes and to order.

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

NEW WEBSITE

world that was increasingly hostile to God's truth. The ministry dynamics varied significantly from church to church but the congregations shared a common identity. Each fellowship was a part of the body of Christ. They all worshiped and served the risen, glorified Savior.

It is worth noting that the messages to all seven churches were preserved for our benefit in the scriptures. It is wise and good to stay connected with what the Lord is doing in the bigger picture of local church ministry. Maintaining contact with other pastors and churches in our NCCBA family requires a personal investment of time and effort, but it brings a return of encouragement, valuable insight and possibly expanded ministry opportunities. May God grant you strength and wisdom for the challenges and opportunities of your unique ministry setting. May God also show us the value of our regional association and the opportunity it provides to enjoy a broader perspective of His kingdom work in the north-central region.

Kevin Morris, Board Chairman
First Baptist Church
New Richmond WI

PASTOR CARE- If (Since?) God is All Knowing

The other day, I was talking with a friend about the practical application of things we say we believe to the way we live. The focus of our discussion was on God's omniscience and our perpetual (it seems) choice to hide who and what we are from God, ourselves and each other. The context was the desire to improve a relationship that is deeply fractured. The suggestion was that the most effective way to work toward healing and restoration was to re-establish genuine communication.

As we talked about this, it became clear that the only way to begin bridging the chasm between two estranged people would be the choice of one person to authentically tell what he/she was thinking and feeling to the other person. This was based on the conviction that the only workable basis for relationship is truthful understanding and acceptance of each other. The possibility of success in this effort was found to be in being real rather than being convincing or controlling.

Next the observation was made that choosing this course of action

is extremely difficult. From the moment that Adam and Eve made the choice to disobey God, they also began making the choice to hide from each other and from God. They no longer saw themselves as safe in relationships. Rather they felt dangerously exposed and in need of protection from one another and from God.

As we talked further about this problem, we acknowledged that all of us have difficulty being real, openly seen and known for who and what we are. We all hide. We hide from God, as though He really is not all-knowing. We hide from each other, thinking it is to our advantage to get others to think we are different than we really are. And perhaps most effectively, we hide from ourselves, ignoring truth and believing our own deceptions.

The crucial point in all of this is in the fact that God knows us totally and accurately, since He really does know everything. When we carefully consider the outcome of this affirmation being applied to life we realize that hiding from Him is futile and counter-productive, just as it was for Adam and Eve. The truly exciting and alluring part of all of this is that the same source that convinces us He knows all also convinces us that He loves us totally without reservation and without failing.

As Christ-followers, we claim that the only way to have a right relationship with God is by trusting Him and being honest about ourselves. When we more completely behave consistently with this conviction, we will discover our relationship with Him becoming more intimate and precious than we can begin to imagine, until we know that we are fully known and fully loved by Him.

Since our relationship with God and our relationships with each other are inseparably tied together, it becomes obvious that the way to being fully known and fully loved by other people lies in the same direction-taking the risk and the privilege of being honest about ourselves with ourselves and with others. The Ten Commandments, as well as other texts, convincingly instruct us in the essential connection between these relationships.

The powerful conclusion of our conversation the other day was a time of prayer in which each of us worshipped God by acknowledging these truths and asking Him to enable us to more consistently weave them into our day-by-day life. I hope that these thoughts may encourage you to examine the same issues in your life and relationships, and that you also will conclude that your relationship with God is worth being honest about who and what

you are, and the being transformed into the image of Him who died and rose again for us. Only a journey on this path will lead us to healthy and truly intimate relationships with others.

Respectfully,

*Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT
Interim Pastor, First Baptist Church
Streator, Illinois*

How Much Do You Weigh?

While meeting with other youth pastors this past month a very interesting quote was mentioned, "Christians should be weighed, not counted." This is not talking about physical weight, but about spiritual weight. But before we can weigh someone spiritually we must have a consistent standard by which to measure them. May I propose the standard Jesus fixed for us in the final verses of the Gospel of Matthew?

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Jesus) - Matthew 28:19-20

The first part of the standard for spiritual weight can be found in the first eight words of this passage, "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations*" There is no "ifs", "ands" or "buts" about what Jesus is saying to us. We are to go and make disciples. We are to **go wide** with our faith, which is the first part of the standard. Going wide with our faith means simply to evangelize, to be in constant dialogue with people about Christ. I don't know what that will look like in every situation or what every person's style of evangelism is, but God commands us to do it anyway. Not only are we to evangelize but we are to train and encourage others to start looking for and participating in evangelistic opportunities. I know it is scary but this is what God commands.

The second part of the standard for spiritual weight is first half of verse 20, "*teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" In other words, **go deep**. Now, we can easily start to think this means we need to measure how deep we are ourselves, but the reality is we are to take others deeper in Christ. Now in order to take others deep we need to continuously be pushing ourselves deeper and closer to God but the measure for depth is how deep we take other people and here is why. If we go extremely deep into God and His Word but don't take anyone else there, what is the point? You take everything that you have learned to your grave and nothing is profited. What would have happened if the disciples had kept everything they had learned to themselves? There would be no church. When the verse says teaching it is not talking about knowing head knowledge but is talking about the practical application of Christ's commands.

So when we multiply these two parts (go wide, go deep) together we get spiritual weight, which is a better gauge of the

condition of a ministry than the number of people involved. So how much do you weigh?

Matthew W. Phelps
Youth Pastor, First Baptist Church of Streator, Illinois



Chaplaincy Update

Last month we mentioned the Chaplains in the NCCBA area. We forgot to mention Chris Jenkins.

Chris Jenkins - Pastor of Evangelism & Discipleship Bethany Baptist Church Peoria, IL. Chris is a new chaplain in the Army Reserves and is the chaplain to the MASH unit in Bartonville, IL. He has finished the first part of the Chaplain Officer Basic Course and is working with this medical unit. Pray for Chris as he finishes the Army training, pastors at the church, finishes a PhD from Trinity Evangelical Seminary in Chicago, and is a father and husband. He is a busy man.

Pray for Chaplain Dan Stephens. He is stationed with the Navy in Naples Italy but is working on assignment in Djibouti. He recently baptized several new believers. While talking with his commander about the baptismal service location and explaining the meaning of baptism his commander gave his life to Christ and was one of those baptized.

Chaplain Michael Nace is a prison chaplain in Gowanda, NY and has been suspended for the past six months on trumped up charges by the prison guards. He won his arbitration and has gone back to work at the prison. Michael has been able to lead many of the men in the prison to Christ and see them baptized. His worship services and Bible studies have standing room only. We are grateful to God he is able to continue his ministry there and his name has been cleared of all charges. Now the guards who tried to have him removed are treating him with respect realizing they failed in their efforts. Pray for Michael and his ministry.

In the past month and a half we have picked up new chaplains in MN, IL, OK, MI, PA, KY, SC, CA, NY, WV, and OR. We praise the Lord for the pastors coming our way to get involved in ministry. Thanks for your prayers and support. For more information about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or chapruss@earthlink.net.

Worship Summit 2007

Worship Summit 2007 was an absolute blessing! We were blessed to hear Music Pastor Rick Muchow from SaddlebackChurch in Lake Forest, CA talk about worship in the 21st century, and how it pertains to us as believers and leaders. The workshops were intimate, as question and answer times usually arose. The musical worship times together were nothing short of awe-inspiring, and the fellowship amongst believers was a special time. Here is what some people had to say:

"Thank you for all your hard work in putting together the Worship Summit Conference. I was amazed at the different churches represented, and felt it to be a very timely conference. It is time to come together in unity in our city, across all denominational lines, and release "weorth-ship" as it is meant to be. I personally gained through the breakout sessions, as well as from Rick Muchow. I am already anticipating the next one!" -
Debi Modracek (Worship Asst. @ First Assembly of God CR)

"Just a quick word of thanks for having the vision and enthusiasm to host a wonderful conference." - **Gene LaVesseur** (Worship Pastor @ Noelridge Comm. Church)

If you missed this year's conference, don't worry! We will be hosting the Worship Summit Conference in 2008 as well. We want to invite you to visit our website at www.worshipsummitconference.com to learn more about our past conference as well as next year's Worship Summit! Our goal is to empower local lead worshippers to be capable followers of Jesus Christ as well as effective leaders in our local churches. Whether you have one person leading music in your church, or an entire choir, anyone setting foot on the platform to lead is a lead worshipper. We want to provide an inexpensive resource to your church ministry.

*In His Arms,
Pastor Paul Taylor
Worship Summit Director & Worship Pastor
SquawCreekBaptistChurch
Marion, IA*

Converge is June 10-15

A Senior High Evangelism Training Conference in the Chicago area.

Contact Bill Badal 815-895-3116 or visit the SYF website www.syfil.org for more details.

FYI

Encouragement for those in ministry

http://news.yahoo.com/s/livescience/20070418/sc_livescience/surveyrevealsmostsatisfyingjobs

Don Shaw--Regional Director

Upcoming Events

CONVERGE-Sr. High Evangelism Training

Chicago, IL-Contact Bill Badal 815-895-3116 June 10-15

[More info...](#)

National Leadership Summit, Edina, MN

July 18-20

Call Don for details 715-538-2298

Prayer Summit, Cedar Lake, IN

September 24-27

Gordon MacDonald Seminar, Glen Ellyn, IL

October 24

NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Elmurst, 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

Thank you for your prayers! Jeffery Patrick, Jr., is the new Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Bradford, Illinois.

Contact Our Office

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

PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773
