

# North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

May 2008

**Approved by the NCCBA membership at the annual meeting on April 25, 2008:**

## **NCCBA Board for 2008:**

**Dr. Kevin Morris, Board Chairman**

Senior Pastor - First Baptist Church, New Richmond, WI

**Rev. Michael Wallman, Board Secretary**

Sr Pastor - Hayden Heights Baptist Church, St Paul, MN

**Rev. Bill Badal**

Pastor/Youth Ministries - First Baptist, Sycamore, IL

**Rev. Nick Bell**

Interim Pastor - First Baptist Church, Streator, IL

**Rev. Andrew Brown**

Senior Pastor - First Baptist Church, Long Prairie, MN

**Rev. Phil Butler**

Senior Pastor - First Baptist Church, Colfax, IA

**Rev. Art Cotant**

Senior Pastor - Discovery Church, St. Cloud, MN

**Rev. Leo Cumings**

Senior Pastor - Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson, MI

**Rev. Steve Daggett**

Senior Pastor - Laporte Community Baptist, Laporte, MN

**Rev. Duane Keleman**

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### **Valuable Information for Your Church Growth**

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

**Rev. Duane Keleman**

Assistant Pastor-First Baptist Church, Lansing IL

## **NEW MEMBERS of NCCBA:**

**Northside Bible Church, Kenosha WI**

**Hillside Bible Church, Ortonville MI**

**Imago Christi Church, Cedar Rapids IA**

**Spring Valley Bible Camp, Muscatine IA**

Welcome! These new members are listed in your 2008 directory.

## **Our Compelling Passion**

It's healthy to have our spiritual rafters shaken from time to time. I don't know of anything that does that as well as the Word of God. A passage that has been shaking my spiritual rafters during the first half of 2008 is 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 as God reminds me of what is to be our compelling passion as Christians. As Paul writes about the ministry of reconciliation he identifies a two-pronged fork of motivation. The first is fear. After writing about appearing one day before the judgment seat of Christ, he writes,

*Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. (v. 11)*

The second prong is love.

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (vv. 14-15 NIV)*

I am compelled-or should be-by Christ's love to no longer live for myself but for Him. Why? I do so because I am convinced that He is the one and only way to have a relationship with God. It would be nice if universalism were true. How convenient it would be if

visit

[www.Link2Lead.com](http://www.Link2Lead.com)

### **Natural Church Development**

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.

### **Ministry Quick Links**

[CBAmerica](#)

[Link2Lead](#)

[\(demographic info\)](#)

[Illinois State Youth](#)

[Fellowship](#)

[Worship Summit in](#)

[Iowa](#)

### **Microsoft Software and More**

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$122 plus \$35 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.

the only necessity was to believe something-anything-sincerely. We could schedule a continuous slate of classes and seminars to teach people how to be sincere. The inconvenient truth God has entrusted to us is that one died for all. Whether we are motivated by fear or love, we are compelled-or should be-to try to persuade people of their need for a Savior.

It doesn't matter who the person is or how good or evil that person might be, each person needs to be reconciled to God. God has given us the most incredible news in history to proclaim.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (v. 18 NIV)*

This message is our ministry. God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

*That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. (v. 19 NIV)*

God made us His ambassadors-representatives of heaven-so He could make His appeal to people through us. As you read these next words from Paul don't miss the passion that flows from every cell in his being.

*And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (vv. 19b-21 NLT)*

I become so wrapped up in doing the stuff of ministry that I forget the substance of ministry that I am called to speak for Christ when I plead with people, "Come back to God!" (Does that ever happen to you?) God places each of us in relationships with people where His desire is to use us to try to persuade them, "Come back to God!" If I fail to follow through on my assignment as an ambassador of heaven there may never be another person to offer that invitation, "Come back to God!" If I am compelled by Christ's love, believing that people can be made right with God through Christ, I will plead with those people I know, "Come back to God!" Whether motivated by fear or love, we are compelled to try to persuade people to be reconciled (to come back to) with God.

This is how God has been rattling my spiritual rafters. They

NCCBA

[www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE  
REPORTING  
LAWS for your State  
on our [website](#) under  
"Resources"**

needed to be rattled. This is our compelling passion. This is why we do what we do-at least it should be. If your rafters needed to be rattled a bit, thanks for the privilege of allowing me to share about how I have been coming back to God in 2008.

*Art Cotant  
Discovery Church  
St. Cloud MN*

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## What Will Be Said of You?

There's a great poem that I have recently been made aware of, and I have used it at several funerals. There are some thought-provoking statements that I would like to challenge you with today. The poem with video can also be found on-line, which adds a lot!

<http://www.lindaslyrics.com/thedashpoem.html>

### The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on her tombstone  
From the beginning to the end

He noted that first came the date of her birth  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years

For that dash represents all the time  
That she spent alive on earth.  
And now only those who loved her  
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own;  
The cars, the house, the cash,  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard.

Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left,  
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,  
And more often wear a smile  
Remembering that this special dash  
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read  
With your life's actions to rehash  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your dash?

By Linda Ellis

**What will be said of you?** "He was a great Youth Pastor, but he was no father." "He was a great Pastor, but no husband." **On his death bed, evangelist Billy Sunday said, "The world I've won, but my son I've lost." His son died an alcoholic.** (The Multiplying Church by Bob Roberts, Jr.) I don't know about you, but I don't want to say the same thing as Billy Sunday!

Our church has been without a Senior Pastor for almost 3 years. I have been thrust into doing 2 people's jobs (minus the preaching!) God has used this poem to remind me what's important. I can spend all my time at church, and still not accomplish everything I need or want to. My family has to come before the church! One of my professors at Moody Bible Institute said our priorities need to be:

- 1 GOD
- 2 Family
- 3 Church

How well are you balancing ministry and life? Are your priorities in line? We all need to constantly evaluate the use of our time. As

Pastors, our greatest ministry is to our families, because our churches see how we deal & treat them. How are you spending your dash? Can you look back at your life so far and say that your life is being used for Kingdom business? NOW is the time to refocus, if you are a little blurry on your balance and/or priorities.

"So, when your eulogy is being read  
With your life's actions to rehash  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your dash?"

*Rev. Duane Keleman - Asst. Pastor of Youth & Ministry  
Development:  
1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Lansing, IL*

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## Good Idea Section:

### **KIDS HOPE USA builds caring relationships--one child, one hour, one church, one school**



First Baptist Church of Pekin embarked upon a new adventure this fall as we began the KIDS HOPE USA program and a partnership with Jefferson Primary School. KIDS HOPE USA is a program where a church sends mentors into a school to mentor at-risk children for one hour each week. One child, one hour is the heart of KIDS HOPE USA. One caring adult mentoring an at-risk child one hour every week. Because when kids feel loved and valued, they are better able to

learn, grow and succeed.

The week on September 4, twelve courageous but nervous mentors crossed Capitol Street and entered the doors of Jefferson School to meet their students. These mentors were each supported by a

prayer partner who was praying for the mentoring session, the child and the mentor. Jeff Erickson, the principal of Jefferson, welcomed them with open arms, making a place for them to mentor in the Learning Center, sharing the vision with his staff and the entire district and encouraging them along the way. Each mentor walked out with a smile on their face and excitement in their step. And oh, the stories they can tell!

*Mackenzie, Lynn's KIDS HOPE student, slept in her KIDS HOPE T-shirt so in the morning all she had to do was put on her jeans and she was ready for school and her time of mentoring with Lynn!*

*Zerandon told Devin, his KIDS HOPE mentor, that he couldn't sleep last night he was so excited about Devin coming to mentor him today!*

*"Where have you been?" asked Quintin. "I've been waiting for you all day!" Sarah, Quintin's KIDS HOPE mentor, comes at 10:45 a.m.!*

*"I can't go to the library," Kyle told his substitute teacher. "My guy is coming," referring to his KIDS HOPE mentor, Pastor Mark.*

Jeff Erickson, Principal of Jefferson Primary School in January 2008: *"In my 25+ years as a building administrator, I have never seen a group of people have such a significant impact on a school in such a short period of time."*

By March of 2008, First Baptist had 21 mentors involved in KIDS HOPE! The mentors were recruiting mentors! People were calling the director asking to become involved! Where else does that happen in the church!

What does it take? A church builds a relationship with a local school and sends mentors who are members or regular attenders into the school one day a week to each mentor one child. Each mentor has a prayer partner who faithfully prays for the mentoring relationship. The church will hire a part-time director for the program.

KIDS HOPE USA will assist the church in implementing the program and will provide the church representatives with appropriate training and support to effectively carry out the KIDS HOPE USA program. The church will pay a one-time affiliation fee for technical assistance (including professional training services and materials as well as on-going support and

development) based on the number of active members at the church. For more information on KIDS HOPE USA visit [www.kidshopeusa.com](http://www.kidshopeusa.com) or contact First Baptist Church of Pekin.

Caution: Lives will be changed! One might even be yours!

*Peggy Eagan  
Kids Hope Director  
First Baptist Church  
Pekin IL*

## Singing Chaplain Lifts Troops Spirits

Chaplain Ivan Arreguin is serving his second tour in Iraq. Ivan and his wife Aileen are the proud parents of six boys. Aileen is at Fort Campbell while Ivan is in Iraq. Ivan will not be the next American Idol but he is an idol of sorts.



Aileen met.

Ivan and his family had been missionaries in Turkey before he joined the Army as a chaplain. "As a chaplain, I get to walk through the valley of death with my soldiers." He says. Things have changed a lot since his last deployment. There has been a drastic drop in violent attacks against coalition forces. So far in this deployment they have only lost one soldier to a combat experience.

Pray for Ivan and Aileen and their six sons. Ivan is able to e-mail on a regular basis and can call and talk via a web camera often. It is very hard to be gone for a fifteen months from your family. Pray for safety and for rewarding ministry for Ivan.

*Al Russell, CBA Chaplaincy*  
[chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) 218-776-2813

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## CHAPLAINCY: Ministry to Christian Bands

Attn: Y'ALL

I am excited to announce that we have finally launched our site!  
[www.RYFO.org](http://www.RYFO.org)

We are working out some of the usual version 1.0 kinks, but please, check it out!

*Nick Greenwood, Director*  
**RYFO NETWORK**  
(o) 949.388.1887 (c) 949.683.3983  
(e) [nick@ryfo.org](mailto:nick@ryfo.org)

*"Serving The Voices"*

*Nick Greenwood is starting a new ministry in terms of Chaplaincy within CBAmerica. He is working with Christian bands seeking to provide much needed pastoral care as they travel across the country. One of the things he needs are churches who would be willing to provide housing for these groups. If you would like to know more about Nick and the ministry you can contact him at [nicholasjgreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasjgreenwood@gmail.com)*

## How Was the Worship Summit?

What an awesome time of worship we had collectively as a body in Christ! There are so many things I could share, but know that God has done and is continuing to do an amazing thing with Worship Summit Conference this year!

Here is what some people said of the conference held at First Assembly Cedar Rapids on April 18-19:

**"I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the conference and all the work and planning you and the other organizers put into the event. God used it in mighty ways in my life and I'm sure in the lives of many others. I experienced a great time of renewal and learned a lot of practical ideas for leading a team of worshipers."**

**"I have to say that this was a life changing experience for me. God broke me down in a lot of places but yet built me up as well. The way I see worship will never be the same after this conference. I needed this. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has been blessed tremendously."**

**"Refreshing, encouraging, stimulating and convicting all wrapped up into one great weekend."**

We can't express enough how thankful we are that you have taken the time to learn more about Worship Summit Conference. In the future we will be letting you know of next year's conference, special rates, new additions to the conference and much, much more. If you have any questions or thoughts you'd like to share with us, please visit us online at [www.worshipsummitconference.com](http://www.worshipsummitconference.com). Until next year--thank you for your involvement and may God truly bless!

Warmly,  
*Paul Taylor*  
*Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion IA*  
*Worship Summit Conference*

**Directories have been mailed!**

If you have not received the new 2008 Church Directory by email or snail mail, please call Jean at 715-538-2298.

### Upcoming Events

**National Leadership Summit** July 23-25 [Register at CBAmerica's website](#)  
Ft. Collins, CO

**Firestorm Seminars with Ron Susek** Oct. 28 & 30 [Register online](#)  
Glen Ellyn IL and Edina MN

### NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Whitehall, WI YOUTH PASTOR
- Rockford Baptist Church--Rockford MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- Artichoke Lake Baptist Church--Correll MN
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH

Thank you for your prayers! **Terry Rehnert** is the new Senior Pastor at Palisade Baptist Church in Silver Bay, MN, beginning June 1. **Robert Deugan** is the new Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church, Parkers Prairie, MN, beginning July 6.

### Contact Our Office

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - [nccba@triwest.net](mailto:nccba@triwest.net)

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