

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

May 2010

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

NEWEST Member of NCCBA: Bethany Community Church in Washington, Illinois, was voted in as a member to our region.

Our new BOARD: *John Wodetzki of Cincinnati Ohio is our newest Board member.*

Rev. Leo Cumings, *Board Chairman*

Senior Pastor - Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson, MI

Rev. Andrew Brown, *Vice Chairman*

Senior Pastor - First Baptist Church, Long Prairie, MN

Rev. Michael Wallman, *Secretary*

Retired Pastor, St Paul, MN

Rev. Nick Bell, Stillman Valley IL

Rev. Phil Butler, Senior Pastor - First Baptist Church, Colfax, IA

Rev. Steve Daggett, Senior Pastor-Laporte Community Baptist Church, Laporte, MN

Rev. Michael Wetzig, Senior Pastor-Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI

Rev. Roland Whitcomb, Senior Pastor-Morrison Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN
Rev. John Wodetzki, Senior Pastor-Faith Fellowship Church, Cincinnati, OH

Pastor Adam Zappetta, Youth Pastor-First Baptist Church, New Richmond, WI

Dug Down Deep

Those of us who cut our teeth on theological education that was both linear and propositional are often dismayed by the next best thing-church leaders and thinkers who find such formulations of biblical faith stiff, stifling, uninspiring, and disconnected from life's tough questions. Some of the criticisms have merit. Formulating right answers does not always translate into living godly, fruitful lives.

But we have also slogged through the deconstructions of the now fading emergent conversation and post-emergent thinkers who seemingly re-imagine everything. Some have landed on theological "convictions" that stray far from historic orthodoxy.

So it is invigorating to read fresh young thinkers who capably connect authentic biblical doctrine with authentic biblical lifestyles of Christ-followers. For instance, Pastor Mark Driscoll (Mars Hill Church, Seattle, WA) has partnered with Dr. Gerry Breshears (Chairman of the Division of Biblical and Theological Studies, Western Seminary) to produce a series of volumes that are decidedly theological but deeply rooted in the stuff of life.

Joshua Harris has added his voice to this growing trend. Harris is the senior Pastor of Covenant Life in Gaithersburg, MD. He has already published four books, the most notable of which is the best seller, [I Kissed Dating Goodbye](#).

[Dug Down Deep - Unearthing What I Believe and Why It Matters](#) is Harris' latest contribution. It is an extended theological reflection by a pastor who wants his people to understand that "...what we know about God shapes the way we think and live. What you believe about God's nature-what he is like, what he wants from you, and whether or not you will answer to him-affects every part of your life."

That sounds very much like a modern day A.W. Tozer.

Harris himself was mentored by Pastor C. J. Mahaney, his predecessor at Covenant Life. Under Mahaney's direction Harris immersed himself in classics written by the likes of J. C. Ryles, J. Gresham Machen, and Jonathan Edwards, as well as more recent works by such thinkers as Wayne Grudem and John Stott. He

In This Issue

[PASTOR CARE](#)

[YOUTH PASTORS](#)

[CHAPLAINCY](#)

[Ministry Quick Links](#)

[NCCBA Churches in
Need of a Pastor](#)

[Contact Our Office](#)

Natural Church Development

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.**

emerged from his studies both deepened in understanding and committed to bringing doctrine to life in pastoral ministry.

Harris writes: "Doctrine is the meaning of the story God is writing in the world. It's the explanation of what he's done and why he's done it and why it matters to you and me."

His book unpacks that vision. It likely will not expand a pastor's theological understanding, nor does it cover the entire library of theological categories. But it powerfully models how to communicate doctrine in ways that connect for ordinary church folk. I can't wait to get this into the hands of a number of younger, growing believers.

I am encouraged by the growing number of next generation thinkers and writers who so capably wed sound thinking with fresh insights and biblical relevance. Harris' book fits that mold. It's a good read.

Leo Cumings, Board Chairman

Senior Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church Jackson MI

PASTOR CARE

The Health of the Body

Christmas After-math Update: Goal for May-lose 20 lbs and 2 inches

Actual for May-lost 12 lbs and 2 inches

I intend to continue this battle to lose 40 lbs and 4 inches by the September newsletter. I hope some of you have joined me in this endeavor to become more physically fit. The real goal is to be more capable and competent to provide leadership for the local Body of Christ to which God has called us.

You may recall that my commitment to trimming off the Christmas fat was stimulated by seeing pastors from another group, many of whom were struggling just to get around. Although some of them had obvious disabilities or injuries, the vast majority appeared to simply be over weight. I realize I am giving a meaning to that observation that may in some cases be inaccurate and unfair. However, when I look at myself, I am painfully aware that my excess weight is the result of too much of the wrong foods and too little of the appropriate activity.

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 Links

[CBAmerica](#)

[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)

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

The gaining back of several lost pounds is the result of returning to old eating habits, which I had begun to successfully change. While I have continued to walk 30 minutes four or five mornings per week, I am experiencing the fact that the benefit has decreased as my body has adjusted. Therefore, I must return to not eating between meals, not eating as much at meals, and not eating late in the evening. I also need to begin doing more exercise that will help my body burn calories and build healthy muscle. The result will be manifold: more energy, better endurance, less danger of chronic diseases, more intellectual and emotional alertness. I hope and pray that these thoughts will motivate some of you beloved colleagues to either join me or continue with me in this commitment to be more fit for the work to which God has called us.

However, to go a step further, I would like to challenge each of you to carefully and prayerfully read the book, "Body Aches," by Kenneth Quick. The sub-title is "Experiencing and Responding to God's Discipline of Your Church." The basis thesis of this book is that the painful experiences which some congregations go through repeatedly are symptoms of some sin that has not been properly dealt with in the past. Just as God frequently called upon His people to confess and forsake the sins and their poisonous effects of previous generations, so now He calls upon the Body of Christ to do the same. The call to repent and correct/restore/repair is accompanied by the presence of painful reminders of the fact that apart from positive faithful obedient action to deal with past failures, the Body cannot be healthy and fully capable for fulfilling its Great Commandment and Great Commission mission for Christ and His kingdom.

In some 40 years of ministry and over 60 years as a member of the Body of Christ, I have seen the truth and validity of these beliefs demonstrated over and over. And I must confess I have also been party to perpetuating the problem rather than being part of the cure. And those local Bodies continue to suffer the aches that reveal the still-present need to deal with the past in God's way. I hope and pray that you will indeed read this book and allow the Holy Spirit to give you uncommon wisdom, courage, love, mercy and grace in acting appropriately and faithfully on what He reveals to you and your local Body of Christ.

Sincerely,

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

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



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

YOUTH PASTORS: *Growth*

This Summer I will be celebrating five years of ministry at my current church. Recently I was visiting some friends who commented that they were jealous of our church since in that same period of time they've been through three youth pastors and the constant changes have taken its toll on the youth ministry and the church as a whole. Recently, I looked back over these past years and remembered when we first began a Junior High ministry - me and three (very squirrely) junior high girls. Eventually this became five, then ten, then more. A couple of years ago we combined our Junior High and High School ministries into one program for a number of reasons, and today we are consistently running 30+ students and have over 80 who have been involved in our ministry to some degree over the past year. In addition we now have a number of adults who have gotten involved in the ministry in various ways.

But, as many of you know, the numbers don't tell half the story. The real story of the past five years is told in some of the sound-bites. From an eighth grader who encountered Jesus as we studied the book of Matthew: "If all this is true, then how come nobody ever told me about it before?" From a Junior High Student who grew up in the church: "I'm not even sure I really believe all this stuff." This student is now an active part of our High School ministry team, and has served as our worship leader. From a parent who had some concerns about our group: "We've seen a huge change in our daughter since she began attending your youth group."

Sometimes in youth ministry we tend to focus on the programmatic aspects: Mission Trips, Blizzard, Sno-Camp, VBS, Summer Camp, Breakaway, JH Equip, a weekly discipleship program, Sunday School, and more. All these have contributed to the spiritual growth that we have seen, but really, these are just tools that help us to build relationships. That's where the real ministry takes place. But lest we put too much stock in that, relationships can only take a person so far. We can plant seeds, and we can water them, but it is only the Holy Spirit that can bring the growth.

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds

\$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

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**

of the air come and make nests in its branches."

-- Matthew 13:31-32

I read this passage recently, and at first thought of our ministry in this way - what began small and insignificant has, through the power of God, grown to become large and influential in many lives and known in the community. But then the Lord brought something else to mind that made me wonder...

Several years ago someone gave me a plant. (Actually it's kind of a long story, but I won't bore you with all of it - so suffice to say I got a plant.) The previous owner of the plant had gotten it as a gift and had had it for about three years. She had taken good care of it - watered it, made sure it got the right amount of sunlight, etc. - and it showed! It was a perfectly healthy plant that stood about 2 feet tall! She told me that she had gotten it as a gift, and that it had grown to full size very quickly, and it just got in her way being so big. As I took the plant, I noticed one significant flaw - the pot. It was cracked, and just didn't stand well where I wanted to put it. So, I went and bought better (and slightly bigger) pot. After repotting the plant it stood perfectly ... at first ... Within a few weeks I no longer had a nice, neat, healthy looking 2-foot plant. Instead, I had a wild looking 4-foot plant that had sprouts coming out all over the place. I had to put a stick in the middle and tie it all together, and it wasn't long 'til I began to have the same problem of the plant being unbalanced and the pot becoming unstable - it simply wasn't big enough for a plant that size. Eventually the branches became stronger, and with some appropriate pruning and tying, the plant settled into looking like a sturdy, healthy, neat, 4-foot plant - and I didn't even need the stick in the middle anymore. Eventually I repotted it again - into a larger pot, that seemed to look a little nicer, and it wasn't long 'til the plant hit the ceiling!

I often hear compliments on our youth program. 30 is a big enough number that it starts getting noticed and impacting the rest of the church body. But I wonder ... Do I have the tree that is big enough for the birds to nest in? Our youth ministry has impacted students in four high schools, even more junior highs, as well as home schools. Doing some quick math, that gives us a potential sphere of influence of around 4000 High School and Junior High Students. Suddenly, 30 (less than one percent) does not seem so big anymore.

So why don't we see the kingdom of God doing its thing and growing to its potential? Maybe our pot is too small. Maybe we

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

have yet to see the fruit of this ministry. Maybe greater things are still to come. My plant had within it the capacity for seemingly unlimited growth - you wonder what could have happened if I would have had higher ceilings! And so, we have a choice ... tend the plant, and maintain a healthy 2 foot plant (ministry) ... or figure out how to put it in a bigger pot, knowing that if we do we may have some wild growth, some skinny branches that will need some extra support, and some shoots coming out in places they don't belong that will have to be pruned back.

Recently, my team and I have been exploring some of the things that need to happen if we are going to see continued growth in our ministry. We've been looking closely at identifying the things that limit us, and discussing ways to share leadership in order to have the capacity to grow to the next level. In some cases this has been difficult for me, because it means I can't always control where or how the branches may grow, and I know that there will be some wild growth that is going to threaten to tip the pot. It becomes an exercise in faith as we take the next steps forward.

What about you? Do you have a ministry that is growing, or are you at the limit of what your pot (or ceiling) can handle? What limits your ministry? What might a bigger pot look like for you? If you've hit a ceiling (an external limit), what might be some other options for you to explore? Ask the Lord to give you a vision for "big pot" ministry.

*Andy Polheber, State Youth Fellowship
Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Oglesby Union Church
Oglesby, Illinois*

CHAPLAINCY:

Different Faces of Chaplaincy

Army Chaplain Brian Hargis recently arrived in Afghanistan. He is having great ministry with close to 50 men attending a weekly Bible study. Several have come to Christ and chapel attendance is growing. "Our troops believe all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" so to keep fit and have fun they have a strong man contest. One of the items in this contest is lifting and flipping the 500 pound truck tire.



Air Force Chaplain Mark Campbell works out of the Pentagon with Military One source. He was an escort for visitors as the Pentagon Auditorium was filled to see a preview of the newly released Sesame Street Workshop video,

"When Families Grieve," for kids whose parents have died, including military parents.

Mark's organization sponsored this. Admiral Mullen and several Chiefs of Staff were there. I met the head of Sesame Street and helped escort the President of PBS. A different kind of ministry

here in Washington, I'd say!



Chaplain Luke Phillips is a chaplain to Army Rangers at Fort Benning, GA. He has been selected to attend the Ranger School this fall. Here Luke is leading the

Rangers in prayer before they go up for a jump from their Chinook helicopters. Pray for these men as they lead our military and for their families.

If you have questions about becoming a chaplain or would like a presentation in your church contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or at chapruss@earthlink.net.

2010 Church Directory has been emailed or mailed to your church

If you have not received the 2010 Directory, please call Jean at the office, 715-538-2298, or email nccba@triwest.net If you would like an additional directory in pdf format, on a CD or paper form, let us know that, too.

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.

Area Cluster News Corner

The South West Minnesota, North West Iowa NCCBA Pastors met on Tuesday, May 11. We meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday. We have recently met in a church where each man brings his own sack lunch or sandwich from a local carry-out like Burger King or Subway.

We discuss a particular topic. This time, we talked about the things that were "no brainers" in the ministry and things that we would change.

We invite 13 men, 10 are pastors, one is a youth pastor, one missionary and Don Shaw. Don makes it about once a year. We

usually have 6-8 men and some are veterans and some are newer in the ministry. We all are able to learn from each other no matter the years of experience. The older are able to give wisdom and help to the younger. The younger are able to give a great perspective of how the younger think and how to best minister to them. This is a great time, and we keep the end time to 1:00. So after 2 hours, even though we could talk much longer, we head along or visit as we want.

It is greatly encouraging and helpful to all.

Thanking God for each of these men.

Steve DeKok

Senior Pastor, Jackson MN

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Michigan Pastors Cluster
853-6021 Jackson MI | June 5-7 | Contact Mike Wetzig 231- |
| Illinois Pastor Cluster
(moved from Peoria IL) | September 14 | Edwards IL, Bethany Baptist |
| Wisconsin/Northeast MN Cluster
568-1979 Pastors & wives gathering
715-723-1054 Duluth MN | September 16 & 17 | Contact Eldon Carlson 715-
or Wade Duroe |
| Wisconsin/Northeast MN Cluster | October--Management Seminar | |
| Chippewa Falls WI -- Details to come | | |

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
- Bethany Baptist Church--Clinton Township MI ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Elk Horn IA
- First Baptist Church--Luverne MN
- Hayden Heights Baptist Church--St. Paul MN
- Cavalier Baptist Church--Cavalier ND
- Keystone Baptist Church--Chicago IL

Contact Our Office

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

This email was sent to nccba@trivest.net by nccba@trivest.net.

by

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