

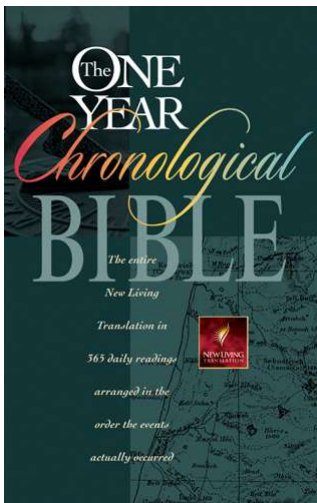
North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

November 2007



One Year Chronological Bible is now available through CBAmerica for \$8 (when ordered in case lots of 20.)

Part of the DNA of the Conservative Baptist movement is our commitment to be a people of the Word. For the last several years Tyndale House Publishers has offered to provide Bibles to CBAmerica churches at greatly discounted prices when purchased in case lots. Thousands of individuals have been challenged to systematically read *The One Year Bible* and *The One Year Bible for Kids*.

In September Tyndale House Publishing released *The One Year Chronological Bible* (New Living Translation only). The publisher describes this new version of the One Year Bible by saying, "In *The One Year Chronological Bible*, prophetic books are interwoven with the historical accounts they accompanied. Psalms follow the events about which they were written. Proverbs are placed in the time frame in which they were compiled. The life of Christ is woven into one moving story. And Paul's letters to the young churches in the first century are integrated into the book of Acts."

To see a sample of this Bible or to order, go to the CBAmerica website. The *One Year Chronological Bible* is available in case lots of 20 at \$8.00 per Bible. These Bible have a suggested retail price of \$19.99.

CBAmerica is also again offering the *One Year Bible* in the *New Living Translation* (case lots of 20), *New International Version* (case lots of 24) and *King James Version* (case lots of 24) at \$7.00 per Bible. The *One Year Bible for Kids* comes in case lots of 27 at \$5.00 per Bible.

For further information, you can go to the CBAmerica website - www.CBAmerica.org. If you are interested in ordering Bibles, contact the CBAmerica offices toll-free at (888) 366-3010.

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Natural Church Development

Available Now

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

What Does The Unchristian Really See In Us?

Some of you may be aware that Willow Creek has come to the conclusion that many of the things they have been emphasizing about being "seeker sensitive" will produce big numbers but not necessarily committed disciples. I cannot say with one hundred percent certainty, but more than likely there will be many voices who will triumphantly say, "I told you so." However, before anyone may begin to gloat there are some things we need to consider.

Recently I have been reading the book UnChristian by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons. The book focuses on those who are between 16 and 29 years old. What they found reveals that no matter what one may think of Willow Creek, the state of Christianity in general and evangelicals in America face some serious challenges.

In America there are 24 million 16- to 29-year-olds. There are seven million that have a negative perception of Christians, seven million who have no opinion, ten million who do not know who evangelicals are. It needs to be pointed out a majority of those with the negative perception came to their conclusion from personal interaction in churches and with professing Christians. There is a half million who have a positive view.

Those with a negative perception list six areas. Christians say one thing but live entirely different. Christians are insincere and concerned only with converting others. Christians show contempt for gays and lesbians. Christians are boring, unintelligent, old fashioned and out of touch with reality. Christians are primarily motivated by a political agenda and promote right-wing politics. Christians are prideful and quick to judge others.

The problem with simply listing these without any detailed explanation is that we can become defensive and assume for example what is implied in regard to the homosexual issue is for Christianity to take a more tolerant stand. That is not necessarily the case. What they see as negative is simply how homosexuals are treated. One really needs to read all of the material to understand not only the perception of those surveyed but also the perception of those who did the work.

You may want to take issue with some of what they say but the fact does not change: Christianity is declining rapidly in America. I

made in how to interpret and implement findings.

Valuable Information for Your Church Growth

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

www.Link2Lead.com

Ministry Quick Links

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[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.

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

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

think what Willow Creek has recently done is good. They have come to the conclusion they have missed the mark in developing real disciples. The question is, are we doing any better? If we are honest the answer is no.

One of the important bits of information found in UnChristian is that those surveyed place a high value on being in relationships that care. There is an interesting bit of church history that is presented in the book that looks at the early success of Christianity. During the second and third centuries plagues would break out. One of the places this occurred was in Rome. The reaction of the doctors and affluent was to flee. The Christians decided to stay and minister as best they could to the sick and dying. There was a twofold result. First, many of the Christians that chose to help became sick and died. Second, the non-Christians that were helped and survived wanted to know why these Christians would do what they did at the risk of their lives. In other words, the early Christians showed that they cared for those not only in need of the gospel but just plain in need. In a word they acted like disciples of Christ.



As CB's we need to ask ourselves, what is it that those who need the gospel sense from us? Do they experience in our churches people who love each other (John 13:34)? Do they also experience that we care for them not simply as targets but as people who need to experience God's love through us? Is ". . . the Lord's servant must not quarrel, . . . be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Gently instructing those who

oppose, in the hope that God will grant them repentance." (2 Timothy 2:24-25) descriptive of us?

We do not need a program or a seminar to do these things. We simply need to be the disciples we claim to be.

Don Shaw, Regional Director
donnccba@trivest.net

Pastor Care: Are We Thankful or Wantful?

'Tis the week before Thanksgiving
And all through the nation
The hawkers of Christmas bombard us
With material temptation.

"Buy this!" and "Get that!"
You've just got to have it!
If you let this one get past you,
After Christmas you'll regret it!

Yes, I do know that I am not a poet, at least not a good poet. But like good poets there are some things that I am passionate about.

One of those things is the growing length of the Christmas selling season. I am passionately disgusted, especially now that it almost totally eclipses any focus on Thanksgiving. It used to bother me that some of the conversation on Thanksgiving Day was about whether to go Christmas shopping the next day. This year, the "Early Bird Extra Special Double Coupon 40% Off Everything" sales are this weekend. Or was it last weekend? Maybe both!

At any rate, I am concerned because the spreading canker of Christmas commercialism is drowning out the call to be thankful for all that we already have. The idea that, if we can acquire just one more new gadget, we will be satisfied is a lie, of course. All that acquisition does is fuel the desire for more. We are insatiable it seems, as long as we can be convinced to think about what we don't have.

Of course, the United States custom of Thanksgiving Day is not a biblical mandated event. However, it does (or at least did at one time) embody the biblical principle of being thankful. It is true that the earliest celebrations were about thanking God for the material provisions that sustained life through harsh winters. However, a part of that thanksgiving was also about the new beneficial relationships that had been formed between older and new residents of the "New England" area.

My point in all of this is to call us as pastors back to the biblical principle of giving thanks, especially as Thanksgiving Day approaches. As visionaries, we pastors are more often than not unsatisfied with how things are in the church. There is always something or someone missing, or something more that could/should be accomplished. If we are not careful, our vision for the future becomes a put-down of what is, and a discouragement to those who already are.

We need to balance our sense of vision with our sense of gratitude, to God first, and to those who are partners with us in the work of the ministry. Is thanksgiving a regular part of our prayer and

devotional life? Do we thank God for all of His blessings to us, especially our co-workers? Do we express thanks to those who labor with us? How long has it been since we said thank-you to our wife and/or children for the parts they play in fulfilling God's call? When was the last time we thanked our elders or deacons for their ministry to the body of believers? And have the people of our congregations heard from us recently how much we appreciate their fellowship and support in the spreading of the Good News about Jesus Christ?

It is my hope and prayer that we will refocus on being thankful, at least for the week around Thanksgiving Day, and let God and others know that we are thankful for them, the persons who they are, and the things they do. God bless you.

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

A Captive Audience

The writer of Hebrews reminds us, "Don't forget about those in prison. Suffer with them as though you were there yourself. Share the sorrow of those being mistreated, as though you feel their pain in your own bodies" Hebrews 13:3. CBAmerica has eleven men working in prisons with a twelfth that will be added to the Federal Prison system in January. Several have said they are having revival in their institutions with many coming to Christ, being baptized and growing in the Lord. I have visited some of these ministries and it is exciting to see the interest the inmates have in spiritual things.

In some of the prisons they have their own worship bands that write their own music, and lead the worship. Their songs of praise and thanksgiving are refreshing and uplifting. Many inmates are involved with discipleship programs with other inmates.

One of our Army prison chaplains is Chuck Searl. Chuck is the chaplain at the Regional Confinement Facility at Fort Knox, Ky. He is having a great ministry to those confined and to the facility staff. In a recent report he mentioned that six inmates were baptized and seven were led to Christ. He ends his report by stating, "I love prison ministry!" Pray for Chuck, Erica and their five children. He is up for promotion in December. It is exciting to enjoy serving the Lord. He puts us in our places of ministry so we can use the gifts

He has given us to His glory. How great is our God!

Pray for our chaplains in Iraq; **Mark Mitera** (Army), **Ted Highhouse** (Army), and **Ivan Arreguin** (Army), **Darin Dunham** (Navy). **Eric Lambert** will be going in early January. Pray for their safety and for their families back home. For more information about Chaplaincy or for a personal report in your church contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or e-mail him at chapruss@earthlink.net.

FYI

Link2lead can now provide customized demographic information about your church's area of any size by calling Don here at the NCCBA office, 715-538-2298. After January 1, every NCCBA church will have access to this new customized information.

ELECTRONICS SALE AT NCCBA

2002 Dell Computer with Word, Publisher, Xcel, Access & Outlook, 2003 version, includes monitor and keyboard \$100

Scanner for computer running Windows XP - \$25

Adobe Acrobat 7 (for Windows XP) \$100 (original price \$300)

If item needs to be shipped, price of shipment will be added to purchase price.

Call Jean at 715-538-2298.

Upcoming Events

BREAKAWAY

outreach for JR & SR High in Illinois

March 29-30

[Info at SYF website](#)

Worship Summit, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

April 18-19

[More info and registration](#)

Pastors and Wives Retreat
and NCCBA Annual meeting

April 24-26

Heidel House resort, Green Lake WI

Youth Pastors/Spouse retreat

April 25-27

Heidel House Resort, Green Lake WI

BREAKAWAY March 29-30, 2008

Illinois Area, 6PM to 7AM \$42

What is Breakaway? An all-nite teen event whose primary purpose is to present the Gospel to the unsaved. There's a lot of fun things to do to entice your church kids to bring their unsaved friends! And it's an all-niter that doesn't leave you with cleaning up your church after it's over!!! **What do you do?**

Wolves Hockey Game: We start out at All-State Arena where the Chicago Wolves will take on the Houston Aeros. **Gospel Presentation:** We move across the street to the Skyline Room where some prizes are given away, but the most important part of the evening takes place ~ the Good News of Jesus Christ is shared. **Travel to Tinley/Orland Park area:** You gather your group in the vehicles you brought them in and head south! **PIZZA:** what could be better (in a teenager's mind) than Pizza in the middle of the nite? **Odyssey Fun World:** Awesome Go-Karts, Laser Tag, Himalaya Roller Coaster, Batting Cages, unlimited Mini-golf, and of course arcade games!!! **Life Time Fitness:** Basketball, Raquetball, Climbing Wall, Swimming and 2 Waterslides!!! Make sure your teens bring their swimsuits! **Orland Bowl:** Cosmic Bowling with the ever-popular candy give-away, and a chance to connect with Dave Pike!!!

New Events This Year!

If you are interested in bringing a group to Breakaway, or just want more info., please contact Pastor Duane at (708) 474-5400 or email neonpastorduane@netscape.net

NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Pekin, IL WORSHIP PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- First Baptist Church--Parkers Prairie MN
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN
- Artichoke Lake Baptist Church--Correll MN

Contact Our Office

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

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