

# North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

November 2008



**The "5 Guys" and their families in Benin, West Africa**, partner with Grove Heights Baptist Church in Chicago to reach villages steeped in the voodoo tradition. In the picture, the names of the five families from right to left are:

1. Nicola (Nicholas) AHOUANUOEKE -wife: Daniel - Child Penouel
2. Boris HOUEZE - wife: Julienne - children: Eliel, Nadabia
3. Jean ALAO - wife: Victoire- children: Henoc, Fidele, Dorcas
4. Daniel HOUNDJENOUKON - wife: Odette - children: Malkiel, Loye, Berenice
5. Fatayi GBAHOUNGBOLA - wife: Olga - child Hesede [More about the 5 GUYS](#)

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Who is this couple celebrating 50 years in ministry in the Chicago area? Hint: this pastor has just returned from his 7th trip to North India with teams from his church. [Click here for THE ANSWER](#)

## Rejoice Always and Give Thanks--Really?

Recently I received from Karen Lindholm a letter she wrote shortly after her husband Ray died of ALS (10/8/02). In November she wrote a letter to those who had known them. She begins the letter, "It's not Thanksgiving yet, but I need to express my thanks to God for an incredible journey with an incredible man that lasted nearly 40 years." This statement reminds me of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

As we look at the current state of affairs, there are some things that may quench the desire to rejoice and give thanks. Some, maybe most, of those who read this are disappointed about the election result. Will the change of party that is now in the White House and in control of Congress have a truly negative impact on Christianity? --at least on those who are committed to orthodoxy and the values that are rooted in orthodoxy?

Then there is the current economic crisis. People are losing jobs. Our churches near Detroit are aware of the anxiety people are

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Don at 715-538-2298 or

feeling due to lack of stability in the auto industry. People's retirement accounts are in some cases significantly smaller. To the above we can offer another challenge. In my home church we have a woman in her early thirties, five children (one a newborn) with cancer that is in Stage 4. The medical options at best offer a 30% chance of recovery, but with significant side effects. Last week we received a phone call from a longtime friend. Her husband had been found dead in a field where he was working. Something went wrong with the farm equipment he had worked with for years; no one knows what happened.

Scripture is the Word of God, so God is saying to us: rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in every situation for this is His will for us as one of his. I can pray without ceasing that God will make the world as I desire it to be. However, I really do not think that is what is meant. Rather I think it means to pray for whatever we need to be able to rejoice and give thanks always knowing that God is loving, merciful and sovereign. As such, there are things we can rejoice about and give thanks for. No matter who is in the White House or what party is in control of Congress "Jesus is the way, the truth and the life" and in the end we know who wins. We also can rejoice and give thanks because "He owns the cattle on a thousand hills." In other words God has the resources to care for his.

When it comes to sickness and death even there we can rejoice and give thanks. A young professional woman in our small town has become friends with the woman with Stage 4 cancer. This young professional is now being introduced to Jesus. Our friend who just lost her husband in her sorrow is rejoicing and giving thanks that Russ is with his Savior.

In the book unChristian it reports that one of the reasons that Christianity does not appeal to the 16 to 29 year olds is they fail to see anything that is uniquely different from other religious systems. This presents the Christian community in general, and we as CB's in particular, with a great challenge. As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas let us continually ask God to help us live out His will for us with rejoicing and thanksgiving.

*Don Shaw*  
*Regional Director*  
[donnccba@trivest.net](mailto:donnccba@trivest.net)

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.

**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.** Significant improvements have been made in how to interpret and implement findings.

### Ministry Quick Links

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[\(demographic info\)](#)

[Illinois State Youth](#)

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### Microsoft Software and More

**Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007** is \$122 plus \$35 for the installation media. Other Microsoft products, **Adobe**, and **McAfee** are also available. Hardware, including **In Focus projectors and screens** can be ordered at wholesale prices. Call Jean at the office, 715-538-2298, for price quotes and to order.

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## YOUTH SECTION:

# Tips from the Hunt

So there I was on the edge of the woods looking out across the freshly combined cornfield. My brother and I had been there all day and my feet were cold, my fingers were frozen, and my legs were praying for something to sit on. The sun was setting behind us and the shadows of the trees stretched out like fingers of a drowning person trying desperately to find something to grab onto. I turned my head slightly and looked at my brother hoping for some visual confirmation that we would soon be calling it a day. The seconds seemed like hours as my eyes pleaded the agony of my legs and the other parts of my body. Yet, my brother didn't even look my way but stared across the field to a small patch of trees opposite of us. I slowly turned my head back and squinted, trying desperately to find what had my brother's full attention.

It didn't take long to figure it out. There, emerging from the trees was an 8-point buck. It checked back and forth looking for danger as it came. My mind was now racing; no longer worried about the pain or the cold. Would the buck come close enough for us to get off a shot? Would my brother let me take the shot? If he did, would I be able to hit it? Would we have enough time?

It seemed to take an eternity for the buck to move, but it started to come across the field right at my brother and I as if by instinct. I looked out of the side of my eye at my brother, and he gave me a wink and a small smile. That was the signal! I was going to get to take the shot if there was one. I slowly raised the shotgun to my shoulder, locking it into position. Quietly as possible I flipped off the safety. Click! The buck's head shot up and looked for the sound, its body tense for a quick escape. I quickly composed myself put my finger on the trigger, breathed in and let part of it out and ...

Don't you wish you knew the end of the story? Did I get the buck or did it escape? It is almost like the question of how many licks does it take to get to the center of the Tootsie Roll Pop, except the world will never know! The reason being is I have never held a shotgun in my hand, never decided to go on a hunting trip, nor

really understood why people would spend hours of their life standing, sitting or whatever in the cold waiting for an animal to come by. If you decide to hunt the more power to you, if not, more power to you, too. But that is not the reason for the story. The reason for the story was to try and get you excited, interested and then just leave you there.

Now why would I do such a mean thing like that? Because, honestly, that is what many churches do to the people who apply to their employment opportunities. Now, before you decide to run off and read something else, let me explain. I do have the experience to talk from. I spent well over a year looking for jobs, and truthfully, I have been treated better by the secular companies than I have by most churches.

Let the definition of being treated better be, for this case, being treated more like a person, or in the words of Christ, "Love your neighbor as yourself." I will air my complaints here but want you to understand that this isn't about anger, or being wronged or anything like that. I hope to help people and churches be more Christ-like and more loving. If that can be accomplished, then I am glad that I have gone through what I have gone through.

**The Complaints:** Why do churches think that it is ok to have a conversation with an applicant, via whatever medium, and then not tell them that they are no longer interested in them until several weeks later, if at all? We talk for a while and you don't hear back, and then you figure out that they didn't want you because you happen to see on their web site they are celebrating the installation of their new (the position you applied for). Or perhaps you find out they don't want you because you notice that they decided to repost the position opening.

What about reimbursement? "Yes, we will reimburse you," but they never send the check nor talk to you again? Or perhaps they say they will call at (this point in time) but call 2 hours late, or not at all? Would you want any of that done to you when you are searching for a job? I know I sound bitter and hurt, but I am not bitter, and God has helped me through the hurt.

**The Tips:** Most of these tips revolve around communication, and how to improve that during the search process.

1) *Be prompt in responses:* When someone sends you a resume, have someone send them a response letter or email. With email becoming more and more prevalent, a quick response of "Thanks for your interest in our position. We will be meeting (whenever) to discuss the resumes we have received. You can expect to hear from us (then)." This at least assures the applicant you as a church received his/her resume/application and let them know how long it will be before they can expect to hear from you.

2) *Keep a list:* If someone sends you a resume, put their name along with other important information (address, phone number, email) into a list. As you go through your process and have eliminated people from contention, contact them and let them know, then cross them off your list.

3) *Do what you say you are going to do:* As mentioned in Tip 1, if you tell them you are going to contact them after a certain date, do it. Don't leave them hanging. It is extremely disrespectful to tell someone that you will do something but have no intention of doing it.

4) *Stop using the letter:* The most annoying thing for me is to hand in a resume, not hear anything from a church for six to eight weeks, and then receive a form letter from the church saying they have hired someone else. In all of my interactions with secular companies, I have at least received a phone call saying I was no longer a candidate for the job. This will be the hardest of the tips, but my best interaction with a church was one in Colorado that called me to tell me I was in a second group of applicants, and then went on to explain why, and ask if I had any questions. **DO THIS.** It won't be easy to call everyone but it shows that you really honestly care about the person who applied.

5) *Have the reimbursement ready:* If you are having someone come in, then talk beforehand or use a map website and figure out what the mileage is going to be and have the check ready when they arrive. I know it sounds crazy but go ahead and take care of that first (give it to the person before you begin the interview). If you are having them fly in, have the church contact a travel agent and pay for the ticket instead of reimbursing them. It is just one less thing they have to worry about while applying. Tip 3 also applies here.

6) *BE HONEST*: Let the person know where they are in the process. If there are five other people at that point of the process let them know. If they are one of the last two, let them know. Also let them know when you have offered the other person the job. This will at least let the person know what is going on instead of hanging in limbo until the letter arrives confirming they weren't the one.

Although this isn't a definitive list, these tips will at least help you love and respect your applicants the way you would want to be loved and respected.

*Matthew Phelps*

*First Baptist Church, Streator IL*

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## **Big Rig Ministry**

Chaplain Tom Pousche left the trucking industry back in 1978 to attend seminary. He thought his trucking days were over. He decided to keep his Department of Transportation Medical Card and Class A trucking license active. Lately it has paid off.

Tom is a retired city bus driver in the Portland OR area, a chaplain in specialized ministries and now pastors a church in Troutdale OR. He has been on sabbatical since May and is writing a book. He took a part-time position with a company called RMI whom Freightliner uses to screen and hire qualified drivers to run and test their new trucks.

Operating these amazing trucks not only gives Tom the opportunity to drive, but to build relationships with other truck drivers and managers as well. It also opens up golden opportunities to minister with these people he rubs shoulders with. A manager recently sought him out to talk about his marital separation and later told his wife he was thinking about attending Tom's church.

While riding with another driver he listened as the man shared the recent death of his wife and needed some loving pastoral care. He couldn't have had a better passenger than Tom to model the love of Christ and compassion to him.

God has used Tom's love of driving to open many doors of ministry for him. There are many hurting drivers who need someone to listen to them and share the love of Christ. Tom is using the skills the Lord has given him to share Jesus.

God asked Moses "What is in your hand?" He asks us the same question today. In Isaiah 6:8 we read, "And then I heard the voice of the Master: 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?'" I spoke up. 'I'll go. Send me!'" Are you using the skills God has given to you for His kingdom?

For more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy you can contact Al Russell at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) or 218-776-2813

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## Looking Back & Looking Forward



On October 11-12 Calvary Church at Village Green, Moorhead, MN (formerly Calvary Baptist of Fargo ND) celebrated both 125 years and the dedication relocation of their new facility. On Saturday evening Loren and Michael Eastman were the key presenters for the 125 year celebration along with a video presentation.

On Sunday there was a combined worship service followed by a dinner for past and present members as well as many guests. In the

afternoon the dedication service took place.

The church is located in an area where new homes have been and are being constructed. They are looking forward to finding new ways to reach new families with the gospel. Currently, in addition to the regular Sunday morning worship they are offering a second service that is specifically designed for outreach.

Please pray for Hank Pharis and the leadership as they continue to seek God's help for being both a Great Commandment and Great Commission church.

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## Partnership Opportunity for NCCBA Family Churches, Grove Heights Baptist Church and the 5 Guys Village Outreach Ministry in Benin West Africa!

Dear NCCBA Family,

This is Pastor Leonard Roy Harris writing, of Grove Heights Baptist Church in Chicago. I just returned from my 6th short term mission trip to Benin West Africa through the Ambassadors Fellowship World-Wide Missions Team.

In Benin I am a coach with a team of 5 local native missionaries who are all in their 30's or early 40's. These young men are married with children. Their mission has been to take the gospel to the villages caught in the grip and darkness of voodoo. You see, Benin is the world center of voodoo.

As a coach I work at encouraging and helping to mentor these missionaries and their families and identifying churches in the States that will adopt a missionary family through prayer and financial support and also adopt the village being ministered to by their missionary.

To adopt a village is to provide for the practical needs of the village (wells for clean water, micro-financing of business development,

hospitals and medical care, church and educational and multi-purpose buildings and supplies etc.) Above all the spiritual needs of the village are met through providing Bibles, discipleship training and pastoral training as the village church grows and develops.

Right now 30 villages are being reached out of 7000. As villagers turn from idols to the living God, they are disciplined and trained and many are sent by the Lord into other villages as missionaries, and others remain in villages as biblical elders.

Right now, there is a real need among the 5 native missionaries known as the 5 GUYS. The lead pastor of their work has made it possible for these 5 families to purchase 5 town homes which are all next to one another in a nice neighborhood of Benin.

The 5 GUYS have been living in these homes for about 2 years and the company that was going to initially give them the homes fell on hard times and wants the homes to be bought. Brother Luke, the Benin Ambassador to the UN, provided some initial money over the last 2 years. Now, the 5 town homes can be purchased for \$150,000 US Dollars!

Dear NCCBA family, here is what I propose. I would like to suggest that we all take up a special thanksgiving offering within our respective churches to raise this \$150,000 by the end of November if possible. All funds can be sent to **NCCBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773**, and marked for THE 5 GUYS OF BENIN HOUSING PROJECT!

This is a great opportunity for us to partner with the awesome work the Lord is doing in Benin West Africa.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration as you bring this matter before the Lord in prayer!

Yours in the life and labors of Jesus,

*Pastor Leonard Roy Harris  
The Grove Heights Baptist Church Family  
Chicago IL Phone: 773-731-8094  
Pastor Harris: 773-297-9102*

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# The Fifty Year Blink

It seems like a blink of the eye, yet it has taken fifty years.

The early years included two near death experiences, bouts with peritonitis that resulted in being held out of school for a year.

At age eleven he was the only boy whose mother followed him to a Christian boys camp in Michigan - to be near the child whom his parents came close to losing twice. That week was pivotal. He heard the gospel and committed his life to Christ.

Indiana was the site of his next life changing experience. Another week at camp (this time without his mother) was followed by washing pots and pans at the hotel of the Winona Lake Bible Conference grounds in exchange for food and lodging. The final week of that summer found him sitting under the preaching of Hyman Appleman, a former Jewish lawyer who became an evangelist following his conversion. During that week the thirteen year old felt God's call into ministry.

High school was followed by college and four years of seminary that included a semester of travel and study and serving as a staff member of an archaeological excavation at the Old Testament city of Dothan, sixty miles north of Jerusalem, in what was then the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - The West Bank.

Upon returning to the United States he was asked to become a student pastor of a small church. The fifty year blink began Sunday, November 16, 1958. It was there that he met Grace whose mother had started a children's Bible club that resulted in the birth of the church. The church grew under John's ministry and relocated to a larger building. Grace sang on 'The Evening Chapel Hour' a weekly radio broadcast started by the church. John and Grace were married soon after graduation from seminary in 1960.

The blink includes pastoring several other churches including a 'church plant' that began with six families. Needless to say, there has been the experience of a number of 'pastoral bruises' encountered along the way - something with which other pastors can identify.

The blink also includes teaching in the public school system and serving as a USAF chaplain for twenty years with the Air National Guard from which he retired as a Brigadier General.

The Wendels have four children. Faith, following graduation from college, taught for several years in Central America. She and her husband, Greg, along with their three daughters serve as career missionaries in Bolivia, South America. Dr. John and his wife,



Adriana, live nearby where he is busy in his chiropractic practice and quips that he keeps mom and dad "well adjusted."

Tim, along with his wife, Melanie, and their four children serve

as career missionaries in Spain. Sharon has put a 'hold' on her career as a teacher and is kept busy as a 'stay at home mom' of three children. Chad, her husband, is the dean of students at a nearby high school.

John, for many years, has served as senior pastor of Forest Glen Community Church, a multiethnic, multicultural, and multiracial church in Chicago. The church also serves as the site for three other congregations that focus their ministry on an outreach to Koreans, Brazilians, and Gypsies.

Missions is not only important to the Forest Glen congregation, it is crucial. This fall marks the 12th anniversary of Impact India, a ministry started by the church to the subcontinent. (*see next article in this newsletter "Harvest Time in India"*)

Pastor Wendel, when looking back on fifty years of ministry, sums it up with the words of his favorite gospel song, "To God be the glory - great things HE has done!"

*Submitted by John Wendel  
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# HARVEST TIME IN INDIA

*By John Wendel*

Forest Glen Community Church, Chicago, returned to India for Impact India #7, a ministry initiated by the church back in 1996 with its first team consisting of its pastor, John M. Wendel, and Gulshan Lal, the church's Director of Missions. Pastor Wendel left for New Delhi - October 25 and returned to Chicago - November 9. He was joined by the chairman of the board of deacons and Gulshan Lal who now serves a church in Rochester, New York as Director of Missions. The six member team included pastors from three other churches. Last year the Impact India team included three pastors and fourteen laymen and laywomen.

Impact India has a multifaceted ministry with its primary focus on providing training for native pastors and evangelists who serve primarily in rural areas and don't have the benefit of Bible School or seminary education. Such training has taken place in Pakistan and Nepal as well. For example, many of the 300 rural pastors of Nepal who received training walked mountain trails for several days before coming to a road where they completed their journey by bus to the training conference that was held in Katmandu, the capitol. Nepal is a nation where conversion to Christianity had been forbidden by law. The 1990 revision of their constitution provided for religious freedom. This was a totally new concept, and Impact India was the first outreach to come to Nepal to provide training for pastors.

Hindus make up 80% of India's expanding population that exceeds 1 billion. Hinduism has a pantheon of 330 million gods and goddesses. Islam claims 13% of the population, and approximately 4% of the Indian population consists of a variety of other non-Christian religions while the remaining 3% are Christians of all sorts. The highest concentration of Christians is in south India.

The focus in the subcontinent has been primarily in North India, where Christians comprise only 1½% of the 700 million population living in that region. North India is gospel starved.

This short term mission opportunity has seen more than 3,000 rural pastors and evangelists receive training at Impact India conferences. Also, team members speak in churches - including house churches, as well as grammar schools, high schools, colleges, and seminaries. The ministry reaches out to orphans, lepers and prostitutes as well. Results have been phenomenal. Evangelistic

outreach has seen hundreds come to saving faith in Jesus Christ from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds.

Persecution does exist in India, and this includes those who have been reached through Impact India. Avadhesh attended an Impact India evangelistic service in 1999. His strong Hindu background did not prevent him from receiving Christ as his Savior and Lord. His life changing decision brought serious consequences. This young Christian was disowned by his wealthy and politically prominent family. When Avadhesh returned home at the time of his father's death, his food was poisoned and his nearly lifeless body was dumped along a rural roadside, but God had other plans for his life. He was discovered by a person of compassion who brought Avadhesh to a hospital where a Christian doctor was able to restore this young believer to full health. Impact India has provided a seminary education for Avadhesh who now plants churches in New Delhi along with his wife, a nurse. Avadhesh serves as a conference speaker where he shares his powerful testimony of God's faithfulness.

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## FREE Hardwood Pews

First Baptist Church in Shabbona, Illinois, has seven 8 ft. pews that are available for the taking. Call the church at 815-824-2425 if interested.

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## Pastors' Retirement Plan Changes

There is a new IRS regulation concerning 403(b)'s. If you as a pastor are in an individual plan, your church MUST have a plan document concerning the 403(b) by December 31, 2008. The problem at this time is none of the IRS examples of plan documents relate to churches. If you are part of the CB Northwest retirement plan, it is our understanding that they are preparing a document for you. If you have an individual plan, we are currently working with a tax attorney to create a possible template. If you have any questions or need further information, call Don at the Regional office 715-538-2298.

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### Upcoming Events

**Pastors & Wives Retreat at Heidel House Resort** **SAVE this DATE!** April 23-25, 2009  
Green Lake, WI  
Stephen LeBar, keynote speaker, CBAmerica

**NCCBA 2009 Annual Meeting, Heidel House**  
Green Lake WI

April 24, 2009

## NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Colfax IA--YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- Grace Church--Mahomet, IL
- First Baptist Church--Streator IL
- Calvary Baptist Church--Missouri Valley IA
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- Oak Grove Church--Golden Valley MN
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN

Thank you for your prayers! **Brian Pearson** is the new pastor at Artichoke Lake Baptist Church in Correll, MN.

### Contact Our Office

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

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