

## North Central CBA

## E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

November 2009

### A Timeless Challenge From A Timeless Hymn

This Sunday (11/22) is designated as Thanksgiving Sunday. I am not certain what you will emphasize in your church but hopefully there will be some part of the service that will draw attention to thanksgiving. For those of us who grew up in the builder dominated church environment we more than likely sang a hymn with these words.

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things have done, in whom His world rejoices.  
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God thro' all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ill in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, who earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

To be honest as a young person I never truly enjoyed singing this hymn. The main reason I did not like the tune. It was in my mind a dirge. However my opinion and desire has since changed as I came to understand the context in which these words were penned.

The author was Martin Rinkart. He was born in 1586. At age 31 he began his ministry in Eilenberg, Germany. During the next 32 years

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the city where he pastored suffered through several devastating plagues. In addition to the plagues the city was occupied by the invading Austrians once and the Swedes twice. In other words Rinkart wrote while his world was in absolute turmoil and devastation.

The reason I desire to sing this hymn now is; it reminds me of the wondrous things he has done, that he has always been there when I have been perplexed, and for no other reason than He is God, I should praise him. It also convicts me of self-centeredness; thinking that somehow God should make my life a lot easier. As a result 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 should be both prescriptive and descriptive of my life, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (ESV)

Here is a question to ponder this Thanksgiving and Christmas. What impact would we as the church have for the Gospel if the words of Martin Rinkart were not only sung but lived out?



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

## PASTOR CARE

### "A MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS"

Within what are often referred to as "the helping professions" there are several primary principles or cardinal rules that are very significant and strongly stressed. They have their prominence because they are about providing quality help and protecting both the care-giver and the care-receiver. Recently I have been thinking about the fact that although we as pastors desire to be viewed as professionals, we generally ignore two of these rules or principles.

My concern with this is not just the idea of being considered "professional." Rather it is about the purposes which are served by these principles and the "best practice" that results from following them.

The first rule is "Supervision." Supervision is about having a more

**conversions and the ongoing discipleship of those who are part of the church.**

**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 or visit:

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

**Ministry Quick Links**

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(demographic info)  
[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)

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WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by State on our website under**

experienced practitioner of the profession watching what a person is doing, providing advice and guidance, offering suggestions, looking for danger signs, etc. In most professions, those who are supervisors receive education and training in supervising well. It is more than just being above the one being supervised in the structure of the organization. It is about having knowledge and skills that enable one person to effectively observe and correct another without imposing one's own agenda or style.

The second principle is an extension of the first. It is "Peer Supervision." Peer supervision is about having a group of colleagues who gather periodically and invite each other to examine each others' practice of their profession, thus gaining advice, correction, support, and/or intervention.

Please allow me a few minutes of personal privilege to tell you a bit about my current working situation. I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. In Illinois, using that title means that my education and practice have met certain criteria, and that I am bound by certain ethical/moral and legal guidelines. I have three locations at which I see counseling clients. In all three locations I am the only therapist.

I work for an agency which provides me with a supervisor. My supervisor not only keeps me in line with the agency's policies and rules, but also hears about the treatment of each client on a regular basis. It is extremely important to my clients and to me that another well-trained, competent person knows what is happening in each situation. It is extremely important that I have someone whom I trust, whom I know has my well-being and my clients' best interests in view, with whom I can talk honestly and candidly whenever necessary or regularly scheduled.

Within my agency, there are also three regular opportunities for peer involvement. One is a monthly meeting with my supervisor and my therapy colleagues, each of whom is also alone in their offices. We gather for two and a half hours of connecting with each other, presenting cases for discussion, reviewing changes in the agency, planning for improved service to our clients. I drive an hour and a half to two hours each way to attend this meeting, time and mileage paid for by the agency.

The second opportunity takes place each calendar quarter, when my "team" gathers with another team, and we review each other's case records on a random selection basis. This is to ensure that we are documenting what we are doing in appropriate ways, and thus

## RESOURCES

### New Staff Background Checks

NCCBA is now able to perform background checks for member churches. Call Don at the office, 715-538-2298.

### 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](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

providing good service to our clients.

The third time is a monthly team telephone conference. We meet on the phone, which saves the travel expenses while providing each of us another point of contact to give and receive encouragement, support and information.

In all of my years of professional ministry, I have seldom experienced such a rich, rewarding and beneficial relationship and interaction with others on a professional level. It is difficult to put into words how marvelous it is to have this "safety-net" as I seek to assist people in their life journeys.

Hopefully, the point of all this is becoming clear. Pastors are often alone in their professional ministries-the only one in the office. The dangers are real and the potential for both benefit and damage is eternal in scope. Lives hang in the balance: physically, emotionally and spiritually-the pastor's, his family's and the congregation's. Can a pastor really justify believing that he can "go it alone" successfully and effectively? This question is especially significant when the facts indicate that isolation and lack of genuine accountability are major contributors to ministry failure.

Proverbs 15:22-23 tell us, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. A man finds joy in giving an apt reply-and how good is a timely word!" (NIV). Showing my age, I appreciate the King James rendition: "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established. A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!"

I believe that it is incumbent on us pastors-as servants of the Most High God, as leaders of our families, as shepherds of a local congregation, as significant shapers of our communities-to maximize the potential for good and minimize the potential for evil, by availing ourselves of the benefits of Supervision and Peer Supervision. Build and maintain meaningful connections with other pastors and non-pastor leaders who can assist you and be assisted by you in our journey.

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

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**YOUTH PASTORS:**

## **Ministering to TCKs in your youth group**

So he walks into youth group one night. He doesn't quite seem to fit in although you can tell that he must have a christian background. His clothes are different from everyone else's and he is acting a bit shy. Then you get the note from the pastor, he tells you that some of the church's missionaries have settled here for the next year or so and he wants you to make their son feel welcome.

Have you ever wondered how to minister to TCKs (third culture kids) or missionary kids (MKs)? After serving 2 years at Faith Academy in the Philippines (a school for missionary kids), my wife and I have put together some ways you can minister to these unique students. Check out the top five ways to minister to MKs and the top 5 ways to destroy your ministry to MKs.

### **The top five ways to minister to MKs**

#### **1. Recognize their Uniqueness and Interact with them**

MKs, because of their life situation, have a ton of unique skills, experiences, and abilities. This unique skill-set is what makes them who they are and to dismiss that is to dismiss them completely. So how do you interact with these students? Treat them just like any of your other students, talk with them and ask them questions. Learn about where they come from and help them make connections with the culture in which they are currently living. As you talk with the student, be sure and communicate to them how you value their experiences and look to incorporate them into your ministry.

#### **2. Give them a Real Responsibility**

MKs on home assignment often feel like they don't have a role as their parents are traveling around speaking and they are often in a new place every week. Their whole life is in transition and if they can't find some place for themselves, they will really struggle personally and

spiritually. After you have gotten to know the student and if they are willing, it would be a great thing to give them some kind of a responsibility or a role in your youth group. The awesome thing about MKs is that they are people who can get things done. MKs often travel internationally alone, they can navigate pretty much any airport like the back of their hand, and they are very adept at understanding a new situation and working their way through it with minimal guidance. If they are interested and invested, MKs tend to be very responsible and would be a great asset to any ministry. (But beware, like any student, MKs will see through busy work.)

### **3. Help Them Find Common Ground**

Like any new student in your ministry MKs really need some support in making new connections. MKs are often forced to figure things out for themselves on the field and don't naturally look for new relationships when they are on furlough. They may also be reluctant to form new relationships because so many people they know have passed through their lives (transferred to a new ministry, went on furlough, or had to move). Essentially, they are afraid to be hurt and wish to avoid the pain that often accompanies goodbyes. You can help them make connections with other students through common activities, like youth group events, sports, and other church programs.

### **4. Demonstrate that you really Care**

As mentioned earlier, MKs are often slow to make new friends because they know eventually, they will have to say goodbye to them. Often they are described as having a thick skin and sometimes can appear stand-offish. These characteristics are usually self-defense mechanisms and are used to keep people at a distance so they can avoid being hurt. The main way to break through these boundaries is to spend quality time with the students. They need to know that you really care and that you are in it for the long haul. The amazing thing is that when you do get through those defense mechanisms, your relationship with the student goes really deep really fast and you will find yourself having some really great discussions with the students.

### **5. Connect with the parents about their kids needs**

In my experience, many, but not all, parents of MKs have very close relationships with their children. They can serve as a good resource for you and can offer insight into what you can do to encourage their kids as they go through transition and adjust to life in the states. Also, like any involved parents they would love to hear about your ministry and

what they can do to help out. You can't get enough parents like that!

## **The top 5 ways to destroy your ministry to MKs**

### **1. Ask Them If They Are Excited To Be "home"**

Anyone who has spent time around MKs knows that "home" is often a tough subject. Many of the MKs that we talked do not consider their passport country to be home, often because they had spent more time overseas. Some MKs will even go as far as to say that they don't know where their home is. If you want to ask about their time in the states, you could ask a "How has your stay in the US been so far?", or something along those lines.

### **2. Ask Them To Spontaneously Share**

Just because their parents are expected to be able to speak in front of people that doesn't mean that they are able to do it! When you are trying to become familiar with new culture you are learning how to live by a whole new set of rules and cultural surprises generally don't come across as a good thing. When a MK is transitioning back to the US they are learning these unfamiliar rules all over again even though the learning curve is much shorter. If you want them to share about their country or cross-cultural experience give them a little notice & a little direction and they will do great.

### **3. Assume that they are spiritually mature**

This is a common stereotype in regards to MKs. Just because their parents do amazing ministries does not mean they are walking closely with God. Just like pastor's kids, they are so inculcated with "christianity" that it can become just another part of life for them instead of a personal connection. Most MKs definitely come to a point in their lives where all of their activities translate into a personal relationship with God or all those activities just push them away from a personal connection with God. After you get in past the barriers they set up, a discerning heart will be able to see how they are connecting to God.

### **4. Assume that they have no idea about US Culture**

This might have been true, ten years ago when you had to communicate by mail, but nowadays this is just not the case. With the availability of

the internet and email most MKs experience a lot media from the US. Many foreign countries import U.S. TV and movies so don't be surprised if MKs have seen some new movie releases. Many countries don't always have and phone lines but almost everyone carriers around a cell phone. However, this is not true for all MKs. Some do come from very isolated areas, like jungles or tribal locations where they are completely isolated and have no idea about anything that is going on in the U.S. It is always best to familiarize yourself with the country they have been living in before making assumptions.

## 5. Give Up Too Soon

This concept might seem like a given in youth ministry, but I really want to emphasize it in relation to MKs. To reiterate, they may appear stand-offish but that is just their way of trying to protect themselves and avoid the pain of goodbyes. In reality, they are watching from afar to see who you really are and if you are "worth" opening themselves up to. If you are patient and take the time to really love MKs, they will amaze you with their lives and personalities. (This is why we can't wait to get back to Faith Academy in the Philippines!)

*Jason Quick*  
*State Youth Fellowship of Illinois*



We are Jason and Sarah Quick and we are raising our little MK as we serve at Faith Academy in the Philippines as WorldVenture missionaries. Currently we are home on a furlough, visiting and telling everyone about our lives and experiences in the Philippines. We plan to head back to the Philippines for the next school year in August of 2010. If you would like to know more about our ministry, you can email us at [quickestpastor@gmail.com](mailto:quickestpastor@gmail.com). We would love to come and share our lives and experiences with you.

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**[website](#) for ENGAGE application & information**

**Engage**  
**"Encouraging young people to confidently  
communicate and defend the gospel"**

**3rd Annual Youth Apologetics and Preaching  
Competition  
Hosted by Bethany Baptist Church  
Peoria, Illinois  
January 29-30-2010**

**Purpose**

The purpose of Engage is to promote and encourage churches to mentor and develop young people to effectively learn, communicate and defend Biblical truth.

**Who can participate?**

The apologetics competition is open to young men or women from 7th through 12th grade, while the preaching competition is open to young men only 9th through 12th grade. A previous first place winner at Engage in either category cannot participate. Winners will be awarded \$100 or \$500 awards, depending on the event entered.

Deadline for applications: January 15, 2010.

For complete details, call Bethany Baptist Church at 309-692-1755 or visit their website: [www.bethanycentral.org](http://www.bethanycentral.org)

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**[full text of article](#)**

**Notarize Parental Permission Slips**

Churches should not allow a minor child to participate in any church activity (such as camping, boating, swimming, hiking, overnight trips, or some sporting events) unless the child's parents or legal guardians sign a form that:

- consents to their child participating in the specified activity;
- certifies that the child is able to participate in the event (e.g., if the activity involves boating or swimming, the parents or guardians should certify that the child is able to swim);
- lists any allergies or medical conditions that may be relevant to a physician in the event of a medical emergency;
- lists any activities that the parents or guardians do not want the

child to engage in; and

- authorizes a designated individual to make emergency medical decisions for their child in the event that they cannot be reached.

**Ideally, the form should be signed by both parents or guardians (if there are two), and the signatures should be notarized.** If only one parent or guardian signs, or the signatures are not notarized, the legal effectiveness of the form is diminished. Having persons sign as witnesses to a parent's or guardian's signature is not as good as a notary's acknowledgment, but it is better than a signature without a witness and is much more convenient.

It is a good idea to check with a few local charities (scouts, YMCA, public schools, etc.) and see if they require notarized signatures, and if not, what method of authenticating signatures they use. By aligning your practice to that of these other charities, you are helping to establish the exercise of reasonable care.

The form should require the parent or guardian to inform the church immediately of any change in the information presented, and it should state that it is valid until revoked by the person who signed it. The parent or guardian should sign both in his or her own capacity as parent or guardian, and in a representative capacity on behalf of the minor child. We recommend that you have an attorney prepare your form, or review one you are already using.

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### **CHAPLAINCY: Happy Thanksgiving!**

We were shocked to hear of the senseless shooting spree at Fort Hood, TX recently. CBAmerica Chaplaincy has Air Force Chaplain Paul Castillo stationed there with his family. Paul is being trained as a Family Life chaplain (Counseling program). All the chaplains at Fort Hood are being used to minister to the wounded and hurting families. Pray for Paul as he studies and trains to be a more caring and loving chaplain. This is a great program that many of our chaplains have taken.

Pray also for Chaplain Jesse Staunton who has been deployed to Fort Carson, CO to serve families left behind as units have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been dealing with demon possession and God is using him to help bring deliverance to those bound. This is real spiritual warfare and Jesse asks for prayer as soldiers and family members come to him for help.

Jon Whitely and his family need prayers. This past weekend their 5 year old son had a massive seizure and is now hospitalized and undergoing tests to find the cause. Jon is a chaplain candidate with the Alabama National Guard. They live in Florida but Jon trains in Alabama. His mentor and senior chaplain happens to be another CB chaplain Bob Hicks. Bob is the Joint Forces Chaplain for all Guard units in Alabama.

Chaplain Brad West from Fort Drum is in Afghanistan as a Brigade Chaplain and is due home around Christmas. They have had over 23 soldiers in their units killed. This puts a real heavy load on the chaplain as they minister to other soldiers in these units. All our deployed chaplains tell of many hours of counseling, often late into the night. They are tired and worn out and need our prayers.

In spite of all these hard times, our chaplains report many decisions for Christ, people asking to be baptized and rededicating their lives to the Lord. I get calls every week from men wanting to get into the chaplaincy program. We are processing a number now getting their paperwork ready for military accession boards meeting in December. God is Good! Thanks for your prayers.

If you want more information about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or e-mail at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) .

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### **AREA CLUSTERS NEWS CORNER:**

The **Western Wisconsin CB Pastors' Cluster** met on October 12-13 at the Oak Forest Center in Frederic, Wisconsin. Andrew Brown of Long Prairie, Minnesota, introduced us to the Natural Church Development (NCD) program for churches. Greg Standafer of Whitehall, WI, led a discussion of issues related to the pastor's job versus the pastor's calling. Our golf outing was snowed out, so we played table games. The Oak Forest Center is a beautiful new facility, though incomplete. The food was excellent. They provided two meals

and overnight lodging for \$20.

In attendance were: Kevin Schumann, Eldon Carlson, Kevin Morris, Wade Duroe, Greg Standafer, John VanGorkum, Dennis Pond, and a Campus Ambassador missionary.

We are planning to meet again January 11 & 12, 2010, at Oak Forest Center.

*Submitted by  
Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church  
Chippewa Falls, WI*

## RETREAT ALERT!

**NOTE:** There will be **changes in the Annual Pastors & Wives Retreat format**. This year we will be offering a seminar on Thursday morning and afternoon before the retreat. The theme of the seminar will be **Board and Leadership Development**. This will be presented by Jim Smith, the Regional Director for CB Southern California. The Retreat itself will begin with Thursday evening dinner and run through Friday evening entertainment. There will be no meeting on Saturday, so you can leave at your leisure.

We will be offering price options for just the seminar or just the retreat as well as a package price for attending both. Look for more details and plan to attend both--April 21-23, 2010, at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

## Upcoming Events

**ENGAGE** January 29-30, 2010 Bethany Baptist, Peoria IL  
[www.bethanycentral.org](http://www.bethanycentral.org) --Click on **Ministries, then Sr. High**  
Apologetics & preaching competition for youth

### SAVE THESE DATES on your calendar

<b>Pastors Seminar</b>	April 22, 2010	Heidel House Resort
<b>Pastors &amp; Wives Retreat</b>	April 22-23, 2010	Green Lake, Wisconsin
<b>NCCBA Annual Meeting</b>	April 23, 2010	Green Lake, Wisconsin

## NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Squaw Creek Baptist Church--Marion IA YOUTH & WORSHIP
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Colfax IA YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Elk Horn IA
- First Baptist Church--Breckenridge MN
- First Baptist Church--Luverne MN

THANK YOU for your prayers--**Mark Johnson** is the new Youth Pastor at Jackson, Minnesota.

**Contact Our Office**

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

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