

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail

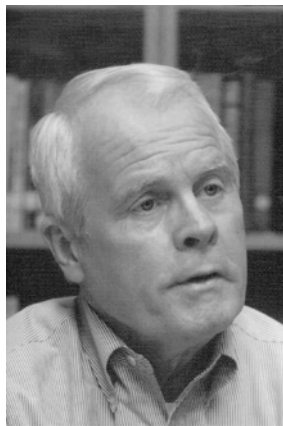


Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

October 2007

LAST CHANCE to register!
Gordon MacDonald
Workshop

October 24, 2007
9 AM to 3 PM
Parkview Community Church
764 St. Charles Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois



Don't miss this opportunity for questions and answers with Gordon MacDonald on the topic of "**Resilient Leadership.**"

Who is invited? Pastors, leadership staff, students preparing for leadership and anyone interested in discussing and learning more about this topic.

Registration is \$39 or \$25 for students (this includes lunch) either [online](#) or mailed to the NCCBA office: PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

DEADLINE OCTOBER 19 for \$39 price
Call 715-538-2298 or register [on our website](#)

In This Issue

What I Do Not Want to Hear
Pastor Care
"Good Idea" Section
Electronics Sale
Upcoming Events
Contact Our Office

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 made in how to interpret and implement findings.

What I Do Not Want To Hear

In early August our daughter called from the doctor's office that they thought Hannah (her daughter, age 9) had leukemia. The clinic had already made an appointment for Hannah to be admitted to Mayo. Two days later it was confirmed Hannah had leukemia and the treatments began. A little over two weeks later we received a call from another doctor concerning a test done on Betsy (my wife). She was informed the biopsy confirmed cancer was present.

At the present time Hannah is enduring the chemo treatments which will last until October 2009. Her prognosis at this time is very good due to her age, gender and the type of leukemia. Betsy has undergone major surgery. The cancer has been removed and the report on the surrounding lymph nodes is excellent. She will have to undergo radiation treatments for a brief time. The doctors are giving a very positive prognosis.

As these events have been unfolding, I remember an incident in my youth. A young person was killed in a tragic automobile accident. A friend of mine, who was a bit older than I, was very upset by this death. She wondered out loud and with emotion why would God allow something like this to occur. I had what I thought was a bit of divine inspiration and quickly quoted "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Since we were both believers I thought that this verse would bring a halt to both her question and anger. To my surprise at the time she found my effort in providing comfort and council even more irritating. She responded by snapping, "What's so good about a young person's death."

I think for many when they are confronted by someone who is going through a difficult event there is a desire to want to help. However, words are not always the best way to provide that help. Job's friends initially sat with him for seven days and no one said a word to him. Later when they began to speak the comfort turned to accusations. Job responds by telling them that they were miserable counselors and that he got more comfort from them when they sat in silence by his side.

I had an opportunity to hear Larry Crabb speak about an incident during his hospitalization for pancreatic cancer. On one particular occasion a friend stopped by for a visit. Larry stated he was very weak and told his friend he needed to rest. His friend was not

Valuable Information for Your Church Growth

Demographic information about your church location is available as a free service. All NCCBA churches are listed. Call Don at 715-538-2298 if you have questions.

www.Link2Lead.com

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)
[Link2Lead](#)
[\(demographic info\)](#)
[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)

Microsoft Software and More

Now available from the NCCBA office. The new Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$122 plus \$35 for the installation media.

Adobe, Norton, 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

offended by Larry's comment. He noticed that the bed next to Larry's was empty and asked if he minded if he rested along with him. Larry granted his request. He stated, of all the visits he had this was the most encouraging, for rather than trying to bring words of comfort his friend gave comfort by resting with him.

There is an old adage that goes "actions speak louder than words." I think that those of us who have years of ministry experience understand that the greatest source of encouragement in times of need is not a few words of Scripture which are true but the real life presence of people who say we are here, we love you, and we will listen.



Don Shaw, Regional Director
donnccba@trivest.net

Pastor Care: The Down Side of PAM!

No! I am not thinking about that stuff you put in the frying pan to keep the food from sticking to the pan. What I am thinking about is Pastor Appreciation Month. October has been designated as Pastor Appreciation Month for a number of years now. I know the heart of those who began this effort to honor the life and ministry of pastors. I also know the hearts of many believers who take the opportunity to express their thankfulness to God and to their pastor for the ministry that he has in their lives.

So, what is the down side? The down side is when either the appreciation is not there, or the appreciation that is there does not get expressed. Of course, there are many reasons and explanations for this situation. Some of them focus on the nature and condition of the church congregation. Some focus on the character and performance of the pastor. Some focus on a combination of those two. While figuring out "how come" may be helpful in the long run, it is not very helpful in the moment.

Perhaps many of us have experienced (or are experiencing now) the pain, frustration, anger, doubt, anxiety and fear that comes along with "PAM starvation." You hear the pleasing voices of the Christian radio program hosts and announcers, and the local station

staff as well, telling believers how important pastors are. Over and over, they emphasize all the good things that pastors do, and how important it is to let pastors know they are loved and valued-appreciated. AND NOTHING HAPPENS!

Nobody calls. Nobody sends a card. Nobody gives that little extra gift of \$10 or \$20 or a gift card. No body even takes the opportunity to say a special thank you on the way out of the worship center after church. This is the down side of PAM. Instead of the intended encouragement and support, the outcome is discouragement and increased feelings of aloneness and disappointment.

I wish I had the perfect formula for making all of this downside disappear, so that every congregation and believer would express their appreciation and every pastor would be "loved on" and lifted up. However, both you and I know that is wishful thinking. We all say, either quietly to ourselves or out-loud to each other, "It ain't gonna happen!" And that is the truth.

But there is something wonderful that can happen. This experience can take us in one of two basic directions, either closer to our Heavenly Father or farther away from Him. We can decide to draw close to Him and let Him "love on" us, or we can pull away from Him and have a temper tantrum or a pity party. I suspect that each of us has done all of the above at one time or another. What I am going to turn our attention to in no way suggests minimizing the impact or reality of "no appreciation." In fact, it is just the opposite. It is about taking the disappointment and discouragement seriously, and seeking the only solution that really works.

That solution is to refocus our attention and our expectation on the person and character of our God. I am not going to launch into an extended theology lesson. I am simply going to point to a passage of His Word that God used in my life at a very crucial time in my life and ministry. The first time was about this time of year in 1984. The same situation occurred every fall for the next ten years, and God used His Word each time to bring healing and encouragement. Although the details are not the point, it involved being considered for promotion in the military and not being selected every year until I was forced to retire from active duty as a chaplain.

The important part is God's provision. The morning before I was

notified the first time of not being promoted, God "arranged" for me to read something astounding in His Word as part of my habit of reading through the Bible every year. Among the passages that morning was Hebrews 6. I had read it at least once a year for at least 15 years. That morning verse 10 stood out in bright neon colors like never before: "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Verses 11 and 12 made a much deeper impact later than they did that morning: "We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."

That afternoon, when my Commander informed me that my name was not on the promotion list to be published the next day, God had already assured me of His appreciation. That did not stop the hurt and sense of humiliation-tomorrow "everybody would know"-but it did give me a solid foundation upon which to make my decisions about what to do next and how to deal with the situation.

Whatever you are going through in your ministry, I pray that God's Word from Hebrews 6 will be an encouragement to you today. Let Him speak to you and draw you close and "love on" you.

Another part of my experience was the response of other chaplains the next day when the list came out. They contacted me to express their care and concern, and yes-their impression of the promotion system. I want to encourage us pastors to do for each other what we wish more people would do for us-express encouragement and appreciation. During PAM, take the opportunity to tell other pastors about your response to their life and ministry.

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

GOOD IDEA section:

Conference "**SPIRITUAL
DISCIPLINES WITHIN THE
CHURCH**" in North Dakota

"In a world committed to self-seeking and individual rights, creating a genuine community based on self-sacrifice and mutual commitment is one of the greatest challenges for the church today," says Dr. Donald Whitney, seminary professor, author and former pastor. "By putting spiritual disciplines into practice in the church, congregations can return to the depth of community present in the New Testament church, where they 'devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer' (Acts 2:42)."

Community Baptist Church, in Fargo, ND, is sponsoring a conference November 9 and 10 with Dr. Whitney to help show how the local church can build a sense of genuine community by putting spiritual disciplines into practice.

The conference is entitled, "*Spiritual Disciplines within the Church: Life Together in the Local Church*" and will be addressing the following questions:

- Why join a church?
- Why worship with the church?
- Why witness with the church?
- Why attend the Ordinances of the church?
- Why fellowship with the church?
- Why pray with the church?
- Why serve in the church?

For further information about the conference or Dr. Whitney, go to the church website: www.cbefargo.com or call the church office 701-235-5483.

ELECTRONICS SALE AT NCCBA

Dell Computer (includes monitor and keyboard) \$100
Scanner for computer running Windows XP - \$25
Adobe Acrobat 7 (for Windows XP) \$100

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

Call Jean at 715-538-2298.

Upcoming Events

Gordon MacDonald Seminar

Glen Ellyn, IL

October 24

[Register at our website](#)

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING LAWS for your state are now on our [website](#) under "Resources."

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

Thank you for your prayers! John Bennett is the new Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Contact Our Office

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

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