

**North Central CBA**

**E-Central E-mail**

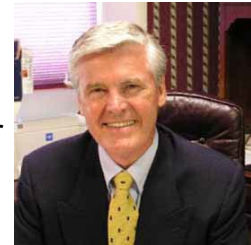


Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

October 2008

## **LAST CHANCE! Deadline October 21 to register for FIRESTORM Seminar with Ron Susek**

On October 28 in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and again on October 30 in Edina, Minnesota, Ron Susek, author of *Firestorm: Preventing and Overcoming Church Conflict*, will be addressing pastors, leadership staff and lay leaders regarding church conflict, staff burnout and other topics. For more information and to register for either seminar, please visit our [website](#). Registration can also be mailed with a check for \$39 to: North Central CBA, PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.



If you did not receive a flyer to promote this event in your area, it is available on our website under [Events](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298.

## **Thank You from Cedar Rapids & Marion Iowa**

To the North Central CBA Churches,

On behalf of the Calvary Baptist families who have received your special offering for flood relief here in Cedar Rapids, I want to thank each congregation for your compassion and generosity. Your money is repairing foundations, replacing furnaces or water heaters, and providing new drywall. This financial expression of love is assisting many people who have lost so much. As Paul wrote, "They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:18-19)

With Gratitude,

Pastor Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for sending a portion of the flood relief money to us for people affected in our congregation. This will be such a blessing to them. We thank God for the love and fellowship of sister churches of like faith.

May the Lord bless the NCCBA family as we serve Him in love and obedience.

In God's joyful service,

Pastor Michael Kleeberger

Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion, Iowa

## Traits For Progress

The most recent book I have finished is Who Stole My Church by Gordon MacDonald. It is what I would call historical fiction. It is about a made up church (the fictional part) that is going through change and is experiencing conflict (the historical part).

MacDonald puts himself in the role of pastor and seeks to work with those who are in opposition to the change the church is experiencing.

There were a number of things that MacDonald writes about that we can all resonate with and also learn from. In regard to the learning element he writes about three types of groups and their impact on change. Below is a brief description each.

MacDonald's three groups are: generative, toxic and habitual.

A Generative group by MacDonald's definition has the ability to produce or originate something. He suggests there are three factors that enable a group to be generative. First, they have a compelling purpose. Second, there is synergism which means they are truly a team; there is no independence but interdependence. Third, the members of the group are maturing in their love of God, understanding his will and the awareness of their spiritual gifts.

A Toxic group by MacDonald's definition is the exact opposite. Instead of producing or originating something, it poisons. There are four suggested traits for this kind of group. First, independence and what's-in-it-for-me attitude dominates. Second, there is low morale. Third, when things do not work out they blame others. Fourth, when they enter a larger group they tend to drag it down to

### In This Issue

YOUTH: The Truth Hurts

New Church Plant in IL

CHAPLAINCY

Peace Officer & Peace Officer

Renovations Complete

Impact Liberia!

Quick Links

Microsoft software

Why 501(c)3 ?

Upcoming Events

Churches in Need of a Pastor

Contact Our Office

### Valuable Information for Your Church Growth

#### *Customized*

demographic information now 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)

### Natural Church Development

This is a proven tool that can help your church with growth, not just in

their level.

A Habitual group by MacDonald's definition is the middle ground. The characteristics of this group are first repetition. This is the way we have always done something. Second, when an issue which needs to be confronted comes to light they sweep it under the carpet so as to avoid anxiety. Third, when the group does get worked up it is over trivial matters. Fourth, they expend great energy to accomplish very little.

As I reflected on these I could not help asking the question as to which is the best description of our region. It would be great if I could say without reservation we are a Generative group. There are some very hopeful signs that this is where we are heading. It is also clear that the traits of both the Toxic and Habitual are present.

I think it would be good for anyone who is truly interested in the Region or the church they are a part of to be honest about where you are in terms of these three. We may not like the answer but unless we are willing to face up to what hinders progress we will only regress.

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

---

## The Truth Hurts

In the Fall I think of youth retreats. Weekend retreats are a great launching pad for youth ministries as we seek to build momentum in our programs for the upcoming year. As both a youth pastor and a speaker, I have attended many hundreds of retreats through the years. Recently, I spoke at a camp of about 200 students and was called into question by some for the content of my messages. I humbly preached the Truth in scripture which was well received by some and yet not by others. After a message I gave regarding sin, I spent the next day and a half second guessing myself. Why wouldn't I just stick with the messages that are less controversial? Why shouldn't I become the speaker who makes everyone laugh, entertains the masses, and gets asked to return the following year? The truth is that I am blown away by people who find Truth so offensive. How prideful are we to think that there is slim to no room for improvement in our lives?

Multiple people told me that they disagreed with something I said. It was after comments like this that I would bluntly ask them, "Do

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

[CBAmerica](#)

[Link2Lead](#)

[\(demographic info\)](#)

[Illinois State Youth](#)

[Fellowship](#)

[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 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.

### NCCBA

[www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING LAWS for your State on**

you believe that what I said was unbiblical?" In every instance they responded with, "No!" Many of these responses were not from students either - they were from the leaders! What kind of youth leader brings students to a camp and yet openly opposes the scripture? The leaders didn't want to hear the Truth and because of this, to them portions of scripture weren't true. If the responses I received were from unbelievers I wouldn't mind - I might have even expected it! However, how can the verbal lashing and outrage come from supposed believers? It reminds me of Paul's words to Timothy when he said, "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." If Paul were alive and writing to Timothy today, instead of telling him that "the time will come" he would undoubtedly say, "The time has come" for such things to happen. This is the relative world in which we live in.

I honestly wish that I had thicker skin and that I could more easily let what people say roll off my back. But, the reality is that words hurt even if the individuals are irrational AND unbiblical. I know that I could easily be the speaker that everyone loves and who gets asked back to the same camps year after year. However, I refuse to compromise Biblical truths, personal convictions or stances on integrity. With that being said, I have learned that in doing so, more doors will typically close than open for me to speak. This is a bittersweet pill that I am willing to devour. Are you as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Go bless,

Craig Sanborn  
First Baptist Church - Youth Pastor  
Long Prairie, MN

---

## **New Church Plant in Illinois**

Congratulations! In mid August Bethany Baptist Church of Peoria, Illinois, soft launched its second daughter church, Bethany Community Church, in Washington, Illinois. They gave three hundred to this new church. In mid September at their opening public service there were over 500. What a great blessing God has provided; to God be the glory!

Additionally since giving three hundred to their new daughter,

Bethany has seen its average weekly attendance only drop about one hundred. Once again to God be the glory!

---

## **Baghdad Surprise!**

He came to our evening chapel service sticking out a bit from the crowd. All the service members were in desert uniforms or PT (Physical Training) uniforms and this civilian stood out in his short pants, design T-shirt, goatee beard, earring, and tattoos. I'll call him Curt (not his real name).

Curt arrived at our base with a colleague who had met me previously. They both work as civilians for one of our government agencies in Iraq and they wanted to come to chapel at our little base at the airport in Baghdad. I made the calls to the security forces and Curt and the other guy showed up. This became a weekly routine. Each week Curt seemed to be more and more attentive to the sermon and wanted to stay and talk a bit after the service.

On Sunday night in July he asked to see me for a longer time after the Sunday evening service, so we went into my office and there he poured out issues from his childhood, marriage, work experiences, and parenting. The need was obvious--and so was his open heart. By the end of our time together, he had prayed to receive Christ as his Savior--right in Baghdad, in a war zone!

I gave him some literature and a good study Bible made available by the Billy Graham Association, and we exchanged e-mail information to keep in touch.

What is the result?

Curt is continuing on in his walk with Jesus! He is bringing areas of his life to the foot of the cross and keeping in constant fellowship with his colleague, who is a strong Christian. He rarely missed chapel services the rest of the time I was in Iraq. Please pray for Curt!

We never know opportunities that Jesus opens up as we are open to His Spirit's leading!

Even in Baghdad!



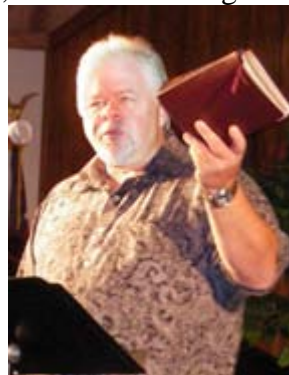
This is a report from Air Force Chaplain Mark Campbell who just returned from Iraq. He is pictured with General Petraeus prior to Mark's return to the states in late September. For more information on chaplaincy contact Al Russell at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) or 218-776-2813.

## Peace Offerer and Peace Officer

(the following article appeared in the September 12, 2008, edition of the Muscatine Journal)

By Jennifer Meyer of the Muscatine Journal

MUSCATINE, Iowa - What would Jesus do - if he wore a deputy sheriff's uniform and carried a gun? The question is "a stretch" for many, said the Rev. Mark Clark of Hillcrest Baptist Church. But to Clark, a Muscatine County sheriff's reserve officer, the answers are not so unimaginable. "It's not about driving fast and carrying guns," he said. "It's about helping people." Clark, 52, recalled arresting an embarrassed young man soon after he became a reserve deputy in 2006. "I took my sleeve and wiped the tears from his face. I think that's what Jesus would do," Clark said. "I can't let him go because he's broken the law, but I can be merciful." He senses parishioners are proud of his work for the sheriff's office. "I'm not just going to talk about it, but I go out and do it," he said.



Clark said he comes from a law enforcement family, and grew up idolizing two uncles in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. "My uncles were just my heroes. They were men of integrity," he said.

Clark worked at a police department in Canada, where he grew up in the 1970s. "Then instead of becoming a full-time cop, I became a minister," he said. Clark sees some similarities in the two professions: "Both groups of people want to live their lives in a way that will make a difference and help people." He helped protect flooded property in Fredonia in June and assisted tornado victims in Parkersburg in May and Fruitland in June 2007. "Jesus said if you give someone a glass of cold water, it's like you're doing it to me," Clark said. He helped distribute bottled water to victims and volunteers after the tornado in Fruitland, and drew on counseling experience as a pastor when he escorted families into what remained of their homes. "I'm wearing a uniform, but I'm trying to



say the right things to them," he said. Clark is also guided by faith to respond to a "surprising outpouring of intensely personal issues" from his fellow officers, such as divorce, depression or alcoholism. "It's no secret I'm a pastor, but I don't carry a gun in one arm and a Bible in the other," he said. Deputies often use profanity, he said. "Most of them will kind of stop mid-sentence and say, 'sorry Preach.' "I just smile and say, 'Like I haven't heard it before.' I live in the real world." Clark leads a prayer at reserve functions, but said he does not preach. "I'm just one of the guys," Clark said.

---

## Renovations Complete

Morrison Baptist Church in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota, is celebrating renovations to the lower level of their facilities. A dedication open house will be held on Sunday, October 19, from 1 to 4 PM. The dedication ceremony will be at 1:30 pm. RSVP to Renee Lucas 763-574-9244.

---

## Business As Mission: Impact Liberia!

On October 25, 2008, Calvary Church in Muscatine, Iowa, will be hosting a brainstorm session on how to impact Liberia, West Africa, by partnering with Liberian churches, American churches, NGOs (non-government organizations) and mission agencies.

**The Strategy:** currently these needs are being addressed: 1) equipping church leaders and 2) helping destitute children.

In addition, this session would like to tackle this challenge:  
**CREATING JOBS.** Unemployment is crippling Liberia. Jobs are essential to the future. Creating them through Christian businesses will generate economic, social and spiritual impact.

**Partners:** WorldVenture, Partners Worldwide and the Christian humanitarian organization, Vision Trust. All will be represented at the session in Muscatine on the 25th.

For more information and registration contact: Krista Morstad at WorldVenture, [k.morstad@WorldVenture.com](mailto:k.morstad@WorldVenture.com); 720-283-2000, ext. 2790.

## WHY 501(c)3?

Why is belonging to an association such as North Central CBA important? One of the benefits is 501(c)3 status--all our member churches are covered.

.

(Reprinted from Church Finance Today, September , 2008)

### YOUR FINANCE QUESTIONS

*Q: I am aware that churches risk the loss of their tax-exempt status if they participate in political campaigns. Several people in our congregation would like for our church to be more politically active. As a practical matter, what difference would it make if we lost our tax-exempt status?*

A: Loss of your church's exemption from federal income taxation would have several consequences, including the following:

- The church's net income would be subject to federal income taxation.
- The church's net income would be subject to state income taxation (except in the few states not having an income tax)
- Donors no longer could deduct charitable contributions they make to the church
- The church would be ineligible to establish or maintain 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities
- The church could lose its property tax exemption under state law
- The church could lose its sales tax exemption under state law
- The church could lose its exemption from unemployment tax under state and federal law
- The church could suffer an adverse impact on its zoning classification
- The church could lose its preferential mailing rates
- The church could lose its exemption from registration of securities under state law
- Nondiscrimination rules pertaining to various fringe benefits (including an employer's

payment of medical insurance premiums) would apply

- In some cases a minister's housing allowance may be affected
- In some cases the exempt status of ministers who opted out of Social Security may be affected
- The significant protections available to a church under the Church Audit Procedures Act may no longer apply
- The exemption of the church under the state charitable solicitation law may be affected
- The exemption of the church from the ban on religious discrimination under various federal and state civil rights laws may be affected
- The exemption of the church from the public accommodation provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act may be affected

### Upcoming Events

**Firestorm Seminars with Ron Susek** Oct. 28 & 30 [Register online](#)  
Glen Ellyn IL and Edina MN  
**DEADLINE** to register: October 21 for Glen Ellyn, October 23 for Minneapolis  
(walk-ins welcome if providing own lunch)

### 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
- Artichoke Lake Baptist Church--Correll MN
- Oak Grove Church--Golden Valley MN
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN

### Contact Our Office

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - [nccba@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)  
North Central Conservative Baptist Association | P.O. Box 568 | Whitehall | WI | 54773