



## Repentance, Sin and Me--Part 2

When I was about 15 years old I had earned a .22 rifle for working for my grandfather. I was eager to use it and was given the green light to shoot as many squirrels as I could at our church camp. For the first couple of days the hunting was successful. However, as the number of squirrels declined and the ones left seemed to be more alert, the hunting became a little boring. As I sat at the base of a tree I noticed this chipmunk scurrying about. The chipmunk became my target of choice. I took aim, but unlike my shots at the squirrels, the shot was not fatal. The chipmunk was severely wounded, was able to move and tried to get to its hole. I moved in close, aimed and this time the shot ended the life of the chipmunk.

In the last issue of the E-Central I entitled my article "Repentance, Sin and Me." The article referred to Earl Wilson and the impact his sin had. It not only profoundly affected his own personal life but caused deep pain in the lives of all those who were in his sphere of influence. Along with the devastating results of sin, he also brings to the reader's attention the issue of repentance.

Repentance is not a pleasant subject. In part because one has really to understand the impact that one's sin has on both God and those who are in our sphere of influence. Yet it is part of the Gospel. When Jesus went public he declared, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." Paul states, "Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance."

When we begin to speak about repentance in the lives of those who are convicted of the reality of sin they need to know that a process of radical transformation involves your mind, will and emotions.

Here is where I want to connect back with my hunting story. On that fateful day of hunting all the thrill of hitting the prey faded rather quickly. For some reason as I saw the little chipmunk try to limp back to its home I was heartsick by what I had done. I truly wished I had not taken aim at the chipmunk; I wished my aim had been better so that I wouldn't have had to see the results of missing the mark. At that moment I became a transformed hunter, in other words I repented. For from that moment I have a different feeling (emotion) about shooting chipmunks. I also think (mind) differently about hunting, and I am resolved (will) to no longer shoot chipmunks.

However, when it comes to the issue of sin and the ugly damage it inflicts, we tend to simply want it to go away. Earl Wilson knew he had made a mess of things yet he still hoped that he could go on with his life. He would readily admit his sin and promise not to do it again. However, those who came alongside to help him wanted him to be confronted with the fact that his action came as a result of choices he made in his mind, will and emotions. He needed to repent, to be transformed.

Great  
Commandment  
Passion

Great  
Commission  
Focus

This  
newsletter  
and those  
from previous  
months are  
available on  
our website at  
[www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

He writes about how painful it was for him, but as time passed he also realized that unless he truly repented he would soon have been back doing the same things all over again. Because he needed to think differently, will differently and feel differently.

As we noted earlier repentance is part of the gospel. As pastors we are told to “feed the sheep.” As pastors we are also to be examples to the sheep. The sheep need to see in us lives that have been and are continuing to be transformed, in other words dealing with attitudes so that our actions will reflect the image of Christ. As they see that in us they need to be encouraged to also repent so that as they walk into the market place of life the world will “see their good works and glorify God.”



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

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## PASTOR CARE:

# The Necessity of Networking

The last couple of months in my life have been rather unusual and anything but normal. The details of the events and concerns I have had are not significant in this forum. What is important is some of the issues I have been forced to work through, and the lessons I have learned—or more accurately relearned.

The first one is that in-depth, secure relationships are essential to effectively coping with unusual times. When the going gets tough, the tough may get going. However, like the not-so-tough, they also become vulnerable. We all are vulnerable to the cumulative effects of stress and tiredness and the depletion of our resources. Having people around us who are supportive is very important. We need them to know what is going on for us and INSIDE us. Their encouragement is vital—life giving—for us. So is their honest observation and/or correction when stuff begins to move us in unhealthy and dangerous directions.

These relationships cannot be manufactured instantly as needed. They are not a PRN pill that we can shake out of a bottle once or twice and then put away. They take time and consistency and commitment to develop and investment of time and energy to retain. Unfortunately, many pastors are so driven by the need for demonstrable results that we choose not to invest in parts of life which seem to have long-term and occasional return value. Of course, these relationships have on-going value not related to the exceptional needs of unusually stressful times.

Two additional issues I have rediscovered are interconnected. One is that we need to be aware of the professional resources that are available to our congregations and us. I have had to decide what to do when faced with a situation I am not trained or skilled to deal with. When people seeking help don't speak your language well, do you know who

to refer them to, someone who will share your values and beliefs? When someone comes with an issue that you are not trained to understand and resolve, do you know someone who shares your life-view to whom you can send them? We all need these links so that when things come our way that are beyond us, we have resources to fall back on that will be helpful and beneficial.

Incidentally, having those links might also make it easier for us to seek assistance when our own personal stuff is beyond us. In a world where the demands to be successful and competent in and about everything are increasing, acknowledging our own limitations becomes increasingly difficult and important. We must remember that the only all-sufficient person is God, and He has not chosen either you or me to be the perfect incarnation of Himself. The pressure to be perfect, in order to retain respect and perhaps our ministry position often leads to the perception that we dare not seek help for ourselves, although we regularly encourage others to do so.

Neither a body nor a building (biblical metaphors for Christ-followers) is composed of a single item. Both are a compilation of parts assembled in such a way that they are mutually complimentary and functional in accomplishing their purpose. There is not one of those parts that is able to reach the goal alone. Build the networks into your life that will enable and empower you to successfully come through unusually stress-filled times in healthy, Christ-honoring, God-praising ways. Please, do it now—before the need arises.

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

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## Power and More Power

Reading Church history I find the Church of Jesus Christ being seduced by POWER--not of God's power but manmade, the Power that destroys and kills.

In Matthew 4:1 we see this "Then Jesus was LED up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." The GOD of all the universe is LED to be tempted, the GOD who spoke the word and it was. The GOD who by him all things exists was LED. But it's the third temptation I am most interested in. V. 8, 9 "Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him. All these I will give you, if you fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him. Be gone, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve".

In the past decade people have left the Church in our Country over one word, the abused power of the Church leaders. Whose kingdom are we building? One of the most comical titles the Bible uses is in Matthew 2:1. Herod self appointed himself as king under the Roman Empire. This scene is being repeated again and again in the Church.

Jesus EMPTIED Himself from the desert to the Cross. Church History is full of self appointed Power grabbing in the name of Jesus at the cost of the sheep.

We have substituted the word LOVE for POWER. Jesus asked His disciples do you love me. Their interest was, “Can we sit on your left and your right in your KINGDOM?”

Henri Nouwen says this, “It is easier to be GOD than to love GOD. Or it is easier to CONTROL people than to LOVE people. Or it is easier to own LIFE than to LOVE LIFE.

We are tempted often to choose Power over Love.

Control over Cross.

Leading over led.

Those who resist this temptation have a true intimacy with God and others, and people who are personal Empire builders are people who are unable to give and receive love.

P.S. God bless us as we walk in truth.

Bill Badal, Youth Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Sycamore, IL

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## Brethen, PRAY FOR US!!

There is an old spiritual that starts like this, “If we ever needed the Lord before we sure do need Him now!” Some of our chaplains are in that place of need, and we ask you to remember them in prayer.

Gary and Lois Taylor pastor the CB church in Morrisville, PA, and Gary serves as a chaplain in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Their son Jonathan, a student at Cedarville College in Ohio recently collapsed after playing a soccer game. He suffered a massive heart attack and is now in a persistent vegetative state. They are working on moving him back to the Philadelphia area for treatment. Doctors say a miracle is needed for him to pull through. Pray for Gary, Lois and their family as they go through this trying time in their lives.

Michael Nace is a prison chaplain in New York State and has had a wonderful ministry leading men to Christ. Recently his ministry had encountered great opposition in the prison and he has experienced personal verbal abuse from administrators and vandalism to his car. Pray for Michael and Sylvie that God will continue to bless their ministry and protect Michael as he shares the love of Jesus with those incarcerated.

The State of Washington recently removed all supervisory chaplain positions in their prison system. Chaplain Dave Sherman’s job went away. He has been able to find work in the social services arena but would like to get back into chaplaincy again. Pray for a position to open up for Dave in chaplaincy work.

Let me throw in an item of praise to balance this off. Chaplain Terry Sutfin ministers in a Veterans Hospital in New York State. Terry called to let me know that ministry has never been better and there is a wide open door to share the gospel. Many residents in the hospital are asking questions about God and the Bible. The fighting in Israel, Lebanon and Iraq is causing them to ask, "Is this WW3?" I also talked with the son of one of our Navy chaplains serving in Djibouti, and he said his dad, Dan Stephens, had just led a man to Christ.

Thanks for your prayers. We can't do without them. For more information contact Al Russell at [chapruss@earthlink.net](mailto:chapruss@earthlink.net) or call his office at 218-776-2813.

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## Good Idea Section:

### OUTREACH WEEKEND

Wildwood Baptist Church in East Moline, Illinois, is planning two events for the weekend of September 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. Saturday will be a free skateboarding and BMX exhibition of some of the best extreme athletes. This is called "Livin' It!" and will take place in the afternoon and includes autographs at the South Park Mall in Moline. Actor Steven Baldwin will M.C. the event. More information is available at [www.qclivinit.com](http://www.qclivinit.com) The featured athletes will be: Elijah Moore, Luke Ireland Braddock, Chris Weigle, Casey Wells, Josh Harrington, Jay Eggleston, Alex Johann, and Mike Mancuso.

On Sunday world evangelist Luis Palau will be preaching. Before the service a hot air balloon will be inflated and then available for rides. For more details on these events go to: [www.wildwoodchurch.com](http://www.wildwoodchurch.com) and [www.palau.org](http://www.palau.org).

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## Will see many of you at the PRAYER SUMMIT

**Begins September 25, 5 PM  
and ends September 28, 11 AM**

**Cedar Lake Bible Conference Center, Cedar Lake, Indiana.**

For directions go to their website: [www.cedarlakeministries.org](http://www.cedarlakeministries.org)

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**FINAL REMINDER**

**Leith Anderson Workshop**  
**NOW OPEN TO PASTORS**  
**Of all NCCBA churches**

But especially for senior pastors and staff of multi-staff churches. Workshop is November 1, 2006, at Hayden Heights Baptist, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Limited to 25 participants.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 13**

Mail your \$25 deposit today to the NCCBA office to reserve a spot. The remaining \$75 is due at the door.

Remember to read **Leadership That Works** by Leith Anderson and **The Ministry Staff Member** by Doug Fagerstrom before the workshop.

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What is the potential  
in YOUR area?

Go to [www.Link2Lead.com](http://www.Link2Lead.com) Provided as a service of NCCBA. All 138 churches of the region are listed, giving demographic information for each area. Call Don Shaw, our director, here at the office (715) 538-2298, if you have any questions.

North Central  
CBA  
P.O. Box 568  
Whitehall, WI  
54773

715.538.2298

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

We're on  
the Web!  
[www.nccba-  
gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

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## NCCBA Churches in need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Mont Clare Baptist Church – Chicago, IL
- First Baptist Church – Lansing, IL
- First Baptist Church—Streator, IL
- First Baptist Church—Elk Horn, IA
- First Baptist Church – Sibley, IA
- Ganson Street Baptist Church – Jackson, MI
- First Baptist Church – Lake Crystal, MN
- First Baptist Church—Jackson, MN
- Palisade Baptist Church—Silver Bay, MN
- Cavalier Baptist Church – Cavalier, ND
- Eureka Baptist Church—St. Croix Falls, WI
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**Thank you for your prayers! Chris Jarrett is the new pastor at Grace Church in Mahomet IL.**

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*The Year of the Bible*  
*The entrance of your Word gives light | Psalm 119:130*

You will soon be receiving in the mail a poster and information about the YEAR OF THE BIBLE and the discounted One Year Bibles available through CBAmerica. Audio Bibles are available through Faith Comes by Hearing in partnership with CBAmerica. Children's editions can also be ordered for the One Year Bible or audio Bibles.

Note that these are **NOT** available through our office. The contact information is listed in the cover letter with the poster or you can call our office for those numbers.

