

## North Central CBA

## E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

September 2009

### Fundamentally Sound

By the time you are reading this, bow hunting season for deer will have begun in Wisconsin. Bow hunting is not something I have been doing a long time. One of the things I have noticed is how each year the equipment has become very high tech. One can spend a lot of money purchasing scent lock clothes, trail cameras, sophisticated compound bows, special mineral licks and seeds for deer attracting feed plots. However, no matter how good your equipment, at the end of the day unless you can shoot your bow with accuracy, you will not have a successful hunt. Over the last couple of weeks I have made several trips to the archery range in order to sharpen my shooting skills so they will be fundamentally sound with what I already have.

On September 20, the Sunday school class I co-teach will begin a new series. When we meet I am going to ask the class, who does this describe? This is a place that is very prosperous, filled with opportunity, a melting pot for multiple cultures, that embraces pluralism and syncretism, where sex is worshipped, where sports and the arts are pursued, and this place is both emulated and mocked. I will not be surprised if someone doesn't say America today. However, even though that is a good guess, the right answer is Corinth.

The reason I will do this is to show that Scripture is relevant today, because as Solomon states, "there is nothing new under the sun." This does not mean there are not new technologies, but that as far as humans go we all face the same issues that are created by sin, and we still pursue the same things that people did in the city of Corinth two thousand years ago.

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#### Natural Church Development

##### How Healthy is Your Church?

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.

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It has been suggested that the Corinthian church was one of the most gifted of churches. The problem that Paul was facing was that the church in Corinth was not hitting the target. Their actions were impeding a clear presentation of the gospel, which is the only solution for sin and moral collapse of a society. They were aiming at the wrong things, and Paul in his letters seeks to bring them, as it were, to the archery range and get things in focus.

One might argue that the church in America, while maybe not the most gifted, certainly has, like the current bow hunter, a great many tools for hitting the mark.

At this juncture I have all the equipment I need for bow hunting. Would I like to get a top of the line Matthews? As we say in Wisconsin, "yabetchya ya sure." However the issue comes back to, will it help me be a better shot? Not really.

My point in all of this is to suggest that we in America need to spend more time practicing the straight forward tell-it-like-it-is style of Paul and others: that you have a sin problem, you must repent, put to death the god of me and surrender your life to the Lordship of Christ, rather than looking for the latest "high tech prescriptions" and demographic surveys. It would seem that while people are responding to the gospel, the rate of response is not keeping pace with population. Yet areas of the world that lack the latest and greatest, people are responding in unprecedented numbers. So it is not a matter of the sophistication, it is a matter of being fundamentally sound with what we already have.

*Don Shaw*  
*Regional Director*  
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## **PASTOR CARE:** **The Perils of Business**

It is the middle of September, and once again the full program of the church is back in swing after the "summer lull." The start of school for children, the arrival of Labor Day, the resumption of

### **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](#)

### **Microsoft Software and More**

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$127 plus \$30 for the installation media. Other Microsoft products, Adobe and hardware are also available. 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 by  
State on our  
[website](#) under  
RESOURCES**

### **New Staff Background Checks**

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

MOPS, AWANA, small group Bible studies, etc., all signal the fact that Pastors, their families, and their congregations are going to be "busy, busy, busy"-or should I say "busier, busier, busier" for the next eight or nine months.

The busyness is brought about in response to many different motives and attitudes. Some of these are very noble and godly. Most pastors have a deep desire to fulfill God's calling for them of reaching the lost and making disciples and equipping God's people for ministry. Most pastors have something of a passion for meeting the needs of others. We call it "a servant's heart." We find it difficult to say "no" to anyone about more activities, especially if they are the latest "great new innovation" in ministry.

On the other hand, some of our motivations and attitudes are not so noble and godly. Many pastors also have a sense that they never can do enough to keep up with the expectations of their congregational leaders, or the success of another pastor in town or on the TV. While we all believe that churches should be growing, we seldom think the one we pastor is growing enough. Even when we throw in the caveat that growth is both spiritual and numerical, and not always visible, we still are not satisfied. Some of us are worried about whether we will keep our position, while others are concerned about the survival of the congregation itself, as old stalwart members age and die.

Regardless of whether the motive and attitudes are noble or less than noble, pastors and their families, and their congregations often suffer the destructive impacts and influences of the idea that more activity and programs equal greater success and effectiveness. Unfortunately, the truth may be that we are simply following the pattern of our culture and filling our lives and our schedules with more stuff that is just as unproductive and ineffective as what we "used to do." The worst of it may well be that we are still doing all that we "used to do" besides.

Probably most of us, if not all, are old enough to look back and observe that life is busier today than when we were younger. There are more options available on more days of the week for more hours of the day than anyone can possibly make use of. My wife and I saw an advertisement last evening for a TV cable service offering 260 channels at an amazing low monthly rate. The internet never slumbers or sleeps. The big-box and grocery stores are open 24/7. And the church has to compete somehow for the hearts and minds and souls of children, teen-agers, young adults, married couples, singles, middle aged and older adults, as well as meet the needs and

**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)

desires of older adults.

In the midst of all this demand/expectation for busyness, we need to keep our wits about us, and make sure that we take time out from busyness to take care of ourselves and our families. The pressures of no-stop, 24/7, all the time/every day can be very destructive and counterproductive. Very often the first place the damage takes place is in our personal relationship with God. Personal Bible reading and study, personal prayer and meditation, personal praise and worship slip away to be replaced by the professional activities required of us.

The next place the damage takes place is in our relationship with our wives. Meals together are missed. Walks in the woods and discussions of the day's activities are cut short or cut out. Even our deepest and most interpersonal moments of love making are replaced with something far less meaningful and valuable. If there are children in the family, whether still at home or in a different place (to say nothing of grand-children), those relationships suffer as well. We become absentee fathers: unaware of what the kids are thinking and feeling, what their struggles and joys are, who they are spending time with, and what it is that they are really doing on the internet or Twitter or Facebook.

Finally, our congregations will pay a price for our busyness as well. Not too long ago, I had the privilege of assisting a congregation in recovering from the damage resulting from their pastor's moral failure (not a CB church). In the midst of sharing experiences surrounding those sad events, several people remarked that they had sensed the pastor's diminishing personal involvement with and availability to them.

In Matthew 14 and Mark 6, we read of an incident in the lives of Jesus and the Disciples that is very instructive. They were busy about ministry to people, taking care of both physical and spiritual needs. Mark 6:30-32 says: "The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' So they went by themselves to a solitary place."

Jesus understood that toll being exacted on the disciples by their constant involvement in ministry. He knew, perhaps more profoundly than we imagine, how significant time alone with God the Father was both to Him and to them. He understood how

damaging the lack of proper food and proper rest would be to current and future ministry. And He was aware of how important their relationships with each other would be to the church in the days/months/years/centuries ahead.

The busy Fall schedule is already in place and the demands placed on all of us-pastors, our wives and families, and our congregations-are undoubtedly at record high levels. Please, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16 Jesus sending out the disciples). In the busyness guard your hearts and minds, and your relationships by reserving time and energy for your relationship with God, with your wife and children, and with the people of your congregation.

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

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## **YOUTH PASTORS: Planning Big Events**

Sometimes the thought of planning a big event can be overwhelming! If that is you, you may not want to tackle such an undertaking. But if you are up for the challenge, here are some tips that I have learned over the years! I have been organizing & planning an event in the Chicagoland area for 9 years called **Breakaway**. It is an all-nite teen event that usually has over 20 churches and over 600 people attending. Here are my tips:

- 1) **PRAY**. You never want to overlook the obvious! When starting a big event, sometimes the question is, "Is this what God wants me to do, or what I want to do?" Sometimes it can be both, but you don't want to undertake something that God doesn't really want you doing! Hudson Taylor once said, "God's work, done in God's way, never lacks God's supply."
- 2) **PLAN** early. Our event happens in March, & I usually start working on it at the end of August, beginning of September. You can't wait till the last minute to get a big event going, and expect to have youth groups jump on board, and businesses to catch the vision for what you want to accomplish.
- 3) **DEVELOP** a core group. You need to have multiple churches committed to coming to the event! They need to understand the vision, push it with their group & in the network of other youth ministries, and commit to help financially if the event doesn't reach

its break-even point!

4) DETERMINE the purpose of the event. If it is outreach, bill it as that. If it is spiritual growth make that clear. Consider your target audience when making decisions about what you include. Be purposeful, and unashamedly promote the event for what you want to accomplish. We have had suggestions that didn't fit with our purpose, and early on we tried to include those ideas so as not to offend the person who suggested it. Now we just ask the question, does this help us reach our purpose, or draw us away from our purpose! FOCUS!

5) MAIL out the date, brief description and contact information AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!! By the end of September to the beginning of October I usually at least have a post card out so other churches can start planning around that date. I mail to about 130 churches, and we usually have about 25 come. So for me, less than 20% attend! When I am invited to big events, I refuse to even consider an event if I am first hearing about it and the date less than 1 month ahead of time! That doesn't give me enough time to promote it to my teens and get it in my monthly calendar!!!

6) ASK for a deal! Our event takes place in the middle of the night when most of these businesses are usually closed! Help them to realize it is extra money they can make! Be realistic, but ask for special pricing! The volume of people may make it worthwhile for them! Some places will give you a flat rental fee, so if you have more people, the cost per person goes down! Set a realistic target for how many will attend, and divide your cost per venue, by your target amount of people to figure how much per person this will cost you.

7) PERSONAL CONTACT is always the best way to get other groups to attend! Make sure your core group is willing to personally invite other groups to come! You may need to make contact to give specifics for the event, but others need to say, "I'm bringing my group; you should think about coming , too!"

8) EXPECT A FINAL COUNT 1 WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT! Nobody wants to send a teen away and so we do everything to let them come at the last minute. Encourage groups to set a deadline 2 weeks in advance; then if someone comes "late" wanting to still come, you can work that out! For Breakaway, churches have to call me 1 week in advance with a final number, so that I can order pizza & buy pop and get hockey tickets. To add a couple the night of I can usually do, but I couldn't add another 100! There wouldn't be

enough to eat!

9) REGISTER GROUPS ON A COMPUTER! I have created an Excel file that automatically adds the cost up for each church! Color-code it so the only squares someone has to fill in is white! It really helps make registration go quickly! If you are not a computer whiz, find someone in your church who can help you do this!

10) PROVIDE A LEADER'S BOOK If your event is at various places, make sure you have maps in the leader book! Every piece of information someone bringing a group needs for that night ought to be in the book. Our event has a rotation schedule where all the churches are divided into 3 groups and every 2 hours they rotate. They need to know what their rotation schedule is, where they are supposed to be, and how to get from point A to Point B. When they get to the bowling alley, I have pre-assigned bowling lanes for each group (based upon their final count from a week ago J) Include your cell number so if they run into any problems that can reach you!

This is not an exhaustive list, but it's at least a few pointers from someone who has over the years gleaned some "knowledge" from the school of hard knocks.

*Rev. Duane L. Keleman  
1st Baptist Church of Lansing, Illinois  
Asst. Pastor of Youth & Ministry Development*

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## **Retirement Celebration for Russ & Lois Paulson**

Friends of Pastor Russ and Lois Paulson are invited to join the family at Faith Baptist Church of Park Rapids, Minnesota, for a retirement celebration! After 53 years of service to Christ in Oregon, Uganda, Kenya, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, Russ and Lois are entering a new phase of service to Christ. Most recently Russ has served as the Associate Pastor of Visitation and Senior Ministries at Park Rapids. They are officially retiring and moving to JAARS, Waxhaw, North Carolina.

Russ and Lois have impacted countless lives during their years of

faithful service to our Lord and we would be honored to have you join us for this special time of recognition on Sunday evening, September 20, 2009, at Faith Baptist Church from 4 - 8 P.M. Schedule for the event is as follows:

4:00 - 6:00 P.M. Open House for Community  
6:00 - 7:00 P.M. Recognition Program  
7:00 - 8:00 P.M. Personal Fellowship & thanks to Russ and Lois  
We would be delighted to have you join us for this event! However, if you are not able to attend we invite you to send a personal greeting to be included in the evening. Postcards, letters, and emails are welcome. Addresses are included below.

*Together with you in His Kingdom work,  
(for the Family at Faith Baptist Church)  
Pastor Martin Giese, Sr. Pastor*

Send notes of greeting and encouragement to:  
Paulson Retirement Celebration  
Faith Baptist Church  
1505 South Park Ave., Park Rapids, MN 56470  
218-732-1404

email greetings to: [faithbaptist@unitelc.com](mailto:faithbaptist@unitelc.com)

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## Northern MN Pastors Retreat

If you are a pastor in Minnesota or Wisconsin, you are invited to the **First Annual 24 Hour Pastors' Retreat** at [Camp Lebanon](#) in Upsala, MN (about 2 hours north of the Twin Cities), September 27-28. The cost is only \$26 and includes three meals and lodging. Contact Steve Daggett, 218-224-2542, or Mark Waller, 218-732-1404 by September 21.

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## Tip for Church Websites

Remember to obtain permission for photos, artwork, text, music or other items obtained from the internet or other sources. Be sure the original author understands their material will be posted on your website.

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## **Giese Main Speaker at Pastors & Christian Workers Retreat in November**

Marty Giese, Senior Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Park Rapids, MN and co-author of the book "Leading Through Change" will be the speaker for a Pastors and Christian Workers Retreat in northern Wisconsin, November 8-10.

Brad Eidsen, Resident Program Director at [Camp Forest Springs](#) lists "Three reasons why you should join this retreat."

- Rest and relaxation in a premier camp environment
- Fellowship and group interaction with peers that understand your context
- Leadership training that applies to your ministry setting.

You can expect:

-- Presentations that respect the multiple challenges of ministry in Town and Country churches. The issue is not "pro small church/anti big church" nor "pro big church/anti small church." But "pro effective church." (Numerical size is a far less significant issue, and is typically a by-product of effectiveness + contextual potential.)

-- Emphasis on effectiveness in leadership and ministry (not numbers) Develop a fresh perspective on your current ministry - see its potential and move from faithfulness to fruitfulness.

-- Professional training and personal encouragement  
Develop sensitivity to context, effectiveness in ministry, and find encouragement for your soul.

If you or someone you know would like to register for this event, visit the Camp Forest Springs [website](#) to register, or call the camp at 715-427-5241.

### **Upcoming Events**

<b>Northern MN Pastors Retreat</b> Camp Lebanon, Upsala MN	September 27-28	Call Steve Daggett 218-224-2542 or Mark Waller 218-732-1404
<b>Iowa CBA Annual Meeting</b>	October 12 & 13	Call Phil Butler 515-674-3752
<b>Wisconsin Pastors Cluster</b> Oak Forest Center, Frederick WI	October 12 & 13	Call Eldon Carlson 715-568-1979

**Pastors & Christian Workers Retreat with Marty Giese** [Info & Registration](#)  
Camp Forest Springs                      November 8-10  
Westboro WI

**Cluster Leadership Training**    November 10 & 11                      Lansing, Illinois  
with Bill Hoyt

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### 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--Jackson MN YOUTH PASTOR (part-time)
- First Baptist Church--Elk Horn IA
- First Baptist Church--Breckenridge MN

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### Contact Our Office

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

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