

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

September 2011

The Best Kept Secret

D.L. Moody once remarked, "I believe Satan exists for two reasons: first, the Bible says so, and second, I've done business with him." Whether we know it or not, we have all done business with Satan. In light of our present world and society a more penetrating question might be, "Have you ever done business for Satan?"

Vance Havner preached: "God is the Great I AM. Satan is the great I AM NOT; and he is never happier than when he has convinced people that he is nonexistent."

Terrorist leader, Osama bin Laden, was killed in his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan on Sunday evening, May 1, 2011. The Navy SEAL team that killed him was made of the best-trained troops in the world known as the SEAL Team Six. They are known as the "Naval Special Warfare Development Group" and they specialize in under-cover operations. Their primary goal is to attack the enemy and remain undetected. For a few minutes, I am going to talk about a different kind of enemy and warfare. I am doing so because I see his under-cover operation and undetected attacks against the saints of God in His church.

What is the main arena for such spiritual warfare? We know for a fact that Satan attacks us through circumstances. Right? He comes to assault our homes, our jobs, our businesses, our schools, our health and even our personal problems in order to tempt, discourage and endanger us. While these covert tactics are true to his nature as our spiritual enemy, I don't believe they are his main field of conflict.

Satan's best kept secret is that he attacks us through relationships. In

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marriage, the husband can be the primary tool of Satan against his wife. Against children, Satan can use the parents or vice versa. In friendships, he will use us to attack those who are close. In the realm that I serve as Director, Satan's primary weapon against the local church is through other believers. I see this all too often as I travel into churches throughout our region. Clearly, the enemy wants to defeat us through our relationships and he also wants to use us to defeat other believers as well.

The relational conflicts in scripture are too many to mention, but take for example Judas and Jesus. "Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father . . . During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him." (John 13:1-2) When Satan wanted to strike out at Christ, he didn't use the great Roman army. He used a relationship. The Apostle Paul invited Barnabas to join him on a tour to the cities where he preached the Gospel. In turn, Barnabas asked John Mark to join their trip. Due to a previous incident, Paul had lost confidence in John Mark, so Acts 15:39 states the problem, "And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him . . ." What was Satan's favorite tactic here? It wasn't a difference of doctrine or even philosophy that separated two brothers, but a relationship.

By the time this article is read throughout the churches in our region, as a nation we will have commemorated the 10th anniversary of the tragic "9/11" terrorist attack. As horrific as this event was, Al-Qaeda has nothing on our spiritual enemy. The church is under attack and it is not so covert anymore.

Satan's primary arena in warfare is relationships right in the church. He is using lust, immorality, slander, gossip, bitterness, anger and much more to tear down those precious relationships between our brothers and sisters. My challenge to us all is that we would simply BE ON THE ALERT. Too many of us have been wounded by friendly fire. We need to stand up to our enemy and claim all our victories in Christ. "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor 15:57) As the victories come, let's watch God work in His church.



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Customized demographic information available about your church location. This is a free service for all NCCBA churches. Call the office at 715-538-2298

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CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by State on our website under RESOURCES

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MEDIA RESOURCES

Father, Son & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles & Relevance

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YOUTH PASTORS: Too Much of a Good Thing

Early in my ministry, I thought I could never have enough Christian peer pressure in my student's lives, but now as I see the struggle of students around me, I am not so sure. I scarcely can believe these words are coming out of my mouth, because our students are constantly being bombarded with thoughts from this world which seek to pull us farther from our creator. Whatever the intentions of those around them, I am seeing more and more students, whose relationship to their creator is being strained because of the behavioral expectations placed upon them.

Context is king...

Like any good Bible student we have learned that "context and usage determines meaning"! This concept is particularly true when I look at how my ministries have varied over the years. Early in my ministry most of my students came from non-christian, un-churched homes, where in contrast nearly all of my current students come from strong, generational Christian homes. Anyone who looks at this context can see that we are talking about dramatically different amounts of Christian peer pressure being applied upon these students. However the question that I have struggled with these last few years is how does that Christian peer pressure actually draw our students away from their creator.

The Problem of Problems...

The core of any peer pressure is behavioral change. We all know that behavioral change that comes as a result of external force is at best skin deep and ultimately changes on a whim. This is why clothing fads come and go, new ipods are bought in droves and our students listen to whatever new music appears on their horizon. We naturally know that core values of an individual are exhibited through behavioral patterns. The problem of Christian peer pressure is that behavioral change is emphasized before an individual's core values change. This unbalance causes a tension between who the student is and how they act. Since this tension is directly connected with how they interact with God, this creates a wedge between the student and his or her creator. Also since the behavior is only skin deep, once the Christian peer pressure is removed, the external behavior

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realigns with internal core values and the student no longer "acts" like a Christian.

The Solution of our Savior...

To overcome the tension of differing inner core values and outer behaviors, we must teach like our savior taught. Jesus' ministry emphasized a change in one's core values before he called for an external behavior change. This can be easily seen when Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus did not address her issue of adultery first but he spoke to her need of eternal life first. Then he validated his statements through an intimate knowledge of her personal life. Finally he talked to her about behavioral kinds of things, like where she should worship God. The result was a woman whose core being was changed and as a result her behavior changed. Simply put Jesus worked from the inside out.

Summary

As we move forward in our ministries and we call students to life changes, let us follow Christ's example in challenging inner core values before we call for external outer change. If our students feel pressured to act a certain way around us or at church, it could be actually deterring them from connecting with God. Let us follow Christ's example and challenge the whole person, for we know where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Jason Quick, State Youth Fellowship of Illinois www.syfil.org



Sarah and Jason Quick serve as WorldVenture Missionaries in the Philippines. Jason serves as theater manager and youth pastor to missionary kids at Faith Academy, while Sarah serves and mentors

other mothers in the community around her. Together they are raising two of God's children in their home, Tirzah (almost 2 months old) and Ezra (2 years old).

Pastor Care:

Where Is Your Treasure?

(We have all heard it said: God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. We may even have said it ourselves in various situations, usually about something that is unexplainable apart from

the notion that God must have been involved. And usually it is about something beneficial-something we rather like. Recently God has been using unusually strong "mysterious ways" to bring a truth from His Word into sharp focus.)

Since the beginning of July, God has been at work in the lives of the Bell family to teach/remind us about the significance of Matthew 6:19-21.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

He used four different events to focus my attention on this passage for His glory and hopefully the eternal benefit of others. I am telling about them now, not to focus attention on us, but rather to indicate that our choices about the meanings we give to events and circumstances are crucially important to the effectiveness of our ministry.

The first event involved our son, daughter-in-law and four grandchildren. They visited us from northern Virginia over the 4th of July. They intended to leave for home on Friday evening July 8th, traveling all night to reach home Saturday morning. Friday morning our son received a phone call from their next-door neighbor, informing him that their home had been trashed by a water leak in a second-story bathroom. Much of the first floor and basement had been severely water-soaked and was beyond salvaging. While still trying to imagine the extent of the damage, all seven of the adults involved voiced praise and thanks to God that the situation was known before they arrived home Saturday morning.

A second event was the experience of one of our daughters being rear-ended while stopped at a traffic light in her first-ever new car only months old. She was not injured and the car has been repaired. But she, and we will never be the same.

The third event took place on Friday, August 12th. My wife Sandy had gone to Virginia to be Grandmother-in-residence for a week, caring for three grand children in their suites hotel while our daughter-in-law and oldest granddaughter were in Guatemala on a mission trip and our son went to work. She flew back home on Friday afternoon and I picked her up at the airport. As we drove in our driveway, I clicked open the garage door and noticed that the door

from the garage into the house was open. My thought was, "I know I was in a hurry when I left, but I don't think I left that door open." As we drove into the garage I noticed off to the left that the back door into the garage had been broken in and was off its hinges. We discovered that we had been robbed-mostly things of small monetary value but great sentimental worth. Our quiet evening together at home was transformed into one filled with Sheriff's Deputies and investigators. Although we were sad and perturbed, we were also calm and at peace.

The fourth event was planned for the next day. It was a Memorial Service for my wife's Aunt Francis, who had died 45 days short of 100 years old. As the resident clergy (different from personal pastor) of the family, I was asked to give a short devotional comment emphasizing salvation and eternal life. I had no idea what I was going to say although I had worked on it for some time. I woke up early that Saturday morning with Matthew 6:19 running through my mind. I found myself praising God that our most valuable "assets" are not earthly and vulnerable, but heavenly and indestructible-eternal. I also found myself thanking God for allowing us to have and enjoy those priceless material objects for awhile.

At the Memorial Service, these unfortunate, unhappy experiences formed the counter-point to Aunt Francis' life and death. She spent many years serving others as a Registered Nurse, doing night-time private duty so families could sleep and running a nursing care facility. And that was a living out of her faith in Jesus Christ as her savior. She now was enjoying the eternal fruits of her labors, laying her reward at the feet of Jesus. The concluding observation was that we can each have that same experience by placing our faith in Him.

In each of these events, the outcome was determined not simply by the event itself, but rather also by the meaning each of us gave to the event, the feelings we attached to that event, and the actions we took in response to each event. I am humbly grateful to God for each of these events, and for the manner in which He wove them together in our family members' lives to bring honor and glory to Himself.

As I did during the Memorial Service for Aunt Francis, I leave you with the question, "Where is your treasure?" That is where your heart is also!

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT
Stillman Valley, Illinois

Chaplaincy: From Pike's Peak to the Dead Sea - 15,503-ft drop...

Three Colorado National Guard chaplains, Army Col. Andy Meverden, Joint Forces Headquarters, Air Force Lt. Col. Ron Prorise, 140th Fighter Wing, and CPT-Promotable Steve Satterfield, 169th Fires Brigade, left the Rocky Mountains to learn more about the people, language, culture and religion of their Middle-East counterparts on the eastern bank of the River Jordan.



Colorado's State Partnership with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan formally began in 2004. After many exchange visits between various units, both Army and Air, a senior Jordanian military official suggested that Colorado's chaplains and Jordan's imams ("imam" is the common name for Muslim clergy) should get together to learn more about each other's religion. Thus began the CONG chaplain-imam exchange program in 2005.

Jordan has the largest and most developed military chaplaincy in the Muslim world, with 268 imams, and 8 imams at the rank of brigadier general. Their senior chaplain is called "Mufti," and is the Director of Ifta'a (Moral Guidance). Like U.S. forces, Jordanian imams accompany their units that deploy in peace-keeping and humanitarian missions around the world. Their hospital unit in Afghanistan currently has two chaplains assigned for the spiritual and moral support of both hospital patients and staff members.

Learning from each other

So what do you get when you put U.S. Christian and Jordanian Muslim clergy together for a week? The answer: a lot! First, they taught us about topics relating to key issues confronting the Middle East. The Mufti gave a lecture on "Violence and Extremism in the Middle East." He defined "extremists" as "people or groups who believe that they alone are on the right path - leaving the middle and walking on the edge." This could be political, religious, environmental, etc. "Extremism is unbalanced," the Mufti said. "It's based on misinterpretation of God's sayings (the Koran, the Bible, etc.) and the cause of all the world's problems."



Another briefing focused on "The Koranic Roots of the Amman Message." The Amman Message, published in 2004, was an official statement issued by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, intended to rebuke and counter the extreme message and terrorist activities of radical Islam and Al Qaeda. It was also used to promote a moderate, tolerant message of true Islam. This message, reflected in the governance of Jordan, was championed during the 50-year reign of the Late King Hussein, and continues to be the guiding principle of his son, King Abdullah II. These two topics demonstrated the moderate orientation and positive leadership role Jordan seeks to play in the Middle East and Muslim world.

These presentations and ensuing discussions provided us first-hand insight into the hearts and minds of our Jordanian partners. Follow-up conversations during the breaks and other planned cultural activities deepened the insights and relationships we came to develop.

We also had some things to share. At our first meeting, I gave a

briefing on "Deployment Cycle Ministry." His presentation focused on the spiritual needs of Soldiers, Airmen and their families prior to, during, and after deployment. He also gave a short, illustrated talk on "Maharamona," the Afghan reconciliation ceremony he discovered and utilized on deployment in Afghanistan. Later in the week, Chaplain Prorise spoke on "Ministry to Wounded," based on a tour of duty at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. His topic, visual aids and enthusiastic delivery captured the hearts and minds of our Jordanian counterparts as we discussed common ministry issues and challenges. As we dialogued, we discovered a number of common ministry concerns. Valuable training topics recommended for future visits include; compassion fatigue, chaplain supervision, and casualty operations. Most important, we discovered that the Jordanian imams were excited to read actual biblical texts in Arabic that illustrated the points made in the briefing. By trial and error, we learned more effective ways to communicate with our Jordanian counterparts.

As the week progressed, we realized that there was much about the Middle East, Jordan and Islam that we didn't know. It also became apparent that there were some gaps in their understanding about us, the U.S. military and Christianity in the U.S. The Jordanians' view of Christianity is limited to Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Coptic branches. They have almost no understanding of Protestant beliefs and practices. Since "Protestantism" comprises 30 to 50 percent of U.S. military religious preference, we offered to help them learn more. They expressed interest in visiting a Protestant church in Colorado. I suggested a visit to Colorado in winter, so I could take them for a ride on my snowmobiles, but they balked. The Mufti in clear English said, "It is too cold!" One imam said he would like to try skiing! Perhaps we can take them to Camp Hale, the Colorado World War II training site of the 10th Mountain Division, on our way to the slopes!

Discussions revolved around the nature of God: Do Christians believe in one or three gods? We discussed the 'Triunity' of God from our Christian perspective; and using Matthew's Gospel account of Jesus' baptism at Bethany as a reference point, clarifying some misconceptions. We also discussed the Muslim standard of truth-telling - "All Muslims must tell the truth" - our Jordanian interpreter said. "Except in three instances. One, when your wife/wives ask if you love her/them, always say 'yes,' even if you don't; two, to facilitate reconciliation between two parties; and three, to your Enemy." So, being the senior member of the group, I leaned across the table and asked, "Are we your friends, allies ... or enemies?" They discussed the question among themselves and replied, "You are our

friends."

This is part of an article provided by Chaplain COL Andy Meverden Chaplain for the Joint Forces in the State of Colorado. They toured many historical places during the visit and had good dialogue together.

This story shows the different scope of ministry chaplains have. If you want to know more about our CBAmerica Chaplaincy program you can contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org. We need your prayers and support as we minister to a wide variety of people.

I would appreciate your prayers. I am part of a group of Chaplain leaders from a variety of faith groups working on establishing a new project alongside the Alliance Defense Fund called "Chaplain Alliance." We are working to have a nation where all chaplains, and those whom they serve, freely exercise their God-given and constitutionally protected religious liberties without fear of reprisal. This is in opposition to the recently repeal of the Don't Ask Don't Tell action by Congress. We are walking into enemy territory and need your prayers.

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Twin Cities Cluster Group

September 19, 10:00 am
River of Life Church, Hastings, MN
Contact Steve Schoenwald, 651-437-3965

Michigan Cluster

September 19, 10:00 am
First Baptist Church, Spring Lake MI
Contact Mike Wetzig, 231-853-6021

Central Illinois Cluster

September 20, 11:00 am
Bethany Baptist Church, Edwards, IL
Contact Scott Boerckel, 309-454-3833

Iowa Cluster

September 21, 12 noon

Noelridge Park Church, Cedar Rapids IA

Contact Jay Jentink, 319-396-3233

Wisconsin/NE Minnesota

September 22, noon at Perkins, Eau Claire WI

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

SW Minnesota/NW Iowa

October 11, 11:00 am

At Steve DeKok's, Jackson MN

Contact Steve for directions, 507-840-0773

Northwest Minnesota/North Dakota

October 25, 9:30 am

Faith Baptist Church, Park Rapids, MN

Contact Steve Daggett, 701-520-5399

The list of Pastor Cluster Leaders on our website can be viewed by clicking [here](#)

Iowa CB Annual Meeting

October 10 & 11, Colfax, Iowa

Call Phil Butler for information, 515-674-3752

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- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)
- Hillcrest Baptist Church--Muscatine IA
- First Baptist Church--Bradford IL
- Keystone Baptist Church--Chicago IL
- Wildwood Baptist Church--East Moline IL
- Monona Oaks Community Church--Madison WI

Contact Our Office

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