

October 2014



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION



From the Director

"Now What Do You Do?"

It happened! The infamous call that tragedy has struck the family. In an upset voice a good friend said, "Pat, I have some terrible news. Larry Rowland from Rockford Baptist Church took his life today." My heart sank and I was filled with instant grief. I said to myself, "Not Larry! He is a rock! He is such a strong leader among the Michigan CB pastors." Well reality hit and now what do you do?



It is with much sadness that I share the painful news that Senior Pastor Larry Rowland of Rockford Baptist Church in Rockford, MI tragically died on September 11, 2014. For reasons that are not completely clear, our brother lost all hope in his life. In July, he was diagnosed in the latter stages of terminal cancer. At the Memorial Service on September 16, the family shared that he was suffering from crippling back spasms, chronic pain, sleep deprivation, depression and the influence of heavy cancer medication.

In a letter written to his family, Larry gave us a glimpse of his truest self when he said, "My eternal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is unshakable. God has graciously given me a realization of heaven through this entire physical ordeal. I am trusting in Christ's atonement alone for my eternal destiny and believe God's promise that my sins are under His blood." For those of us who knew Larry, it was clear he was a loving husband to his wife Sandy, his five sons, five grandchildren, extended family and many friends from the three beloved churches where he faithfully served. Larry will be deeply missed among all of us who served with him in the North Central region. Let us continue to pray for Sandy, his boys, his daughters-in-law, grandchildren and the many who loved him.

We know Larry served among the Michigan cluster of pastors for many years and his legacy will not be soon forgotten. He had an active part in his CB Pastor Cluster Group and impacted his colleagues as a visible leader. Though this was true, he clearly had debilitating personal struggles that he was not able to share with his friends. When I received the news about Larry on the evening of

September 11, I was traveling to visit some pastors within the region. Several were deeply discouraged. One was undergoing marriage counseling due to the pressures of ministry. Two were ready to resign on the spot. I was so glad to hear their hearts, but it reminded me clearly of these truths from scriptures as I processed their struggles.

- **TRUST IN THE LORD** - As Pastors, we also need to put our trust in the Lord. Psalm 43:5 says, "Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God." Pastors need "hope in God", just like everyone else in our churches.
- **REMEMBER TO PRAY** - We also need to remember to pray when facing debilitating struggles. Paul encourages us in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." In your personal prayer time, the Holy Spirit can bring a calmness to your soul. He can relieve that tension that you have kept bottled up.
- **LIVE BY THE DAY** - We are constantly hearing the problems of other people in our churches, but where are we to go when problems come? Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Living by the day leaves no room for worry and when we share our own problems, God provides a calm and confidence.
- **REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS** - The prophet Jeremiah in Lamentations 3: 22,23 declared, "The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Larry lost all hope because of his present

circumstances. Testifying to the faithfulness of God in our daily lives can help us overcome that temptation to give up.

- **BE AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE** - As pastors, we all have had those moments when we feel alone and isolated. Having a keen awareness of God's presence is a most helpful antidote to this lonely road. The good words of Hebrews 13:5,6 helps, "For He Himself has said, " I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID."
- **ASK FOR HELP** - Larry belonged to a strong Pastoral Cluster in MI and actively participated. Sadly he did not ask for help when it was needed the most. Moments after I heard the news of Larry's death, I wept because I know of other pastors who are in crisis. Brothers, please ask for help if you are hurting and need someone to hear your heart. Please get involved in a Cluster near you and we will be here to support you.

I just heard a great song by *Sidewalk Prophets* entitled, "*Save My Life*". It speaks well of our journey as pastors. Here is a portion of the song for you to enjoy,

*Tell me what I need to hear
Tell me that I'm not forgotten
Show me there's a God
Who can be more than all I've ever wanted
'Cause right now I need a little hope
I need to know that I'm not alone
Maybe God is calling you tonight
To tell me something
That might save my life*

*I'm the pastor at your church
For all these years you've listened to my words
You think I know all the answers*

But I've got doubts and questions too

*Behind this smile I'm really just like you
Afraid and tired and insecure*

*If you look me right in the eye
Would you see the real me inside
Would you take the time to . . .*

*Excerpt from 'Save My Life' by Sidewalk Prophets,
printed with permission of Ben McDonald.*

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

Pastor's Wives. . . *Just for You*

"Tune In To God's Word"



This past weekend Pat and I drove to South Dakota to visit my sister and her husband. What a sensory packed weekend it was! The colors of the leaves along the way were absolutely gorgeous. It was fun to see the fields covered with bright orange pumpkins and orchards with trees drooping because of the weight of those red apples. Part of the reason we went was to make applesauce. Together we put away 46 qts of applesauce and 16 qts of apple slices. As you can imagine, the house smelled wonderful all day. There really isn't anything better than eating warm applesauce.

As we head into Thanksgiving we really do have much to be thankful for. I can't help but think of the things I love this time of the year. I'm determined that I am going to be more aware of all the things that I enjoy because of my ability to see, smell, hear, taste and touch. There are so many verses in the Bible that show how God enjoys us. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. (Philippians 4:18) But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord,

I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. (Micah 7:7) May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14) The list goes on and on..... I encourage all of us this holiday season to really be tuned in to His Word.

This month let's focus on Godly life as we pray for our husbands. I don't know about you but I could use prayers in this area too. Here are some verses to get us started.....

I pray that my husband will present his body as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to You, God.

Romans 12:1

I pray that because my husband is in You, Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

I pray that You, God, will satisfy my husband's mouth with good things so that his youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 103:5

I pray that You, God, will open my husband's eyes, that he may see wondrous things from Your law.

Psalms 119:18

Every month when I share verses with you that we can pray for our husbands, I wish so much we could actually meet in person and pray together. Another thing I wish we could do is get together for a cookie exchange. Also not possible since we live in ten different states. So here is my idea let's do it electronically. The Christmas season is always a busy time for all of us. Wouldn't it be fun to share some recipes or decorating tips that we have used and found to be simple and good. Please send your ideas to me at

kjphinney@gmail.com We will include them in next month's newsletter so that you will have them in time for all your holiday entertaining.

May you "sense" God's presence all around you this month.

Karen Phinney, Wife of Regional Director

Thoughts From a Cluster Leader

"Warts and All"

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10

We recently completed a Men's Sunday School class using Patrick Morley's book, *The Man in the Mirror*. Though a bit dated at times, this book still offers men some clearly defined goals and guidelines for Biblical manhood.

One class stands out in my memory: the Sunday we covered Chapter 10- "Friends: Risks and Rewards". As we worked through the discussion questions we came to this one: "Do you have anyone with whom you can be vulnerable? What would it take for you to be vulnerable with a friend?" There was a very long pause after this question was read. Our usually talkative men seemed strangely reticent when it came to the subject of vulnerability. In fact, looking back, I now realize it was a perfect illustration of one of our masculine traits. All the guys in that room knew that vulnerability within proper boundaries was a good thing. They also knew that they had not really made it a priority. But they were reluctant to admit that this was an area of weakness in their lives. Why? Because admitting weakness would mean being vulnerable!

As a pastor, I encounter people every day who put me on a pedestal. They see me as morally virtuous, unfailingly Godly, and possessing every single one of the fruits of the Spirit! I'm always ready to listen, and always patient when

interrupted. They watch how I talk to my wife and how I mow my lawn. They listen to my sermons and take notes. But the real danger is not that I will fail to somehow live up to their expectations. It is that I will start to believe I really AM that wonderful! Or that I will somehow feel the need to BE all that they expect me to be. That's a LOT of pressure!

That's why we pastors, of all people, need friends who really know us. Not just "accountability partners" who ask us scripted questions that we can rationalize away. But real friends, people we can trust with who we actually are, warts and all. Please, brothers, do yourself a favor and phone a friend! Vulnerability doesn't come naturally to most of us, but we have to start somewhere, right? If you see this as a shameless plug for Pastor's Clusters, then so be it. But even if you can't "find the time" for, or overcome the distance to a cluster, take the time to be real with a fellow pastor even over the phone. Remember: he's a pastor. He's not likely to be shocked by anything you tell him! And he may have some burdens of his own to unload.



Steve Daggett
Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND

CBAmerica Chaplaincy

"Chaplaincy Outside the Box Ministry"

One of our chaplains has traveled to Africa several times now to minister in churches, a Bible College and a University. Chaplain Dr. Tom Pousche returned the first time with the names of several African men who were interested in serving as chaplains in their communities. On this visit Tom was able to pray

over them and present them with their ecclesiastical letters of endorsement from CBAmerica Chaplaincy.

Chaplain Tom Pousche is now an International speaker and professor. Tom just returned home several days ago from Nairobi, Kenya (Africa). Since leaving the U.S. on August 6, 2014, he spoke at 8 different churches, 2 major conferences, plus presenting endorsement letters to 2 new CBAmerica Chaplains (Lord willing a 3rd Chaplain to be endorsed upon his return to Nairobi in February of 2015). Tom had the strategic opportunity to be international professor at Africa Nazarene University & Manna Bible Institute. He says "It is nice to be home . . . but can't wait to return in February to continue my role as a Servant-Leader. God is GOOD!"



After each conference day, everyone could choose a workshop to attend. My workshop was filled with more than 200 eager students wanting to learn more about 'Marriage & Family.' Each session lasted for about 2 hours. It was one of the best August 18-21st, workshops I have ever facilitated.

I was blessed to be speaking at Kabarak University along with Dr. John Stewart. This was my 2nd major conference filled with almost 2,000 people making up PEFA (Pentecostal Evangelical Fellowship

of Africa). These are the most wonderful people to fellowship with at any given time.

Praying God's blessing on Chaplain Jared (his wife, Caroline by his side) on Sunday morning. What a blessing to see his town and church stand behind his 'Irrevocable Calling to the Chaplaincy.'



For more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact:

Al Russell

Director of Chaplaincy, CBAmerica

218-776-2813 or chapruess@cbamerica.org.

Youth Pastor to Youth Pastor

"Sharing the Good News"

In the Youth Ministries here at First Baptist Church of New Richmond we like to use the 5 Purposes as a tool in doing Ministry. If you are not familiar with them, or if you are, just to refresh your memory the 5 Purposes are: Worship, Ministry, Evangelism, Discipleship, and Fellowship. Today I would like to share with you about the purpose of Evangelism and ask the question: Are you doing Evangelism within your Youth Ministry?



A common misconception about Evangelism is that people in the church often want non-believers to come to church already cleaned up. The definition of Evangelism is "sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those who don't yet have a personal relationship with Him no matter how they look or where they are right now. Evangelism is a process and often takes time through building relationships. As Christians, or as I like to say Christ Followers, we must be a model of the Purpose of Evangelism if we want others to see the importance of it. Non-believing adults, students, and children can quickly pick up on when they are not welcome

in the church or by believers.

So what do the Scriptures say about the purpose of Evangelism? Matthew 28:19-20 says "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." So what does this mean for us and the purpose of Evangelism? If you look at the first part of this section of scripture we find "go and make disciples". Many interpret this as a command statement, the Lord is telling us to go and make disciples. So what is the first step in becoming a disciple? You have to have a personal relationship with the Lord. If you didn't, then why would you ever want to become a disciple? A common interpretation of this section of scripture is that God is calling us to evangelism.

Lets take a look at a few other scriptures and see why the Purpose of Evangelism is important. Romans 3:23 says "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Romans 6:23 says "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." These verses are telling us that all men are lost. 1 Peter 3:18 says "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit." Romans 5:8 says "But God demonstrates his own love for

us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." These verses are telling us that Christ died for you and me. Acts 3:19 says "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." 2 Corinthians 7:10 says "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." These verses are telling us that we must repent. Just a side note, true repenting means to turn our back on sin and start walking in the direction of God. Romans 10:9-10 says "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. John 1:12 says "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." These verses are telling us that we must believe. Taking the verses we looked at in Matthew 28 and all the verses we just looked at, we seem to come to the conclusion that it is important for us to receive the gift of salvation, but we also see that once we receive that gift that the Lord places an importance on us sharing with others about the gift we have received. Simply put, most of us at some point in our lives have been Evangelized to, which was someone being obedient to the scriptures and sharing about the gift that God gave them. We are called through the scriptures not to make converts to Christ but to be obedient and share about the gift that God has given us to everyone we interact with. God does the changing of the hearts and minds not you. Again, we are to be obedient in sharing what He has done for us. That is why the Purpose of Evangelism is so important and why we share the Gospel with students every week. Is Evangelism an important part of your Youth Ministry and are you doing it?

Humbly,
Pastor Adam Zappetta
Asst. Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries
First Baptist Church of New Richmond

#SPOTLIGHT



Getting to Know You-

"An Interview With Pastor Joe Pryor"



Joe was born in Ravenna, Ohio approximately 40 minutes south of Cleveland. He has lived in northeast Ohio all of his life. He married his high school sweetheart, Kelly, over 17 years ago. Together they have two great boys who are quite busy. Caleb is 15 and enjoys playing golf and snowboarding. Wyatt is 13 and

enjoys playing basketball and baseball.

After a long day, Joe likes to spend time with his wife and sons. They enjoy playing games, making dinner or just hanging out - it's always nice to come home. Along with spending time with his family Joe has a wide variety of interests and enjoys doing a number of things. Basketball is a favorite and he also likes to do graphic & web design.

When Joe was a junior in high school he felt God's call in his life. God made it clear that being in full-time ministry in the context of a local church was how Joe had been gifted and where God was leading him. Joe loves what he

does. He gets excited when he sees God break through in a person's life. That moment when you know that what you have been teaching makes sense and is life-transforming.

Joe has been the Senior Pastor of Northampton Bible Church in Cuyahoga Falls, Oh for just a few months, but prior to this he had been in full time ministry for about 16 years. Youth and family ministries were where his focus had been up until this current position.

There's been a lot of transition and change in the life of Northampton Bible Church over the past months. The people have come together, to love each other and get excited together for the work



of God in and through them. Unity is growing. God is transforming. They are seeking TOGETHER.

*Information submitted by Pastor Joe Pryor
Northampton Bible Church, Cuyahoga Falls, OH*

What's Going on in Your Church?

On June 24, 2013 a small tornado blew through Muscatine and Calvary Church was in its path. In seventeen seconds, our entire facility sustained significant damage and was rendered unusable. In an instant our course was altered.



Our church body has responded in so many ways. Our people have volunteered countless hours to help with the cleanup and reconstruction. The first twelve weeks we gathered outdoors for worship in a large tent in our parking lot. We currently set chairs weekly to hold our services in our new Family Life Center, which was rebuilt, repurposed, and upgraded after the storm. This facility is already proving to be a valuable space for us to gather, hold events, and reach out into our community. Ministry opportunities have already grown!



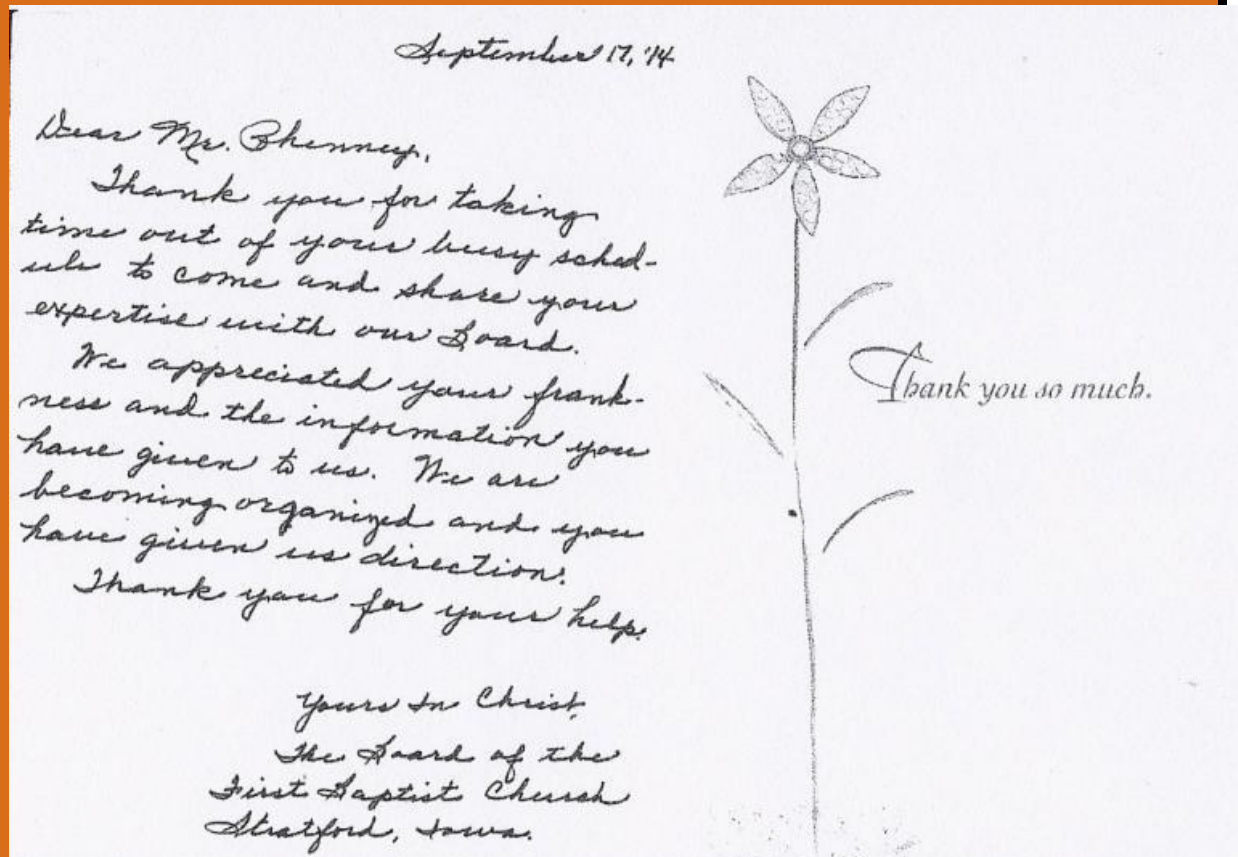
Next fall, the entire rebuild will be complete. What God has taught us and done in the past 15 months has been nothing short of amazing. In some ways I think God used the tornado to ignite something within us. It

created a sense of camaraderie, a sense of direction, and perhaps focused our vision like never before.

This has been a tremendous season for our church and one that has reminded us all that church is not about a building or facility, but about God's people, and seeing lives changed. Through a storm, we have been incredibly blessed at Calvary Church and we look forward to seeing what possibilities God will continue to create as we move forward in our ministry.

Ty Thomas
Calvary Church, Muscatine, IA

How Has CBNC Helped Your Church?





CB North Central & Faith Community Church of West Concord

Has CB North Central served us in recent years? The answer is yes and in many ways. We've benefited from their assistance to us in and through the process of planting a church, with the NCD survey, with resources for leadership development, with answers

to technical legal questions, with resources for revising our constitution, and with pulpit supply. CB North Central has also helped us celebrate our new facility and our 150th anniversary. We're blessed to be part of a group of churches which are focused on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Rev. David Breederland

Faith Community Church, West Concord MN

Church Law and Tax



The 3 Best Times To Introduce Change in Your Church

How to successfully fix problems and implement change. - by Karl Vaters

[Read Article](#)

Designating a Housing Allowance

Make sure you do it right. - by Elaine Sommerville

[Read Article](#)

Please Pray for the Following Churches in Transition:

SENIOR PASTOR

- Mason Township Baptist Church
- Cassopolis, MI
- First Baptist Church - Bradford, IL
- Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL
- First Baptist Church - Elmhurst, IL
- First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI
- First Baptist Church - Long Prairie,
MN
- First Baptist Church - Lake Crystal,
MN
- First Baptist Church - Pekin, IL
- Palisade Baptist Church - Silver Bay, MN
- Monona Oaks Community Church - Madison, WI
- Cornerstone Community Church - Manchester, IA



STAFF POSITIONS

- First Baptist Church - Spring Lake, MI *Associate Pastor*
- Oak Grove Church - Golden Valley, MN *Associate Pastor*
- First Baptist Church - Worthington, MN *Associate Pastor*

CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups

North Dakota/Northern Minnesota

Thursday, October 16 and Thursday, November 20

10am - 12pm, Skype

Steve Daggett, Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND

701-265-8989



Central Minnesota

Monday, November 10, 10am - 12pm

Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

651-437-3965

Southern Minnesota

To Be Determined

Doug Noonkester, First Baptist Church, Sibley, IA

712-754-3310

Wisconsin

November 9-11; Cluster pastors and their church members are invited to the retreat at Camp Forest Springs

Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI

715-723-1054

Iowa

Tuesday, November 4, Noon

Meeting at Calvary Baptist Church, 5338 Johnson Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA

Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

319-396-3233

Illinois

Tuesday, January 27, 10:00 - 3:30

Meeting at Bethany Baptist Church, 7422 North Heinz Ln, Edwards, IL

Art Georges, Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL

309-633-0028 art@livinghopecentral.org

Michigan

To Be Determined

Mike Wetzig, Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI
213-853-96021

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