



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION August 2014



Fair Days & Dog Days!!

From the Director

"The Untold Secret"

Social media around the world blew up on Monday when tragic news hit. "Comic genius Robin Williams committed suicide in his Tiburon, California home. Family, friends and fans are totally devastated." His wife, Susan Schneider, said on Monday, "This morning, I lost my husband and my best friend, while the world lost one of its most beloved artists and beautiful human beings. I am utterly heartbroken."



The death of Robin Williams is tragic and very sad, but there is a touch of irony. He had a brilliant comic mind who battled addiction and depression for much of his life, but yet he kept millions laughing. Though he was undergoing treatment for his severe depression and accountable to some, he still took his life. This example shows me again that many of us in leadership could have a dark side that no one knows about. We put on our performance face, go through the motions and do the job that is expected of us, but we may be secretly hurting like Robin Williams. He felt trapped and faced an ultimate decision. What about us?

I cannot even tell you how many phone calls I get from "trapped" pastors and church leaders. Thankfully, the ultimate leap may not be suicide, but resignations and quick exits may follow. It has been my observation that when a pastor or leader feels trapped, the "untold secret" comes out. Any guesses? It is anger. Oh it gets sugar coated with, "I am frustrated!" or "I am just upset." Plain and simple it is anger. In the last few months, I have had to go into churches that had a pastor lose his temper and say regretful things to other leaders and church family.

Anger. Let's be honest. A day may rarely go by that we all don't feel some sort of anger. I am not a counselor and don't want to be, but the expression of anger in leadership is a reality I deal with on an ongoing basis. I think it is important that we talk about anger - what it is, what it does for us, where it comes from and how we can learn to manage it in a constructive manner.

Allow me to share some principles on anger management that have helped me over the years.

ANGER IS A NORMAL GOD-GIVEN EMOTION - In Exodus 3 and 4, God commands Moses to go to Pharaoh to release His people from captivity. Moses essentially fights God and says, "Don't want to go!" Exodus 4:14 says that the

anger of the Lord burned against Moses. In Mark 3:5 Jesus was getting ready to heal a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath, but was confronted by a Pharisee. In anger Jesus shouted to the man, "Stretch out your hand." The anger that describes God and Jesus in Exodus 3 and Mark 3 is not sinful because it was directed at evil, injustice, immorality or ungodliness. This kind of anger was called holy or righteous.

SOME ANGER IS SINFUL - If we are honest, we all get angry. I believe the Bible teaches that anger is neither right nor wrong, until there is a motive. Anger can be productive and loving, just as it can be destructive and selfish. The Bible clearly prohibits against destructive anger and with that in mind, some come to believe that the Bible teaches all anger is sinful. Not so! The imperative verbs in Ephesians 4:26-27 make the translation clear. Actually Paul commands us to "be angry". Seriously? This is by no means a wholesale endorsement of uncontrolled anger. Paul doesn't stop there. He clearly realizes the devastating harm that can come from unbridled anger in the church. That is why he qualifies the call to be angry with three prohibitions:

1. Verse 26a - Don't sin. The command is not to avoid anger, but to avoid sinful anger. Sinful anger in us is anger that is antagonistic, unrestrained, vindictive, explosive, bitter, malicious or cynical . . . no matter what the cause. Check out James 1:19-20.
2. Verse 26b - Don't nurse anger. Paul's advice is clear. Deal with your anger as soon as it is realized. Don't stuff it! Don't brood over it! Take it out of the dark and expose it to light. When we can say, "I am an angry person!", healing begins. As we know, unresolved anger is destructive to relationships around us.
3. Verse 27 - Don't give Satan an edge. The enemy is smart. Satan knows how to exploit our selfish anger. Once he has us nursing or justifying our anger, he knows we are not far from the infamous "blow-up". When we follow our anger into sin, we play into his hands.

There are many causes to our anger that are displayed at church. It could be that people are selfish. Maybe life is unfair and filled with trials. There could be disappointed desires. Fear of failure is a possibility. Consider unfilled demands. No one listens. When we take our anger into our own hands, we end up destroying others, ourselves, and sometimes our ministries.

ANGER MUST BE MANAGED - If we do have anger, how do we handle it?

1. Acknowledge your anger to God because He already knows (Jer 17:10; Heb 4:12). Don't pretend that you do not get angry. We all do. Labeling it as "frustration" or "irritation" is not enough.
2. Learn to get angry slowly (Ps 4:4; Jam 1:19). God is slow to get angry and our goal is to let Him form Christlike character in us. Do you have a good reason to get angry?
3. Change your beliefs about God (Rom 12:1-2). This is true of all of our feelings and emotions. They are based on where we find our greatest security and significance as pastors. Is it not possible that our anger problem is not rooted in feelings, but in what we believe about God?
4. Change those wrong beliefs and repent. It is more than a mere confession that you had sinful anger, but more to the faulty belief system that fuels your anger. Is God Good? Is He in control? Do you trust Him? Did He give you your circumstances? Has He not provided for you? Did He call you to your church? These are all good questions that drive at the heart of what we believe about God.

While what we feel cannot be easily changed, we can change what we believe by surrendering ourselves to the Spirit of God and His Word. It is a self-control issue. Under His influence and enablement, we will find our anger reshaped and restrained by His power. Placing our anger under God's management will dissolve and evaporate all unhealthy anger. Pastor, let us express a new and godly anger towards the kind of sin that angers the heart of God and not our churches.

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

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

"Patience? Sure, But I Want It Right Now!"



In last month's newsletter I mentioned that we were looking forward to having our daughter, her husband and their two children move to Minnesota from Oregon. They have arrived! In case you are wondering if we are having fun, the answer is YES! One

of the things that brings the most joy is watching all four of our grandchildren - Gabe (10), Nora (8), Anna (7) and Lincoln (5) - play together. LEGOS are always a favorite. As I was observing and listening from a distance the other day I noticed a couple of things. They were all building and all having fun. Sure there were the occasional times of wanting the same piece, but for the most part they had a common purpose of working together in their own space while creating something together. I do believe there could be a great analogy for the church body in there. I'll leave that area to Pat. :) Another thing I noticed was the patience they all exhibited as they worked to complete their projects. It took time to create what they were imagining.

Isn't that true in our lives as well. We have something in mind that we want to accomplish and most of the time we want it right now. Patience is one of those areas that we could all use more of. I'm quite sure that our husbands could use our prayers for patience as they minister in the church. Here are some verses to get you started as you pray

I pray that my husband will rest in You, Lord, and that he will wait patiently for You. I pray that he does not fret because of him who prospers in his way or because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. I pray that he will cease from anger, and forsake wrath and that he does not fret - it only causes harm.

Psalm 37:7-8

I pray that my husband will hope for what he does not see and eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Romans 8:25

I pray that my husband understands that the testing of his faith produces patience and that he should let patience have its perfect work, that he may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:3-4

This month I thought I'd share a couple of simple recipes for all those cucumbers that are available either in your own garden or from a generous friend. (Yes, I have tried these!)

Anytime Cucumber Slices

3 to 4 large cucumbers, peeled and sliced

2 medium onions, thinly sliced

1 cup sugar

½ cup vinegar

½ cup water

1 tsp salt

In a saucepan, combine sugar, vinegar, water and salt; bring to a boil. Pour over the cucumbers and onions. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours.

Greek Quinoa Salad

1 cup of dry quinoa (Prepare that according to pkg. - will end up to be 2-3 cups cooked)

1 ½ cups of Cherry tomatoes, halved

1 cucumber, peeled and cubed

2-3 sliced green onions

¼ cup Kalamata olives, halved

Feta Cheese

2 -3 Tblsp. Olive Oil

1 Lemon



Phinney Grandchildren



After quinoa is prepared allow it to cool. Drizzle olive oil and juice from the lemon over the quinoa and mix. Stir in remaining ingredients.

Karen Phinney, Wife of Regional Director

"Patience is the calm acceptance that things can happen in a different order than the one you have in mind." -David G. Allen

Thoughts From a Cluster Leader

"Don't Walk Through Despair Alone"

Comedian and actor Robin Williams died yesterday. Television stations and social media are filled with stories about his apparent suicide. Though the man could make us laugh, his failed marriages and addictions confirm he led a very sad life. And although most wouldn't have guessed it, Robin Williams struggled with severe depression.

Comics are not the only ones who suffer in this dark pit of despair. . .

Jay Jentink

Bethany Baptist Church, Edwards, IL



Youth Pastor to Youth Pastor

"Questions, Answers & the Truth"



Have you ever had a student come up to you and ask something like: "I met this cute guy at school and I was kinda wondering...is it OK to date a guy who is an atheist as long as he is a nice guy?" Or maybe a question that starts off something like...

Matthew D. Slippy, D.Min.

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries

Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

#SPOTLIGHT



"What's Going on in Your Church?"

We are thrilled to be underway with an addition to our church facility this summer. While our building is only 5 years old, we needed additional CE and fellowship space. So, we endeavored to expand our fellowship hall and use the quality partitions so that we can use the space for fellowship/banquet functions as well as up to 3 additional classrooms. Moreover, we were short on storage space so we put a basement underneath the space as well. This will give us approx. 2,000 sq. ft of storage.



You can keep us in prayer as we determined to tap our wealth of contractors within our church and save on the expense of an outside contractor. So far, things have proceeded well in so far as it has been up to us, though weather and permitting have offered challenges.



We are excited about how the Lord can allow us to use the additional space for His glory as we continue to proclaim the gospel of Jesus in our community and further.

In Christ,

Pastor Art Georges

Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL

Church Law and Tax



THINK BEFORE YOU POST

Don't take what's not yours. - *by Richard R. Hammar*



CHURCH MANAGEMENT ROUNDUP: 8.4.14

Five trends, tips, ideas, and stats to help church leaders manage well this week. - *by Matt Branaugh*

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
- Grace Baptist Church - Two Harbors, 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, August 21

10am - 12pm, Skype

Steve Daggett

Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND

701-265-8989

Central Minnesota

Monday, September 8, 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

Thursday, September 4, Noon

at Perkins in Eau Claire, WI to plan events for the year

Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI

715-723-1054

Iowa

Tuesday, September 9, Noon

at Iowa River Power Restaurant , 501 1st Ave, Coralville, IA

Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA

319-396-3233

Illinois

Tuesday, September 9th 10:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting at Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, 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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