

September 2014



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION



From the Director

"What's Next?"

Yesterday I was speaking with a pastor who recently left his church. I was calling to see how he was doing. He told me he was "stuck" and trying to understand God's will during his transition. God was providing for his needs, but he didn't know what was coming next. Another example. I received a "Thank You" card from a friend who is also in transition. He transparently said, "My whole experience these past weeks has been painful and in many ways confusing . . ." Here is one more. I am meeting with a pastor in a couple days for coffee and he is trying to



discover what God has for him in the future. He has been in his church for over 25 years.

Do I need to go on? Clearly we all are facing some sort of life-changing decision that will impact our family and/or ministry. Will God send us a clear signal? Will we get some special feeling? Why does God seem to leave us hanging in limbo or in a confusing state? What about those unique times when there seems to be some good options or perhaps no option? What's next?

Anxiety. That is what comes to my mind when I think about my own journeys in discovering God's will. Even grocery shopping can be frustrating. How about buying a house or maybe helping our kids select a college? Do we leave our church because our ministry seems to be done or should we stay? Admittedly, our lives can be changed forever by one simple decision. Over the years I have seen many creative methods to figure out what God wants us to do. There is fleecing, fasting, flipping coins, dreams, drawing straws or anything else you can think of. They all seem confusing at best. Because the Bible does not always give a clear answer to every question, we have to be careful how we seek solutions. What's next?

I am convinced that what we do next should ABSOLUTELY reflect God's heart and not our own human desires. A.W. Tozer was correct when he made a statement in his book, "The Knowledge of the Holy". He communicated that what comes into our mind when we think about God might predict with certainty our spiritual future. Moreover, Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Though many will not admit this, I wonder how much we actually think about God when we are "stuck on hold" for something in our future. I don't know about you, but doing God's will isn't something that comes naturally for me. I just want to act out in my flesh and panic. Paul talked about the power of the flesh in our lives when he said, "For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please." (Galatians 5:17) Maybe some of the confusion we might experience in discovering His will comes from not

understanding how God guides in the process. Could it actually be that simple? Maybe.

Years ago I grabbed and filed a simple acrostic that has helped me discover God's will. If we truly desire to know who God is and what He wants us to do, we cannot ignore them. Enjoy!



Go to the Lord

Understand His Principles

Investigate your Options

Discuss it with Others

Express your Freedom

[Click here for more on G-U-I-D-E.](#)

It is easy to gain proper guidance as we look backward. Right? It is easy to paint a picture by the number, but that is safe. Where is the faith? Besides that, God does not paint by numbers. Don't forget that a picture is being painted for us who are called the sons and daughters of God. Maybe you are still "stuck" or "confused" concerning your future, so keep your focus on Him. Let Him G.U.I.D.E. you in the awareness of who He is and what He wants you to do. Something beautiful will be revealed.

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

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

"Back to School"



What fun it was this year to be able to go "Back to School" shopping with Nora and Lincoln. While they continue to live at our house we are getting in on some of those events. They were so excited to choose their supplies especially lunch boxes and backpacks. Personally, I have always loved the smell of new crayons. I remember during my years of teaching kindergarten that was always a highlight. The smell of those boxes of new crayons always seemed to announce the start of a new year of learning. There is a lot to be said for new crayons and new beginnings. Fall is a good time for both.

Thinking of the supply lists they had to shop for makes me think of the "need lists" that we have in our lives. Wouldn't it be nice if we could just head to the store and fill our shopping cart? This month let's focus on asking God to meet the needs of our husbands. Every time we pray that for our husbands we can include our own needs as well. Here are some verses to get you started :

I pray that You, God, will open Your hand and satisfy the desire of my husband.
Psalm 145:16

I pray, Lord Jesus, that if my husband abides in You and Your words abide in him, he will ask what he desires, and it will be done for him.

John 15:7

I pray that my husband will ask in Your name, Jesus, and he will receive, that his joy may be full.

John 16:24

I pray that You, my God, will supply all my husband's needs according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians

4:19

It's not only new crayons I'm seeing in the stores these days - the pumpkins have arrived as well. That always makes me think of one of Pat's favorite fall desserts. You might like to give this one a try!



Pumpkin Pie Cake

Mix together:

5 eggs

½ tsp

salt

1 - 13 oz. can of evaporated milk

½ tsp cloves

1 - 29 oz. can of pumpkin

2 tsp cinnamon

1 cup sugar

Pour that mixture into an ungreased 9 X 13 pan.

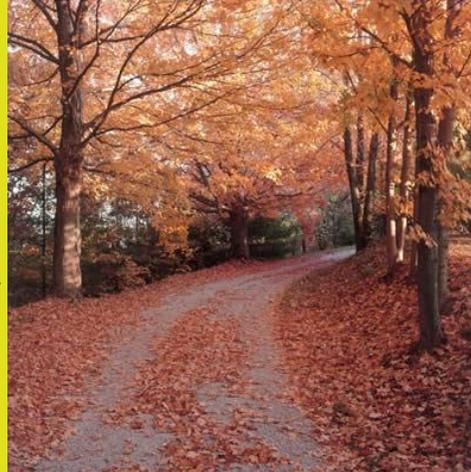
Then mix together: ½ cup margarine, melted

1 box yellow or white cake mix, dry

Sprinkle those crumbs over the pumpkin mixture. Bake 1 hour at 350. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream. It's especially yummy if it is still a little warm when you eat it. Enjoy! [Click here for a printable recipe.](#)

Karen Phinney, Wife of Regional Director

"Truthfulness can be painful, but the pain is short-lived and in the end produces tremendous change. But the kind of change I am describing to you today is only initiated when you are willing to get honest with yourself and with God about your behavior, your attitudes, and the condition of every area of your life at this present moment. If you're willing to remove the veil from your eyes and let the Holy Spirit really show you the areas where you need to be



transformed, He will change you. And as this kind of transformation begins to work in you, you will become more and more prepared for upward movement and promotion in your life." -Rick Renner, Sparkling Gems From the Greek - August 31, p. 645 (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Teach All Nations, 2003)

I found value in the quote above and thought I would share it with you. Blessings to each of you as you seek God's will each day.

Wendy Jonasen, CBNC, Administrative Asst.

CBAmerica Chaplaincy

Ten CBAmerica Chaplains took part in the CBNorthwest Men's Roundup in early September. We had a blast and were privileged to join some 1,500 other men for a wonderful weekend. We stayed together in Yert up on a hill at Camp

Tadmor. Our legs got a tough workout. Sleep came easy at night. We were asked to lead a workshop on the topic "Shepherding People In Harms Way" or "Ministering to Hurting People". The attendance at our workshop was great and each chaplain had the opportunity to share stories from their ministry about ways they were able



to bring healing and hope to those hurting. We gave the seminar four different times and had a different crown each time but stories were always new. We have a variety of ministries represented from Law Enforcement, Hospital, Hospice, Reserves, Active Duty, FBI and more. I was amazed at the many ways God has used our chaplains to bring blessing to hurting people. Our group was just a small part of our several hundred chaplains. There were many tears as we shared stories that touched the hearts of those attending and of the story teller. Those who plan the Men's Roundup were pleased with our presentations and it looks like Chaplaincy will be invited back again next year to share once again. We have also been asked to share a seminar at the Annual Conference held at Seaside, OR in March 2015.

We still have several military chaplains deployed to Afghanistan, one in Turkey, one in Germany and two in other Middle East Countries. Pray for their families during this time of separation and for the chaplains safety. Chapel attendance is good and there are numerous hours spent in counseling.

There are new applicants every month applying for hospital, Veterans Medical Centers, all branches of the military and other specialized ministries. This fall we are opening up a new area of ministry as one of our chaplains retires from active duty Army and will represent us as a chaplain on the Appalachian Trail. There are so many opportunities for our chaplains. Tom Pouche is in Africa training chaplains and teaching at Bible Schools and Colleges there. Scott Noyes

just returned from Ghana where he worked with chaplains in the Ghana military. Andy Meverden met with the crown Prince of Jordan this week in Colorado.

Pray for us as we walk through open doors that the Lord provides for us. People are coming to faith in Jesus Christ and having their lives renewed. Blessings. To learn more about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or chapruss@cbamerica.org.

Allen Russell
Director of Chaplaincy, CBAmerica
Cell: 320-492-8619

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

#SPOTLIGHT



Getting to Know You-
"An Interview With Pastor Greg Pratt"

I was born in Flint, Michigan. My wife, Ann, was also born in Flint. We attended the same church and began dating after high school. We have been married for 28 years and have 3 kids. Our son, Caleb, is the oldest. He and his wife are expecting their first child in October. Holly is our second child. She is a student at Southwestern Illinois College where she is studying to be a physical therapy assistant. Natalie is our youngest. She is a freshman at Collinsville High.

After a long day, my favorite thing to do is to ride my motorcycle. I have a 1700cc Yamaha Road Star. It's a nice bike for cruising and long distance rides. I also enjoy running and weight lifting. I try and get to the gym about 3 or 4 times per week.

I have been in full-time ministry for 22 years. The first 10 years I spent in youth and music ministries, the past 12 years I have served as a senior pastor. I was drawn to ministry out of my love for Christ and a desire to help his people. I'm excited to see God at work in our church in many ways. Our youth ministry is one area where God is definitely blessing us. Our Associate Pastor, David Barnett, oversees our youth program. He and his family have been with us since April, 2013. God is also at work in our AWANA program. Each week we are excited to be able to minister to over 50 kids as they come to the program. Like all churches, we could use prayer concerning church unity and clarity of vision.

Pastor Greg Pratt
First Baptist Church, Collinsville, IL



Greg & Ann Pratt

How Has CBNC Helped Your Church?

"As It Turned Out"

In the summer of 1985, I was blessed to be chosen by Rev. Peter Strubahr and the Fellowship of Minnesota Conservative Baptists (FMCB) to be a church planter in Blaine, Minnesota. One weekday in July, I had just left my office at what was then called Northwestern College of Roseville, and had made a little turn to my right. As it turned out (see Ruth 2:3 [NIV]), I met Rev. Strubahr in the hallway. One of my students knew him and introduced me to him. The following hour, as it turned out, resulted in a relationship with FMCB. In just a few months, on September 17, 1985 at 3:15pm, Oak Park Community Church was born. FMCB gave us approximately \$9,000 of support for our first year. From that time up to the present, we continue to be encouraged. The past year has turned out to be especially encouraging.

In the early existence of our church, we had no church building other than my home in which we had several Bible studies. We also had no church office. FMCB allowed us to use their office in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. Their office staff helped us with mailings and typing and printing our church bulletin. We soon found our temporary meeting place in Madison Elementary School in Blaine. AS it turned out, I had just picked up a newspaper article that mentioned new churches were meeting in local schools. I walked a half-block to the school and in less than 20 minutes, as it turned out, we had rented the school lunchroom. We had our first Sunday morning worship service on Sunday, October 13, 1985.

Our church office continued to be in the FMCB office until we bought a 3 acre tract of land in 1989 with an existing church building, in Blaine, Minnesota. Now we finally had our own church office! FMCB also gave us a gift of \$1,000 to be used toward the purchase price. As it turned out, the land and building had been listed at \$240,000, but we were able to make the



purchase for \$120,000. As it turned out we were able to pay off the mortgage on June 8, 1998 and had an additional \$25,000 in our building fund.

Our story continues with many decisions for Christ, growth in attendance and completion of a new sanctuary which opened on Sunday, September 1, 2002. Rev. Pat Phinney, in 2012, became our area director of what we now call CBNC, which includes our entire ten state area. The CBNC office was at that time in Whitehall, Wisconsin. Rev. Phinney did much of his work out of his home in Bloomington, Minnesota. As it turned out, Rev. Phinney visited our church with its new addition in 2013, and after extensive discussion and dreaming, as of September 2013, the CBNC office is now in Oak Park! This is an honor and a privilege for Oak Park. We are pleased to be able to uniquely serve our Lord and CBNC. The FMCB helped us when we were in them, and now we can help CBNC when they are in us! As it turned out, it wasn't a coincidence, it was all part of God's plan for Oak Park and for our CBNC. It didn't just happen to "turn out" that way.

It was similar to what happened in the Book of Ruth. As it turned out (again, Ruth 2:3 [NIV]), does not mean it



was an accident, or a chance happening, that Ruth met Boaz. As it turned out, they had a son named Obed, who became the father of Jesse, who had a son named David, who is the "Father" of our Lord Jesus Christ. As it turned out, it was all part of God's plan. It didn't just turn out that way!

As it turned out, Oak Park had been a daughter church in the FMCB office, and now our CBNC office is in Oak Park, and together, we are one in Christ. We are reminded in John 14:20, that all of us who know Christ as Savior, will one day realize what Christ fully meant when He said, "I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you."

Let us all work together for that kind of unity in our lives, our families, our churches and in our CBNC. May our God work in us and through us, so that, many will be reached for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "As it turns out" we will continue to be a part of God's purpose and His plan.

Rev. DelRoy Johnson

Oak Park Community Church, Blaine, Minnesota

Church Law and Tax



How Long Should We Keep Consent Forms & Screening Records

- by *Richard R. Hammar* [Read Article](#)

Do Members Have a Right to Inspect Church Records?

- by *Richard R. Hammar* [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, September 18

10am - 12pm, Skype

Steve Daggett, Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND
701-265-8989

Central Minnesota

Monday, October 13, 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

October - Skype Pastors

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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Wendy Jonasen, Administrative Assistant
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Pat's Cell: 952-500-3743

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