



# CB NORTH CENTRAL

*Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel*



November 2015

## ***THE CENTRAL CONNECTION***

*"We are an organization of churches that is committed to the mission of Christ to multiply disciple-making churches through evangelism, leadership training, and connection with other like-minded churches."*

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers" Ephesians 1:1*

From the Director

## "THANKSGIVING . . . A TIME OF RENEWAL"

There I was sitting in the chair. Not the dentist. Not the doctor's office. Nor was it waiting on my car for repairs. I was getting a haircut. It had been a long eight weeks and it looked like it too. The stylist said, "Do you want the usual Pat?" She began to cut and the hair was flying everywhere. Seeing the need to be a good conversationalist I asked, "So what do you have planned for Thanksgiving?" It was like bursting a water pipe that can't be turned off. The stylist would not stop talking about all of the things she needed to do in getting ready for the lavish Thanksgiving dinner. After a very long ten minutes of venting, I interrupted her conversation to say, "In your busy preparations, don't forget to be thankful." It got real quiet.

The conversation with my stylist reminded me that in the midst of preparing for a beautiful event, we can lose sight of its real meaning. A young boy asked his mom why she was in such a hurry and so concerned about Thanksgiving. His weary mom responded, "Oh, the relatives are coming to inspect my house and my cooking." The boy thoughtfully announced, "But this is a day to give thanks, not do an inspection." My hair stylist saw Thanksgiving as a time to get ready for a yearly inspection by the family. She saw Thanksgiving as simply the planning of an overrated event with no meaning. I just heard on the news that according to the National Turkey Foundation Americans consume about 675 million pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving Day. Ok, this time of celebration is more than just consuming a good healthy turkey, right?

So, what will your Thanksgiving Day hold? For some it will be a holiday . . . a big turkey dinner with all the trimmings, relatives, the annual inspection, a football game, a nap, and a little needed turkey sandwich before bedtime. For some it will be a hollow day . . . the family is gone traveling and friends are too busy. It is just another day of insignificance with nothing really to stir the soul. For others Thanksgiving will be a holy day . . . a time of worship, ponderings in the Word, expressions of gratitude, and warm praises to God. For many it is a day of renewal, a fresh look at who God is and what He does. Ray Stedman once said, "Christians are to be characterized by an attitude

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of gratitude about everything. Why? Because we know that we do not deserve anything." Think about it. Everything comes to us as a gift of God's love. God, in perfect justice, could have wiped out the entire race and none of us would have hope for anything in this life or beyond. God gave to us anyway. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17) What a gift!

Gratitude can prevent the invasion of disgruntled attitudes that often come to us as we face the pressures of life and ministry. Gratitude can also prevent some of Satan's attacks that could happen within the faith family like gossip, faultfinding, unforgiveness, grumbling, bitterness and much more. Will you join me in sharing a Psalm of David at your wonderfully prepared Thanksgiving meal? Let us give praise to God from Psalm 103:1-5:

- Praise the name of God . . . He is holy. (verse 1)
- Praise God for His benefits in our lives . . . He is good to us. (verse 2)
- Praise God for His forgiveness of our sin . . . He forgets our offenses. (verse 3)
- Praise God for His redemption . . . He bought us back. (verse 4)
- Praise God for His satisfaction . . . He gives us things to enjoy. (verse 5)



Thanksgiving is good, thanksgiving is better. Another person put it this way, "He who thanks but with the lips, thanks but in part. The full, true Thanksgiving comes from the heart."

What you do this Thanksgiving is really up to you. It can be a time of Thanksgiving with a heart of gratitude for who He is and what He has done. Or it can be back to the annual inspection. You decide.

*Pat Phinney*  
*CBNC Regional Director*

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## "JOIN GOD, CHANGE THE WORLD"

Warm greetings from the WorldVenture family! In our seven decades of global missions service, the Apostle Paul's words remind us of the missionary nature of the gospel: How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:14, 15



*Jeff & Christine Delinger*

God moves the gospel through people willing to believe it, to embrace it, and to share it. It is our experience that a few catalysts willing to be sent can be used of God to birth movements of faith and transformation through the power of the gospel.

Moved with compassion for the lost and the least, Jesus teaches us to pray that God will thrust out laborers into his harvest. There are billions of people who have little to no access to the message of Jesus (they are unengaged and unreached with the gospel). There are hundreds of millions of people who have proximity to the message of Jesus in their culture but the believers and local

churches are too few or are unable to disciple their own (they are unchurched). And, there are other people who are kept in the shadows of every culture that the love of Christ compels us to help (they are unwanted). We partner with US churches to shepherd those laborers where God deploys them.

WorldVenture is a family of believers, colleagues, and friends living our faith in the market places and public squares of everyday life, inviting all peoples to follow Jesus, igniting movements of the gospel in building the global church.

*Jeff Delinger, President & CEO of WorldVenture*

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## "Pastor's Wives . . . Just for You"

### "BURIED TREASURE"

We have lived in our current home for eleven years. When we moved in all those years ago, we began to compile a mental list of the many things that needed updating. My guess is that you may have the same kind of list. We have been able to complete some of our goals, but others remain in the future. You know how that goes - things happen to delay projects.

One of the things we have always wanted to do was to change the carpet in the three bedrooms. It wasn't necessarily in terrible shape, but the colors weren't to our liking. There was a medium blue, a gray (not bad) and another in the purple family. Over the years I've always ignored the carpet color when decorating those rooms. We've always known there were the original hardwood floors underneath. It has been kind of like buried treasure. Pat recently took two weeks of vacation and we started ripping out carpet. Taking out the carpet and the pad was not difficult. The hard work was pulling out all the staples they used. I'm not kidding - I think we've pulled thousands of staples.



As I was crawling around on my hands and knees with pliers in hand pulling out those pesky staples, I couldn't help but wonder what treasures am I keeping buried in my life? There are so many things God wants to give me - am I willing to do the work to uncover His best for me? What about

you?

November is the month we always focus on thanksgiving. Even though we all know that should be a part of every moment of our lives. This month let's pray that our husbands will have thankful hearts. Here are some verses to get you started .....

"... let my husband be thankful, and so worship You acceptably with reverence and awe...."

Hebrews 12:28

"I pray my husband will give thanks to You Lord, call on your name; and make known among the nations what You have done."

1 Chronicles 16:8

"I pray that my husband's heart leaps for joy and he gives thanks to You in song."

Psalms 28:7

"I pray that my husband's heart cry will be - Thanks be to God! He gives me the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:57

"I pray that my husband will be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is Your will for him in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I know one of the things I am most thankful for is Pat! I'm sure you feel the same way about your husband. It is so easy in the busyness of life and ministry

to neglect to show our gratitude. I never want to take Pat or our marriage for granted. I'm sure you don't either. It is so important that we are always on our knees concerning our relationship with our husbands. Wendy, Pat's Admin. Asst., recently shared "10 Great Prayers for Every Marriage". I would like to share it with you. ["10 Great Prayers for Every Marriage"](#), by Ron Edmondson, ChurchLeaders.com.



I want to wish you each a very Happy Thanksgiving!

*Karen Phinney*  
*Wife of Regional Director*

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The 2015 "Developing Healthy Congregations" seminars were a great time of connecting, learning, and sharing. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend, watch for seminars coming to Illinois, Michigan, and Central Minnesota in spring of 2016.











## *Thank you*

to the churches who have hosted a seminar and to those who attended.

We love being connected!

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"HOW CAN YOU MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFTS AND PASSIONS IN MINISTRY?"

It's that time of year again; time to give thanks and to experience the annual pastoral evaluation. At Crossroads Church, this hasn't been a stressful exercise. Some years we haven't done it at all.

This year, instead of using the general job description in our church Constitution, I decided to give our leaders a more detailed description of what I do as the pastor of this church. It looks something like this:



### **Book Time**

1. Yearly preaching schedule
2. Hebrew/Greek outline
3. Hebrew/Greek analysis
4. Reading Commentaries
5. English outline
6. Big Idea
7. Writing sermons
8. SS and small group preparation
9. Meeting planning and preparation

### **People Time**

1. Accessibility
2. Elders and Leaders
3. People in need  
(contacts/counseling)
4. God Squad kids leader
5. SS, small groups and mentoring
6. CBNC Clusters and CVEMA meetings
7. Nursing Home and Jail chapel
8. Services and meetings
9. Correspondence

Ideally, my work week would divide between 20 some hours of book time and 20 some hours of people time. I didn't include personal devotions in the working job description. Prayer is to be incorporated throughout the day and the work week.

What does your work week look like?

How do you balance time for study and time for people?

How can you communicate to your congregation what it is that you do during the work week?

What will it take for your efforts to meet their expectations and yours?

How can you maximize your gifts and passions in ministry and minimize what is weak and draining?

What has to happen to make the CBNC Cluster meetings and time with other clergy a regular priority?

What are the joys of your ministry for which you can give thanks to the Lord?

May Christ bless you for your service in his name and to his people!

*Pastor Wade Duroe  
Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI*

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-CBAmerica Chaplaincy

"VETERANS DAY, EVERY DAY: Visiting Colorado State Veterans Homes"



"We treated these Veterans and spouses like we would want our fathers and mothers treated - according to "The Golden Rule." Often, while walking back, "The General" and I would share stories of those we had visited: "Did you meet that Army Air Corps pilot that was shot down over Germany?" "Yeah, and did you meet the Veteran with 17 children?"

[Read More](#)

Andy Meverden  
Director of Chaplaincy, CBAmerica



### **"Giving is Low-Are You Neglecting The Topic?"**

"Why people should hear us talk more about generosity."

-by *Chris Willard*, Church Law & Tax, Oct. 20, 2015 [Read More](#)

### **"Seven Ways to Involve Older People in Your Church"**

-by *Chuck Lawless*, ThomRainier.com Oct. 22, 2015 [Read More](#)

### **"Thinking About Charitable Giving At Year End"**

Year end contribution issues to consider. - by *Dan Busby*, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability [Read More](#)

## "Have You Created a Monster?"

"Some congregations chew up pastors and spit them out every two to three years. We've all seen the tragedy of "Monster Churches." - by *Scott Attebery*, ChurchLeaders.com [Read More](#)

The 'sequel' by *Scott Attebery*, "11 Signs of a Monster Pastor". [Read More](#)



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## Please Pray for the Following Churches in Transition:

### Senior Pastor

Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL

First Baptist Church - Lake Crystal, MN

First Baptist Church - Pekin, IL

First Baptist Church - Parkers Prairie, MN

First Baptist Church - Detroit Lakes, MN

Oak Park Community - Blaine, MN

First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI

Squaw Creek Baptist Church - Marion, IA

Bazetta Baptist Church - Warren, OH

First Baptist Church - Bradford, IL

## CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups

### North Dakota/Northern MN

To Be Decided

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

### Central Minnesota

Monday, November 16th, 10am

Meeting at River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

*Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN*  
651-437-3965

### Wisconsin

Thursday, January 14, Noon to 3pm (Pizza will be provided for lunch.)

Legal Issues following the SCOTUS ruling on gay marriage

Meeting at Bloomer Baptist, Bloomer, WI with Eldon Carlson

*Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI*  
715-723-1054

Friday-Sunday, October 9-11, 2015, we had a '**Manly Men's Retreat**' with 25 men at Camp Arrowhead near New Auburn, WI. Four churches were involved: Bloomer Baptist, Calvary Baptist, Crossroads and Valleybrook. Pastors from Bloomer, Crossroads and Valleybrook did the speaking. Calvary provided the music. It went so well, the plan is to do another men's retreat next fall!



*"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17*

### Iowa

Tuesday, November 17 at Noon

Ramada Seven Villages Restaurant

2213 U Ave, Exit 225 I-80 at Little Amana, IA

*Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA  
(319) 668-2157*

**Illinois - Chicago Area**

To Be Decided

*Leonard Harris, Grove Heights Baptist Church, Chicago, IL  
773-731-8094 [lendar@ameritech.net](mailto:lendar@ameritech.net)*

**Michigan**

To Be Decided

*Leo Cumings, Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson, MI  
517-416-1247*

For more information on a Cluster Group in your area please contact the CBNC office.



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1pm

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Website: [www.cbnorthcentral.org](http://www.cbnorthcentral.org)



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