



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel



April 2015

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

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



We're changing our schedule to better serve you. You've been receiving the CBNC newsletter mid-month or after and we'd like to get it to you at the beginning of the month. To accommodate this change we will not be sending out a "May" newsletter, but look for it again in "June". Thank you.

From the Director

"Can Anyone Lead?"

Twenty-five hundred years ago, Aristotle wrote these words: "Young men have strong passions . . . They would rather do noble deeds than useful ones . . . They think they know everything and are always quite sure about it; this is why they overdo everything. Old men have lived many years: They often have been taken in . . . The result is that they are sure about nothing and under-do everything. They lack confidence in the future . . . for most things go wrong or anyway worse than one expects."

I am not in a position today to debate the philosophies of Aristotle's "old men" and how effectively these leaders impacted their society. One thing is clear to me. The world that we live in is going through both a tremendous leadership challenge and a major transition. I see this dynamic every time I walk into a church. The church is full of leaders, but what kind? It does not matter about the name of the church or its size. It does not matter where it is located or the culture of the community. The faces of leaders are different, but the principle of leading is the same. I see so much. The challenge of developing servant leadership within the church is primary, both in this generation and for ones that follow. What breaks my heart is to see church leaders "living for today" and not for the future. My widespread call as I travel is not for more leadership, as to fill some sort of vacuum. We desperately need a new kind of leadership in the church - a transformational leadership.

I saw a fabulous quote come across my FaceBook page recently. Abigail Adams wrote in a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1790, "Great necessities call for great leaders." It is true. Crisis often produces great leaders. Maybe the cries of our world right now will produce a new wave of leadership that will transform the church, its people, and its culture. Not a transactional leader (like in the business world), but a spiritual leader who can be transformed by the powerful presence of God in his life. It is a church leader who can move God's people towards missional thinking to accomplish the assignment of "making disciples of Jesus Christ".

Abigail Adams is right. Great necessities do call for great leaders. So what does the face of such great leadership look like? We sure don't need to read the memoirs of Aristotle. How about the life of transformational leader Nehemiah? Allow me to share some leadership insights from his life that influenced people to missional thinking:

First, Nehemiah had a passion for the project. Whatever the project that God has given us such as: rebuilding a wall, pastoring a church, starting a new one, organizing a ministry or evangelizing our community . . . passion, vision, and determination are absolutely



essential. Nehemiah could

hardly sleep as he envisioned the need and imagined himself involved in the process of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 1:10-11)

Second, he had the ability to motivate others. Someone once said, "Without people, who needs leaders?" And what good are leaders if they cannot move people to action? Let's be honest! There are times when the people in our churches may not have the strength or vision to move on because of apparent opposition against God's work at the wall. Nehemiah constantly inspired others around him to do their best and keep their eye on the mission. (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

Third, he had unswerving confidence in God. As we already know, leaders who are genuine in their style of ministry are people of prayer. Though Nehemiah may have doubted his own ability at times, he never once doubted God's commitment. How many times have we asked in the midst of a ministry assignment, "Can I do this?" It is through our prayers as leaders that we can

remind the people of the Lord's presence, power, and protection. (Nehemiah 1:4-6)

Fourth, he had the discipline to finish the job. I will be honest. I can't begin to tell you how many leaders I talk to who just want to quit. Wait a minute. You are called by God to preach the Gospel. You are called by God to lead this church. When conflict comes, you want to quit? Really? This thought keeps coming to my mind, "Good leaders are finishers." When the task loses its glamour, they don't run somewhere else. Year after year, good leaders remain focused on the assignment given by God. Nehemiah modeled that for us. (Nehemiah 6:15)



The kind of leadership that is needed to transform the church does not come arbitrarily. People do not become great spiritual leaders haphazardly. Right? This kind of leadership starts with God and the working of the Holy Spirit. God is sequential in the way He develops leaders. Don't give up! Be patient! Allow God to take all of the time He needs.

Pat Phinney
CBNC Regional Director

Pastor's Wives . . . Just for You
"Two Steps Forward, One Step Back"



Meet the newest member of our family. Molly is a 10 week old Shih Poo ($\frac{1}{4}$ Shih Tzu and $\frac{3}{4}$ Apricot Poodle). She is fun, energetic, curious and a lot of work! We've had two dogs before but I had forgotten how much work and patience it takes to potty train a puppy. Then there is all the chewing. She chews on hands, toes, rugs, clothing and sometimes even her toys. J It is amazing to me how this 3 lb. puppy can pretty much take over the whole house. All I can say is it is a good thing she is cute! Of course, our grandkids love her and all their giggles while playing with her make all the

trouble worth it.

I can't help but think how patient God is with me. It takes a lot of work and patience for Him to wait and watch as I mature to become more Christ-like. There are days when I feel like we are making good progress with Molly and then the next day we take a couple steps back. Hmmm kind of sounds like my life. I may experience some great victories in my life and then there are those days of taking a step or two backwards. How about you? I am so very thankful that even when I am not behaving in a mature manner, I can have the confidence that God is and will always be faithful to me!

Our husbands need to feel that confidence as they minister to the people that God has given them to care for. On those days filled with victories and those days filled with trouble, they need to have the confidence that God is always faithful. Here are some verses to get us started as we pray this month

"I pray that my husband will be confident of this very thing, that You who have begun a good work in him will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 10:35-36

"I pray that my husband will be confident of this very thing, that You who have begun a good work in him will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

"I pray that my husband may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?""

Hebrews 13:6

"I pray that when my husband faces an obstacle he always remember that God has said that it is "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.""

Zechariah 4:6

Before next month's newsletter comes out we will be celebrating Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all of you who are moms. Enjoy your special day!



*Karen Phinney
Wife of Regional Director*



There's still time to get in on the Moody Pastor's Conference . Many of you have already registered, but for those of you who haven't there's still opportunity to attend this wonderful event. *For information about speakers, musicians and the 2015 schedule [click on the picture above](#) to go directly to the site.*

Also you can still receive a [discount](#) on the registration price, but registrations must come through CB North Central. Please contact us for more details.

763-205-9330 or wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA, it's your turn!

The next DEVELOPING HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS Seminar will be in Hastings, Minnesota. Don't miss this opportunity.

Is it your desire to have a spiritually healthy church that is able to make committed disciples of Jesus Christ? Do you desire to have a church that is able to experience a level of reproduction that will impact your community for Jesus Christ? Come to a "Developing Healthy Congregations" seminar in your

area. Here is your opportunity to take the first step to developing spiritual health in your own church. For more details and how to register [click here](#).



What is Really Urgent and Important?
"Developing Healthy Congregations"

River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

Saturday, June 13, 9am-2pm

Presented by CBNC Regional Director Pat Phinney



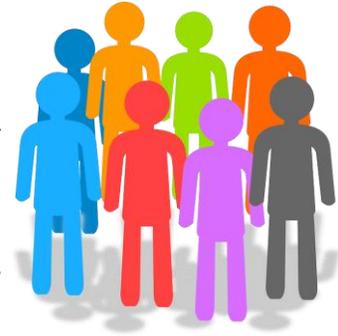
facebook

Here at CBNC we're making some changes.

**[Click on the picture](#) above to go to our Facebook page
and "Like" us for regular updates.**

#CBNC Resources

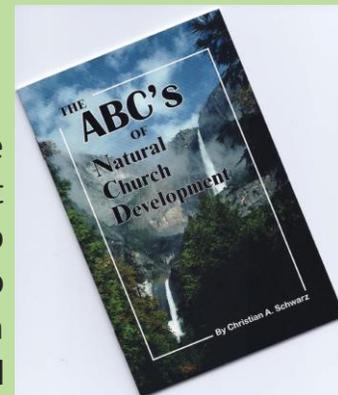
MissionInsite - Church Demographics Experts



Who are the people within the sphere of influence of your church? Are they growing families? Singles? Retirees? Employed or out of work? Do you have the opportunity to reach people of another culture? Through MissionInsite we can provide you with valuable information that may help to equip you in your ministry. By contacting CB North central you can receive in depth information specifically for your church at absolutely no cost. This is a great tool and we'd love to share it with you. Please call 763-205-9330 or email wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org.

Natural Church Development - NCD

Pastors and leaders want to lead their churches to be healthy and vibrant. They want to have a great impact on their communities, but don't know where to begin. How does a leader make the best choice to advance the health of his church? Natural Church Development - NCD is a good place to begin. Please read these testimonials from a couple of pastors who have used this valuable tool in their churches.



"The NCD process was a helpful tool in identifying the relative health of our church.

Our suspicions were confirmed by the survey, and it uncovered other hidden issues our church is facing. The survey also helped us to refocus on church health rather than church growth. A fundamental teaching of NCD is that anything that is healthy is growing. Consequently, if we focus on health, growth will take care of itself."

"The NCD process was also helpful in that it assisted our church leaders in the job of prioritizing key leadership tasks. We have taken advantage of some limited coaching. As we get further down the road, we may avail ourselves to more coaching. After receiving the results of the survey, we commissioned an NCD ad hoc committee to review the results, and develop a creative strategy for moving ahead."

"Overall, the NCD process has been beneficial. It is not overly complicated, but does require a full-on commitment from the leadership team."

- Pastor Greg Pratt, First Baptist Church, Collinsville, IL

"We found the surveys encouraging and insightful. We found that we were healthy, without any great strengths or great weaknesses. The survey results led us into any number of discussions and actions we might not have others had or done."

"We didn't find the process difficult. The Church Elders selected survey participants from each age demographic; from the males and females; and from newcomers and long-timers; among the members and attendees of our church. We gave them 3-4 Sundays to fill out the surveys and asked them to do so at church, during the SS hour, and return them to a designated church box."

"After the results were tabulated, we met with a trained NCD coach. He helped us understand what the surveys meant and posed questions for us to work through that would bring practical results from the survey. We produced a series of action plans to address the lowest scored characteristics in our church and to build on the highest scored characteristics in our church."

"We were encouraged by the overall church health the surveys indicated we had; but also challenged to improve in areas where we were unaware of our weaknesses. We have a lot more to improve upon. After the first survey results, we found that our small groups had a lower score. After the second round of

surveys, we saw significant improvements in the higher scores for small groups. The same held true for leadership."

"We received coaching from Eldon Carlson at Bloomer Baptist Church. He was most helpful to us in understanding and interpreting the survey results and asking the right questions for discussion and action. We would have been less perceptive, and thus the process would have taken longer and been less fruitful apart from a coach."

-Pastor Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls

NCD equips church leaders to accurately assess church health; refine vision, goals and strategies; revisit essential values; focus resources appropriately; and produce lasting health and growth in their churches. The NCD resource for a church is \$300 and desired coaching from a trained NCD consultant is additional. Please contact the CB North Central office for more information, 763-205-9330 or email wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org.

-CBAmerica Chaplaincy

Al Russell, Director of Chaplaincy was honored at a retirement ceremony on March 10th, 2015 at Seaside Oregon. Al doesn't actually retire until later this year, but it was decided to celebrate his 21 years of service at the CBNW Annual Enrichment Conference. Congratulations and blessings to Al & Carol Russell as they enter a new chapter of their life. Please enjoy these photos from the celebration.





New Director of Chaplaincy, Andy Merverden

Prayer for new Director of Chaplaincy, Andy Meverden at Al Russell's retirement ceremony. Please continue to pray for Al Russell and Andy Meverden as they transition into new phases of their lives. Thank you both for serving!



#Getting to Know You

An Interview with Pastor Harry (Bucky) Buckwalter



Dr. Harry (Bucky) Buckwalter is Pastor of Eureka Baptist Church in St. Croix Falls, WI. Bucky has moved halfway across the United States from where he was born in Lancaster, PA. He and his wife Linda have been blessed with a large family, Kim, Randy, Rod, Danielle, Jourdan, Annie, David, Jason, Justin, Jennifer, twenty-three grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

With such a large family and a busy job, one of Bucky's favorite things to do after a long day is to have a nice quiet meal with Linda. When the opportunity arises he has a few hobbies he likes to pursue. Golf, fishing and bowling are among his favorites and he loves auctions and estate sales too.



When asked what drew him to ministry Bucky says, "The Lord had to totally break me and strip me of all worldly possessions. I remember going out on my father's back porch and admitting to the Lord that I had made a total mess of my life. I asked Him to forgive me my sins and promised to totally follow Him no matter where. He both saved me and became my very life." Bucky is celebrating 14 years in ministry.

God is at work in Eureka Baptist church and they are seeing what was a dying church come back to life. Phil. 1:6 Bucky says, "They are learning to understand more fully the Great Love wherewith God loves them. The more they realize the completeness of God's love for them, the more they are reaching out to their worlds in christian love. We are seeing people raised in the church realize they need a Savior. I praise our God for all He is doing."

*-Information submitted by Dr. Harry Buckwalter
Eureka Baptist Church, St. Croix Falls, WI*

Church Law and Tax



Q&A: Is Posting Prayer Lists An Invasion Of Privacy?

One key step in publicly sharing the needs of your congregation.

- Richard R. Hammar [Read More](#)

Tracking Receipts: Why One Church Has Only One Credit Card

Five reasons this has worked well. - interview with Ed Marino by Michelle Dowell [Read More](#)

Managing Underperforming Staff Members You've Inherited

Advice to help you navigate a touchy subject. - by Tim Gioia

[Read More](#)



Please Pray for Our Churches in Transition

It is tremendously exciting to see what God is doing around the region concerning pastoral transition. There are pastors making life and ministry changing decisions. Clearly the words of Paul in Philippians 2:13 says it all, "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." If there is an interest to see what God is doing in our churches that are in transition, please contact me. Keep praying for the work of God to be accomplished in His church.

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups

North Dakota/Northern Minnesota

Planning a summer event.

Steve Daggett, Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND

701-265-8989

Central Minnesota

Monday, May 11, 10am-12pm at River of Life Church. We will be discussing the book "The Choice."

Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

651-437-3965

Wisconsin

See you at the Moody Conference, May 18-21
Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI
715-723-1054



Illinois

Tuesday, April 21, 10:30am - 1:30pm
Meeting at First Baptist Church, 700 South Capitol St, Pekin, IL
Art Georges, Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL
309-633-0028 art@livinghopecentral.org

Michigan

Meeting being planned for June or July
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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