



**VENTURE**  
CHURCH NETWORK MIDWEST



**THE CENTRAL CONNECTION**  
August 2021

*"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."*

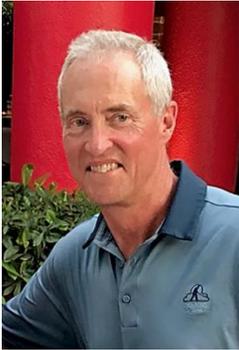
[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

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**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

**Biblically Focused- Grace and Truth That Meets Every Place**

Our missional movement must be shaped by the grace and truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Grace has brought us salvation in Christ. This grace is inherently a gift that cannot be earned. It lavishes us with grace-bestowed riches as a result of our salvation. Every believer is forgiven, reconciled to God, removed from God's wrath, adopted into the family of God, and declared righteous. Grace reconciles us to God through the person of His Son. When we believe in the veracity of God and place our faith in His Son, His grace is the power of God to reconcile broken humanity with their creator. But this is only our introduction into this life of grace. [Read More](#)



*Pastor Brad Little, Regional Executive Director  
Venture Church Network Midwest (CBNC)*

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## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Introducing Venture Church Network Vlogs



*Dr. Dave Whitaker  
President  
Venture Church Network*

Every few weeks, you'll be seeing a vlog (video blog) done by one of your Venture Church Network family members. They may be a pastor, director, or sometimes me, David. You'll recognize some and get to know ones you haven't met yet. I'm kicking off our first one and am excited to see the rest!  
**For more, click below:**



## Network Vlog- Do Believers Need the Gospel?

The danger of looking at the gospel as just the doorway to heaven and a message we only proclaim to nonbelievers is that it convinces us we don't need the gospel on a daily basis. We have to surrender our rights, be servants and ambassadors for God, and be obedient even if it means making sacrifices. We can only do that by preaching the gospel to ourselves. **For more, click below:**



*Pastor Brad Little, Regional Executive Director*



**There will be no ENGAGE forum in August,  
but you will be invited to RE-ENGAGE in September.**

## AROUND THE REGION. . .

### Reproducing Healthy Churches That Make Passionate Disciples Of Jesus Christ

I may be the least qualified pastor I know to write this particular article. The reason I am so unqualified is because I have led or been part of some really unhealthy churches, and the church I



now serve is just beginning to understand discipleship or the processes by which disciples are made. So don't read on for my expertise, but by all means, read on for my experience. You may find it valuable. You may not. At the very least, you'll find it genuine. [Read More](#)

*Pastor James Perry*  
*Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion, IA*

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**Congratulations** to Patrick and Kristy Rhodes as they welcome the newest addition to their family, Felicity Evelyn. Her birthday is July 27th and she's a little peanut at just 5lbs. 11oz. & 18" long. Patrick is the Pastor of Bloomer Baptist Church in Bloomer, WI. Felicity has 3 older siblings, Alexa, Lana and Colton.



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**Network Kingdom Building**

Summer is the time for mission trips. I am always interested in hearing where other Youth Pastors take their students on mission trips and what they do while they are there. This summer made planning a mission trip a little less concrete. With most mission organizations having to put disclaimers that with COVID-19 they may have to call off teams coming at any time. I did not want to do all the work of organizing and fund raising just to have the trip called off. I decided to see if any of the churches in the VCNMidwest would be able to host a mission trip for my teens. [Read More](#)



*Chuck Babbitt, Youth Pastor  
Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI*

## The Pastor & His Money



### 3 to 6 months of Savings for Emergencies

Joseph was endowed by God with such economic wisdom that he created an economic policy which would save a nation from starvation. Understand this – Joseph charged Egyptian collectors to establish an *emergency fund*.

While you don't know the specifics of the future you do know that unexpected expenses will arise. And no, school supplies, birthday gifts, and Christmas gifts are not unexpected!



Since I believe you can figure out HOW to save money, let me tell you the benefits of having cash totaling approximately 3 to 6 months of your expenses. [Read More](#)

*Pastor Rob Buhl, First Baptist Church, Whitehall, WI*

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## Venture Church Network (CBAmerica) Chaplaincy

### Penultimate Chaplain Visit: Chaplain Retires on a Blessing!

I retired from the hospital two weeks ago. My next-to-last (“penultimate”) visit during my final on call week was a man with end-stage liver failure whom his nurse referred to me as “needing to talk”. To make a somewhat long story short I was privileged to lead him to Christ, and he stepped into Heaven the next evening. I shared the story of the thief on the cross and he identified with him. What a way to finish!

[Read More](#) -by Chaplain Jim McMillan & Andy Meverden, Associate Director



Rev. Randy L. Brandt, Chaplain, Colonel, USA Ret.  
Director of Chaplaincy, Venture Church Network  
[venturechurches.org/chaplaincy](http://venturechurches.org/chaplaincy)  
[r.brandt@venturechurchnetwork.org](mailto:r.brandt@venturechurchnetwork.org)

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .



### **One of the Most Overlooked Ways to Get Your Church Ito Solve Community Problems**

"The call to shepherd a church is a call to shepherd the community. The responsibility of pastoring a church comes with the mission of serving the community. Churches are not islands in the community, set up to isolate believers from the ails of society. The walls of the church are not protective barriers to community problems. Quite the opposite—the church should be the vehicle by which people are sent into the hardest, darkest parts of the neighborhood." [Read More](#)

*-by Sam Rainer, Churchanswers.com*



### **If the Government Enforces New COVID Restrictions, Will Your Church Survive?**

"Last week, the COVID-19 Delta variant surge prompted President Joe Biden to hint at the possibility that the U.S. may experience another round of restrictions and possible lockdowns like it did during the onset and height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When Biden was asked whether America should expect an increase in COVID-19 restrictions, he said, "In all probability." [Read More](#)

*-by Jesse T. Jackson, Churchleaders.com*

### **Illinois**

To Be Decided

### **Iowa**

No August Meeting

*Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA*

319-396-3233 [office@calvarycr.org](mailto:office@calvarycr.org)



### **Michigan**

Wednesday, September 22, 9:30am (Eastern time)

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

*Allen Grover, Ganson Street Baptist Church, Jackson, MI*

517-740-8961 [pastorallen@gansonstreet.org](mailto:pastorallen@gansonstreet.org)

### **Northern Minnesota/North Dakota**

Tuesday, September 7, 1pm (Central time)

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

*Josh Emmel, Faith Baptist Church, Kenmare, ND*

218-368-9292 [emmel.josh@gmail.com](mailto:emmel.josh@gmail.com)

### **Central Minnesota**

Monday, August 16, 10am

Meeting at River of Life Church

*Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN*

651-437-3965 [sdschoenwald@gmail.com](mailto:sdschoenwald@gmail.com)

### **Southern Minnesota**

On break, will resume in September

*Walt Moser, First Baptist Church, Luverne, MN*

605-254-3092 [PastorWalt.Moser@gmail.com](mailto:PastorWalt.Moser@gmail.com)

### **Wisconsin**

Thursday, August 19, Noon

Meeting at Pizza Ranch, Eau Claire, WI

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

715-723-1054 [wljc12@hotmail.com](mailto:wljc12@hotmail.com)

### **VCN Midwest Youth Pastor Collaboration**

Thursday, August 12, 10am

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

*Chuck Babbitt, Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI*

515-230-0774 [youth@bloomerbaptistchurch.com](mailto:youth@bloomerbaptistchurch.com)

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## NEED DIRECTION, NEED A RESOURCE???

Check out some of the services of Venture Church Network Midwest/CBNC here.

Other items can be found by visiting our [website](#)  
or contacting Brad Little, Regional Executive Director.



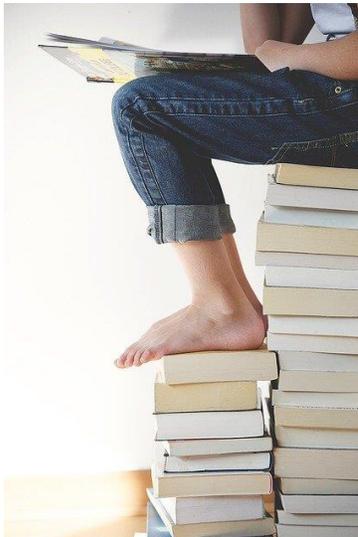
Free Demographic Report



Background Check Resources



Natural Church Development Church Assessment Tool



Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Awards



Listing of All VCN Midwest (CBNC) Churches



Compensation Guidelines for Pastors & Staff



501c3 Tax Exempt Status



Retirement Information

for Associated Churches

Interim Pastor Services  
Through IPM



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Administrative Office Hours:  
Tues. thru Fri. 8am - 1pm

*All articles and submissions are the view of the individual writer and are not necessarily the official position of Venture Church Network Midwest.*



**VENTURE**  
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**Stay Connected**  
[www.vcnmidwest.org](http://www.vcnmidwest.org)

