

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

April 2011

See many of you at the Pastors Seminar and Retreat! For a schedule [click here](#) For directions to The Abbey Resort, [click here](#).

If you have not registered, but are able to come, please call the NCCBA office at 715-538-2298.

The Old Story Still Is The Story!

Recently a friend of mine sent me a link to a scene from the former TV series ER. The scene centered on a dying doctor who had administered a lethal injection to a man condemned for murder. This doctor was plagued by fear/guilt. The reason, several weeks after the fatal dose, the man who had been convicted of the murder had been framed, and the real murderer had been found. What further compounded the doctor's fear/ guilt was the initial injection had failed, so it had to be administered a second time. He wondered if that had been a sign from God he ignored.

In light of his agony and desire for relief the hospital chaplain is called. What ensues is this doctor becomes even more frustrated and he demands the chaplain to leave. The reason was the dying doctor was not looking for questions that raise doubts about whether he needed forgiveness and maybe finding a new reason for living. He wanted to have a chaplain who "believed in a real God and a real hell." In other words he was looking for a way to be forgiven and to have his fear of judgment removed.

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**Natural Church
Development**

There are a number of ways this scene could be used as an illustration. I would like to have us begin with the issue of the use of questions as a means for getting the person in need to try to reframe his perspective and thus resolve his fear and guilt.

There is a segment within the church today that finds asking questions as a good tool for presenting a different way to understand the gospel. The reason given for this is the assertion that there is a "staggering number" of young people who have been turned off by what they have been taught about God, judgment and hell. In a recent article by Kevin DeYoung, he responds to this, "We must remember that there are also a "staggering number" of young people who want the straight up, unvarnished truth. They want doctrinal edges and traditional orthodoxy. They want no-holds-barred preaching. They don't want to leave traditional Christianity. They are ready to go deeper into it." What DeYoung asserts is not only true of young people it is also true of many others who are facing their mortality.

I received a call from an adult daughter asking if I would visit a person who was not a member or affiliated with the church I was serving. Her concern was her mother was dying of cancer and only had a short time to live. The daughter related the pastor that was visiting her mother was not offering any real help (for clarification purposes the pastor had a different way of understanding the gospel, a universal salvation perspective).

To make a long story short, the dying woman had great anxiety about what she would face after death. At that juncture I presented the gospel. In my presentation I spoke about sin, judgment, hell and the fact that Christ Jesus came to pay for sin and provide heaven to those who repent and place their faith in his death, burial and resurrection. Not long after my explanation of the gospel she prayed and placed her faith in Christ. She did this in spite of knowing her teenage son, who had died several years earlier, may have never heard what she had just been told.

This experience was one of the best I have ever had in ministry. Not just because someone prayed and placed faith in Christ but because of the impact of the gospel in her life. Her anxiety and fear were gone and anyone who visited her home immediately sensed a peace they could not comprehend. It also reaffirms for me the truth of Kevin DeYoung's remarks that "no-holds-barred" declaration of hell, judgment and the cross is not to be altered. When Truth is presented

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This is a proven tool that can help your church with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism.

NCD will help you identify the eight qualities and six growth factors for a healthy church. **Healthy NCD is seeing a steady growth through conversions and the ongoing discipleship of those who are part of the church.**

Give us a call at 715-538-2298.

Valuable Information About Your Church's Area

Customized demographic information available about your church location. This is a free service for all NCCBA churches. Call Don at 715-538-2298

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

and the Holy Spirit is present, transformation occurs and gospel is affirmed.

As we come to Easter there are two things we should boldly and without compromise declare to anyone who is looking for a real God and wants to avoid the real hell. First, "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried, and the He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." Second, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."



Don Shaw

Regional Director

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CLUSTER LEADER CORNER:

From Western Wisconsin

Since January 2011, the Western Wisconsin Cluster of Pastors has conducted three events.

In January, we held a 24 hour retreat at the Oak Forest Retreat Center in Frederick, WI. From 1 pm on Monday, January 17 until 11 am on Tuesday, January 18, we gathered for a time of teaching and discussion, fun and accountability and prayer.

The retreat began with games of ping-pong, foosball and air-hockey with players rotating in and out of the game on every point, so the contestants and the scores were constantly changing. After supper, Pastor Joe Whiting of Grace Baptist Church in Two Harbors brought a

NCCBA

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WEBSITE

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by State on our [website](#) under RESOURCES

New Staff Background Checks

NCCBA is now able to perform background checks for member churches. Call Don at the office, 715-538-2298.

MEDIA RESOURCES

Father, Son & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles & Relevance
This book by Bruce Ware is available from the NCCBA office for \$10. Highly recommended. Email the office at nccba@triwest.net

teaching and led us in discussion. Then next morning, after breakfast, we reported on the situations in our respective churches and spent time praying for one another.

In February, we returned to the Oak Forest Retreat Center, Pastor's and their wives, for a Valentines dinner and program, from 6 to 9 pm.

In March, we met at the First Baptist Church in Bloomer, WI from 12 noon until 3 pm, for a group discussion of the emerging church.

The cluster events provide the opportunity for us as pastors to learn, to have fun and to envision joint ministry together. We are able to build the trust necessary to encourage and challenge one another. Each man brings something valuable to the meetings and receives benefits in return.

It's always a challenge to get together. But it's always worth the time, the effort and the drive! It is an honor to serve in the ministry with these men and their churches for the glory of God through Jesus Christ!

Wade Duroe

Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls WI

YOUTH PASTORS:

Youth Ministry Cooperation, Version 2.011

Youth ministry cooperation between churches.

We have discussed it here before, but we feel that perhaps not every church "gets" it.

Is it really worth it?

From an outside perspective, one could say the same thing about marriage. Why would one choose to give up the rights to live life one's own way to serve another person? Why not simply pursue what is best for oneself right now? In the end, the married couples



From the Truth Project: DOES GOD EXIST?

This is an outstanding series that will help prepare your high school kids for college. It is produced by the same group that did the Truth Project. It includes ten sessions on DVD and ten student books. Our price is \$50.89 plus \$10.00 for shipping.

Retail for the same set is \$110.89. If you would like to get a preview of why you should consider this go to www.trueu.org and check out: The Toughest Test in College.

Antioch School of Evangelism & Church Planting

believes that they are stronger together over the long-term than they could ever be as individuals. In other words, a couple trades away some of the immediate benefits of their single lifestyle for the long-term benefit of building that love relationship and a family.

Similar to marriage, there are things that need to be considered for a ministry partnership

Common base theology

Church partnerships do not have to share the same doctrine in every area, but certainly things like salvation must be an agreed upon principle. The closer ministries want to work together, the more similar their theology must be. But to do a simple shared outreach event, churches need only to agree on soteriology, not on what color carpet is prettiest.

Common ministry direction

To partner in purposes such as fellowship and discipleship, a common direction may not be necessary, but is certainly helpful. When we plan our week of camp together, we work to figure out areas that would have the highest impact on students in both our ministries. Sometimes those are similar. Sometimes that compromise can take longer to sort through.

Communication must be open and ongoing

Lack of communication does not just hurt marriage relationships, it is important in a ministry partnership. If the only time you talk to your ministry partner is when it benefits you, we suppose that partnership will not have a long life-span.

Care for your flock of students first

Both of us have students who enjoy and benefit from relationships with students and adults across ministries (a huge benefit). But in the end, both ministries are still autonomous and must take care of themselves first. In the same way that a husband must first take care of his own spiritual life before worrying about his wife, a youth pastor must make sure his flock is taken care of when making joint ministry decisions

Go to College at Your Home Church

(Accreditation by [DETC](#))

Would you be interested in being able to offer college level material in your local church? Would you be interested in being able to facilitate in providing a bachelors degree from your local church? Are you interested in being able to develop your current and next generation leadership?

If you answered yes to any or all of these we encourage you to look into this resource.

Antioch School of Evangelism and Church Planting is a resource that will help equip your church for all of the above. We have three churches in the region that have become certified-- Forest City Baptist, Rockford, IL; FBC Jackson, MN; and FBC Whitehall, WI. For further information contact Don Shaw at 715-538-2298 or by

Reasons for cooperation

Increased finances

By cooperating, we have access to each other's budgets. If you were to find a compatible church who has the same youth budget as you, and you do all your "expensive" programs and events together, you effectively double your budget. And as different churches hit different budget cycles, ministries can help out in times of surplus and be helped in times of financial need.

Increased resources

Craig is in an area where Sam's Clubs and Wal-Marts are rare. Through cooperation, he is able to access the deals that those places provide. Similarly, Adam's church does not have a van. So when a van is needed for a combined trip, that is taken care of, rent-free. The side benefit of exchanging resources, of course, is saved money.

Streamlined ministry

By working together, there is a "polishing" effect on ministries. Questions are constantly addressed. "Why do you do things that way?" "Should we try something different?" "What lessons have we learned from past years?" Many times, no significant changes are made, but everything is questioned, and through that, our ministries only become sleeker and stronger.

Our 2011 Update and Challenge for You

YAM Backpacking trip

This is our leadership training program. We open the program first-come, first-serve to students from both ministries. We have 9 spots available and a scaling list of achievements for students to accomplish, including shared discipleship books for them to fill out throughout the program. Some will be doing their 3rd trip this year.

Wednesday Night Youth Group

We had a blast sharing our teaching plans this year, culminating in our "Gross Stories of the Bible" series. Students went bonkers over Deuteronomy 23:12 and Ehud & King Eglon. Probably neither of us would have had the guts to do this on our own, but sharing this teaching got our students excited about the Bible in a new way.

email
nccba@triwest.net

Software Discounts



BIG savings on software!
Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2010, Windows 7 Professional, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Acrobat and other Microsoft and Adobe products are available for lease to member churches. [Click here](#) for an order form.

Camp

Camp registration continues to go up every year as cooperation increases. 9 years ago, we had about 5 students who went to camp between our 2 churches. When we started doing camp together, we had 30 students. This year, we already have 33 students registered for camp ON 4th of July week, over 2 months ahead of time! Students are loving it and are paying under \$150 for a week of camp, all thanks to ministry cooperation.

Quizzing

In a time of spiritual volatility, what youth pastor wouldn't want students excited about memorizing Scripture? This year our quizzers memorized about 2500 verses from the Gospel of John-that is roughly that book memorized 2 ½ times! We still don't know where all the quizzing "hate" comes from... but we really don't care, either. When we have about 75 students between ministries memorize at least 5 verses a piece and some who memorized up to 5 chapters, we think we'll keep on quizzing together.

We are also pursuing our first combined mission trip this year. We shall see if that works or not-there is a busy summer planned already!

And we are up front again about our shameless plug. We are still looking to find at least one more youth pastor who wants to join us and help us triangulate our ministry. We would love to invite you into our partnership if you sense a similar ministry focus. It is our belief that having one more church on board could help us lower costs and become even more ministry-efficient. We've done a lot of the hard work, already! Will you come and join us?

Similarly, if you are still looking for camp options this summer-especially those of you in MN, WI and ND-that will not break your families' budgets or make your church go broke, I encourage you to think about joining us at camp in Bemidji, MN from July 3-8. Our registration rate from now through June 1 is just \$140. We would love to coordinate the details with you to make this work, so please let us know!

As many of you know, marriage is worth the sacrifice and compromise. We believe that shared youth ministry falls in that same category.

(Note from Adam: Maybe, just maybe, this article was inspired by the fact that Craig is engaged to be married in June...)

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-Craig Morris, Westside Church; Aitkin, MN

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www.twitter.com/CraigMorris (Follow me, please!)

Pastor Care

"Anger, Forgiveness, and the Healing Process"

Last week, my wife Sandy and I attended a professional development seminar that has expanded my understanding of that well-known and oft quoted Scriptural reference to anger: Ephesians 4:26-27 "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." The title of the seminar was "Anger, Forgiveness, and the Healing Process" presented by Paula Butterfield, PhD, under the auspices of the Institute for Brain Potential., a decidedly secular academic organization from California.

Given that background, you are probably wondering what that seminar would teach that was applicable to understanding Scripture. Before attempting to answer your supposed question, I need to tell you that I am angry at myself as I write this article, because I am late again and struggling against time to accomplish several things that are important to me. However, instead of nurturing my sense of disappointment and frustration, I am going to forgive myself and use my time and energy to finish a thought-provoking initial article rather than anguish over the lack of completeness.

Now, to your question. For a long time, I have understood Ephesians

4:26 to be telling us that we need to deal with our anger immediately, before the sun goes down, by going to the person we feel angry toward and straightening things out. I still believe that is an accurate reading of the passage, but perhaps not a complete reading. Perhaps there is a missing action on my part that might make a very significant difference. Could it be that essential to the healthy process of "straightening things out" is my choice to forgive the other person(s) for whatever it was I perceived as dangerous and damaging to me? Is it possible that attempts to repair, restore, heal relationships without the intervening choice to forgive will more likely strain the relationship and stress our motivation and attitude more?

My own poor choices leave me out of time! I will be back next month to finish this discussion. In the meantime, let me know what you think and feel about this. Contact me at ndbskb@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT

*Stillman Valley
IL*

CHAPLAINCY

The Crane Man

It is not everyday that you meet a crane man who sits high off the ground lifting, moving, and shifting heavy steel objects successfully to and from large ships, railroad cars, and semi-trucks in a dangerous, precarious environment.

For 25 years Bill (not his real name), has sat 10-12 hours a day high off the ground pulling, pushing levers and knobs in his cab, mastering a skill that few of us could ever do. To him-his crane is much like a Tonka toy.

What he does is profoundly dangerous with fellow employees and big rigs working below. Yet this crane man has managed to maintain an impeccable safety record. Totally awesome!

The one-thing Bill has not been able to do well is to share his faith among those employees who pride themselves in being the meanest dog in the steel-yard. That is until the crane man and I connected up,

and I had the strategic opportunity to share my twin-pack '*long-distance traveling companion*' with him.

Bill quickly learned that he could easily share the '*Good News*' that is sandwiched in our 90-minute program with long-distance truck drivers and colleagues who keep the steel-yard moving along.

In fact, just this past Sunday, Bill called sharing the results of giving one of our CD packets to a grumpy driver. In his own words, Bill writes:

I already had chosen the driver to whom I was going to share the packet with-the meanest truck driver in the whole fleet.

When he pulled up to my crane for loading the next-day, I blew my horn letting him know that I wanted to speak with him before he pulled out of the yard.

Once he was fully loaded, I quickly made my way down the stairs of my crane to speak with him. There he stood-a big burley guy with a cocky attitude.

As I extended the CD out to him, he simply looked down at it and in a grumpy voice said, "*I have no time for this stuff!*"

He immediately turned around and began making his way back to his tractor. I yelled, "*Rick!* (not his real name) *You have nothing else to do while making your trip . . . just take it!*"

Without missing a heartbeat, Rick turned around, grabbing the packet out of my hand and climbed up in his big rig to exit the yard.

Later on toward the end of my shift, I noticed Rick-the same cranky driver returning to my crane.

As I quickly made my way again down the stairs-I looked up not to see the testy driver, but a broken man. This time he gently handed the packet back to me and said,

"My marriage, family, and all I have has fallen apart . . . I want to thank you for allowing me to listen to this packet . . . it has given me some hope."

Bill just stood there speechless-as he connected up with this broken truck driver. Later on that evening, Bill called sharing how God allowed him to be used in sharing his faith by handing out a CD packet

that dealt with God's unconditional love.

'Crane man' Bill, may have taught us a new truth in 'being My witnesses' found in Acts 1:8. 'The witnesses' may involve being obedient in giving out a CD on eternal perspectives for those that travel the interstates, highways, and the roads beyond.

Incidentally, Bill plans on ordering 2 more packets so that he can faithfully pass them onward to those he really cares about. This is Tom Pousche with Big Rig Celebrates-*Your Inspirational Long Distance Traveling Companion*. Be sure to visit our Website: BigRigC.Org . . . See you next-trip!

*"They will give a testimony of Your great goodness
and will joyfully sing of Your righteousness."*

Psalm 145:7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

This is a story from Dr. Tom Pousche one of our chaplains working with truckers. He has a new ministry of providing CD's for them as they travel our highways. Many truck stops are now selling these CD's to truckers. Pray for this new ministry and for Tom and his wife Kathy as they minister to needy truckers. For more information about CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or by phone at 218-776-2813.

Free Printer

Dell Photo Printer 720 with two NEW black ink cartridges and one NEW color cartridge. Very compact. FREE for cost of postage or can bring to Retreat for delivery. NCCBA office 715-538-2298 Email nccba@trivest.net

Upcoming Events

2011 Pastors' Seminar/Pastors & Wives Retreat

Pastor's Seminar April 28, Pastors & Wives Retreat April 28-30
NCCBA Annual Meeting April 29

NEW location: [The Abbey Resort](#) in Fontana WI (on Lake Geneva)

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

SW Minnesota/NW Iowa Cluster

April 12, 11 AM-1 PM

Contact cluster leader, Steve DeKok for location: 507-840-0773 (cell)

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Northampton Bible Church--Cuyahoga Falls OH YOUTH PASTOR
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Colfax IA YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Pekin IL--Two positions: WORSHIP LEADER and CHURCH PLANTER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)
- Hayden Heights Baptist Church--St. Paul MN
- First Baptist Church--Bradford IL
- Keystone Baptist Church--Chicago IL
- Wildwood Baptist Church--East Moline IL
- Monona Oaks Community Church--Madison WI

Contact Our Office

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