

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

August 2011

"Take Me to Your Leader"

In the July newsletter, I mentioned that one of the Search Team members asked me a pointed question, "Pat, what are you truly passionate about?" As I delivered my answer then and thought more about it since, it reminded me of a quote by philosopher Aristotle twenty-five hundred years ago: "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, in fact, 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." Though I represent the "older men" category, my passions are still strong and I am sure about the same things that gave our Lord mission and purpose. One of those passions I share is the need for servant leadership development. Clearly as we look at our changing culture, we understand that we are in a time of leadership challenge and transition. Whether it is in politics, education, business or whatever, there is a widespread call for leaders. In the church, the search is not for any kind of leader, but transformational leadership. It is servant leaders who have a clear Biblical message and are conscious of a mission that expresses their passion for Christ and people.

I am probably dating myself, but do you remember this cartoon

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Natural Church Development

How Healthy is
Your Church?

This is a proven tool
that can help your

catchphrase? An alien spaceship lands in a field and some extra-terrestrials step out to find a human. They say, "Take me to your leader." Shocked, the humans don't know where to take them. Why am I passionate about developing servant leaders in our region? Because many of our churches today are like the dazed humans in my cartoon analogy . . . they don't know what a good leader looks like and they don't know where to go to find one.

So where do pastors and church leaders develop their understanding of servant leadership? The Scriptures are full of examples from the life of Christ and many others who modeled effective leadership - Moses, Joshua, the prophets, and Paul to name a few. While offering strong leadership and vision in His ministry, Jesus exemplified the life of a servant. In John 13:1-17, He demonstrated the full extent of His love for the disciples when He unselfishly washed their feet. That is true servanthood. We need to intentionally develop this in the life and character of church leaders.

A servant leader not only exemplifies unselfish love, but also humility in how he treats others. This challenge to live out Christ's humility was seen by Paul in Philippians 2:3-5, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

I have mentioned two essential qualities of servant leadership that need to be developed within leaders of our churches. There are more. My point is this, "Jesus personified leadership." He directed thinking, guided people, shared vision, promoted mission and aimed them toward truth. This is the kind of servant leadership I am committed to help develop in our churches.

In their book, "Leadership: Magic, Myth or Method", J.W. McLean and William Weitzel gave one of the best definitions of leadership I have ever read. It is simple and reflects clearly the example of Christ at work. Leadership is . . . "A person involved in a process of influencing and developing a group of people in order to accomplish a purpose by means of supernatural power."

I look forward to coming alongside of our pastors and church leaders to assist them in



church with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism.

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developing leaders that will glorify God and promote the greatest mission known to man.

Pat Phinney, Executive Director

patnccba@trivest.net

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Cluster Leader Corner

Learning from Timothy

By Steve Daggett, Cavalier Baptist, Cavalier, ND

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man the man who falls and has no one to help him up. . . . Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A chord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10, 12

I recently had a "light bulb moment", the kind of epiphany that comes to us only as we see ourselves and our own history through the eyes of our maturing children. It confirmed for me the value of our clusters and of committed Christian friendships in general.

About two weeks ago, Sue and I were talking to our 20 year old son about a period of difficulty he encountered last year during his junior year in college. He shared with us that he had been trying to fight through a period of discouragement and oppression and found himself wishing someone would come through the door and say: "Hey, Tim! How'd you like some great conversation? Let's go down to the lounge and chew the fat for awhile." (Obviously I'm paraphrasing what he really said. 20 year olds don't use expressions like "chew the fat"). Then it struck him that no one was going to come looking for him. The answer to his need was not wishful mooning alone in his room, but action. He resolved to take the initiative, walk down to the student lounge, find a likely friend, and then simply and honestly express his need of encouragement. He

office at 715-538-2298

Ministry Quick Links

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New Staff Background Checks

NCCBA is now able to perform background checks for member churches. Call 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

did just that. He took the initiative and it became the turning-point of his year at school. Rather than sitting in isolation and wishing someone would come by, he walked out of his dorm room, admitted his need and found encouragement in the Body of Christ.

The real crux of this story is not really in what happened to my son, or what he learned from it. The real story is my realization at how far away from his attitude I have drifted since my own college and young adult years. Like most of us, perhaps, I made a lot of wonderful friends during my college and seminary years. I would say I developed very close friendships with at least 4-6 men over the course of the 10 years between the end of high school and the end of seminary. And for many years I did a pretty decent job keeping in touch with most of them. But in the last decade or so I've battled a sense of growing isolation and corresponding gloom.

To be fair, some of this came from "environmental factors". I was serving in a very small, somewhat out of the way community. Finding fellowship took work-it had to be done intentionally. And sometimes it was just easier to not make the effort. Perhaps part of this slide away from friendship was related to my perception that some of my old friends had achieved significance (doctorates, high profile churches, glamorous locations) while I labored in a tiny church in the remote North Woods of Minnesota. But I think the biggest factor has been the process of growing older. I wonder if I haven't retreated into myself more the older I've gotten.

Lest this become an exercise in public introspection, let me hurry to the application. My son's story taught me that if I want the blessings of koinonia I must take the initiative. I can't wait for the Lord to send someone bursting through my door to rescue me. I must take the risk, leave the safety of isolation, and reach out, humbly admitting my need. Maybe this is not where you find yourself, in ministry or in life. Or perhaps the battle with isolation and discouragement is more common than we'd like to admit. God didn't create us to live, work and worship in a safe cocoon of isolation. He designed us to grow best and healthiest in contact and cooperation with a community of believers. So whether you reach out to your spouse, or an old college chum, or to your local or regional pastor's cluster, the main thing is to do it! Don't think about it. Don't consider it. Don't dream about it, or put it on your calendar to do next month. Do it: reach out to those God has put in your life. Let them be a blessing to you, and you to them.

nccba@triwest.net

From the TRUTH PROJECT: "Does God Exist?"

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YOUTH PASTORS:

Sometimes on nice days I like to walk to Church. I love to get out into the community and see if I can connect with someone. One Sunday as I walked past the Church up the street the Pastor who was busy preparing for the service yelled out a hello from his second floor study. That was nice. This past Sunday was a beautiful day and on my way in I was able to catch up with one of the ladies of the community who faithfully walks to Church each Sunday. We shared a pleasant hello and then she asked me if I had heard about the teenager in Florida who killed his parents and then hosted a party while the parent's bodies still lay in the bedroom. I know. I almost tripped on the curb in my startle too. I mean it was a pleasant morning and in the middle of our nice walk I hear about this gruesome act of violence and complacency that this kind woman had caught on the news that morning over breakfast. Later in the day I was able to read more and watch more on the subject than I could ever care to experience. What is it that brings the relationship of child to parent, designed perfectly by the almighty God, to a place so dark that this is the result? There is only one answer. Sin.

I know it is not a pleasant idea. The very idea of sin being the topic of an article for the Youth Pastor section of our newsletter seems like a bit of a downer. In that, it is not unlike the turn that my sunny walk to Church took that morning. The reality is that it sometimes takes an ugly ordeal like this to bring us to a place where we are aware again of our collective sin problem. This gets our attention. This makes us take notice. We are reminded again that this is not the way life is supposed to be and God has not let me forget this all week.

I began a middle school Sunday School class by having a dart contest. We then talked about how the word "sin" in its original sense meant "missing the mark". This is like when a hunter misfires

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

on the family's meal for the night and the family feels the consequence by going hungry. Then as I was reading the book, Touching Godliness: Experiencing Freedom through Submission by K.P. Yohannan, I read that "sin is a manifestation of the independent spirit of pride and self." (p.73) On top of that we began reading the Big Picture Story Bible with our little girl before bed time. It describes the fall of Adam & Eve in a beautiful yet simple way; "Adam and Eve chose to doubt God's goodness. They chose to disobey God's word. They did not let God be king over them. They ate some fruit from the tree." (42-43) Somehow I think God is trying to get my attention on this sin thing.

I guess what I have learned most from this week of being haunted by the sin issue is that I don't take my own sin seriously enough. Our communities are turned upside down over reports of gruesome acts like that of Tyler Hadley, as we should be, but what about our own sins? If we understand sin to be Missing the Mark, Pride and Selfishness or Disobeying God's Word or Kingship does that change how we see the impact of our sin on our communities and spheres of influence. How our world would be changed if God's people were just as aware of how their sins affected their community as they are over those they hear about on the news.

Dan Norman, Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries

First Baptist Church, Whitehall WI

Pastor Care:

THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

My Grandfather Tuttle, my mother's father, was always an old man in my eyes. My parents were in their early 40's when I was born, therefore Grandpa was in his sixties at my earliest recollections of him. Visiting the home of my Grandfather and a never-married aunt was one of the great pleasures of my childhood. Dede was a school teacher, who knew how to deal with kids, and always had interesting things tucked up in the closet of the spare bedroom. Grandpa was a clock-maker, and the basement was occasionally

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filled with a cacophony of sounds as the chiming clocks tolled the hour. Would it surprise you to know that my home is filled with that same sort of cacophony at set intervals during the day.

During one of those wonderful visits to Grandpa and Dede's home, my oldest brother and his family were also there, including one of my nieces. She was in the terrible two's and saying "no" to just about everything. My wise and sometimes playful Grandfather said to my niece, "I'll bet I can make you say 'No.'" "No!" sprang out of my niece's mouth with great strength and confidence. The next moment she realized what had just happened, and her strong confidence changed to anger, embarrassment, and consternation. She fled to room crying. Later, Grandpa tried it again, and this time my niece opened her mouth in the usual fashion-hesitated-and turned away with a smile.

My niece, at least for that moment, was aware that you always are making choices and that you can make a different choice no matter what someone else says or does. This truth is one the fundamental realities that gives my counseling clients and me the hope-dare I say confidence-that things don't have to be as they have been. Not only is there hope, but there is the realization that I can change things significantly even though I cannot change everything.

I often hear people declare hopelessly and helplessly, "I wish I could go back and change it." I challenge their belief that nothing can be done about what has happened in the past. I acknowledge that the actual events that took place cannot be altered. I cannot change the words I said or the actions someone else took. However, there are three types or sorts of change that can be made that are life-changing.

The most obvious change I can make is in what I do, the actions I take now. For example, if I am not talking to a person because of a hurtful or damaging event in our relationship, I can make a different choice. While I cannot change what I have done in the past, I can

decide differently now.

Another change I can make is in the way I feel about that person and what has happened between us. Many people assume that the way they feel about things, the emotions they experience, come from the events-as though everyone always feels that same way whenever that sort of thing happens. However, reality teaches us that people have many different emotional responses to the same event. The truth is, even the same person can have several different feelings about an event, some of them seemingly mutually exclusive of each other.

The most profound choice that we make about the things we experience in life is the decision about what events mean. We are constantly assigning meaning to the events involving us. We interpret them, instantly based on habits developed slowly over our lifetime. These habits enable us to organize life and respond to rapidly changing situations quickly and effectively-that is, if our habits are helpful and beneficial rather than damaging and destructive. However, if the interpretations I assign to things are inaccurate, wrong, sinful, mistaken, and thus destructive and damaging to me and others, the outcome will be "bad" rather than genuinely "good."

The fact that our assigning of meaning to events is habitual, and designed to allow us to rapidly respond to things, also means that we are often unaware of both the process and the interpretation itself. Instead it seems that this all comes from the event itself, that it is cause and effect, and must be the way it is, unless I can change the event. And usually I cannot do that, because I cannot control the other people involved or the circumstances.

So I come back to where we started-with my niece and my Grandfather. My Grandfather purposely repeated his behavior. My niece decided to interpret the situation differently, feel about it differently, and act about it differently. She could not have told you that, but it surely happened. That same sort of thing can take place

in our lives, even with regard to things that happened long ago. We can assign a different meaning, attach different feelings, and select different behavior. The choice is ours. The choice is yours!

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT

Stillman Valley, Illinois

Chaplaincy:

Our chaplains have exciting ministries and have touched many lives as they serve. Here are two different men serving thousands of miles apart but having effective ministry.

Dru Nelson is serving in Afghanistan with the Marines and Russ Guppy works with Law enforcement in the Tacoma/Seattle area and with the FBI several times a year. Dru's story was written by a correspondent inserted with them.

If you would like to know more about the ministry of CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russel at chapruss@cbamerica.org or call his office at 218-776-2813.

Meet 'Chaps', or Dru Nelson as he's otherwise known. The Chaplain for 3/4 in COP Ouellette. Imagine a rock star crossed with a man of the cloth and that's Drew; he's a pretty cool cat.

Somehow he's managed to piece together the finest chapel in northern Helmand, and the place is an absolute sanctuary. From outside it's just another tan tent, but inside he's got industrial-strength air conditioning, 42 neatly arranged chairs in front of a makeshift altar, stacks of magazines, board games and loads of care package goodies to help yourself to. There's fresh coffee on 24/7 and when he's not holding services he shows movies. And not, as you might imagine, crushingly dull happy-clappy nonsense but proper films that Marines want to watch with guns, action and swearing. He reads the Bible instead of Nuts, doesn't carry a rifle or dip tobacco, but he's all about the guys on the line.

"I wanted to come out here, I think if you're going to do this job it's

important to be amongst the Marines as often as you can," he says.

"This chapel is somewhere where anyone can come and relax, hang out. I'm always there to talk, I do a lot of counseling with the guys if they want it, but I don't ram it down their throat. If they want to talk about anything at all, I'm there."

It's Dru's insistence that he gets out on the line with the Marines that they really appreciate. Lima Company have been having a tough time of late and wherever I went on the line, at some point I'd run into Chaps, always smiling and putting himself in harm's way just to be amongst them. He operates so passively that half the time you don't even realize he's there, just a quiet and positive presence in the background.

I inadvertently attended a Catholic Mass while sheltering from the thudding heat. The division Chaplain flew in and it was Catholic Mass, Marine style. After the sermon the Chaplain finished with "got that? Good to go?" as though completing a tactical briefing, then poured the wine, broke the bread and drank all the wine himself. Well, I guess alcohol's banned for service members. I'm Protestant (I think, the last time I went into a church was because it was raining outside) so just mumbled at the complicated bits and looked down.

But if all Chaplains were like Dru, who knows? I might even give this religion thing a try. Dru Nelson, resident Chaplain for the 3/4 Marines and a terribly decent chap.

Written by John Cantlie, a journalist with FastFeatures.com.

Last month, May 2011, I was privileged again to serve for two weeks as the temporary resident chaplain at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Some of you remember that, and even prayed for me while I was there. Thank you! I thought I would tell you a little about my time at Quantico.

This is the twentieth anniversary of the FBI's volunteer chaplain program. About 50 experienced police chaplains were chosen in 1991, and about half are still in place. The total has grown to around 130 throughout the FBI system. Shortly after moving to Tacoma in 2005, I was "recruited" by the Seattle office and Chaplain Bill Tate, a very fine pastor and one of the original FBI chaplains. Part of the privilege is the opportunity to chaplain at the academy as a pastor-counselor in residence for 14 days.

The FBI Academy is the training site for all new agents, intelligence analysts, and for advanced in-service training for all types of FBI personnel. It is also the site of the FBI's National Academy for chosen senior police officers, usually lieutenants and above, from police agencies across America and throughout the Free World (who are literate in English). Other specialized training is offered for foreign police officers and conducted in their native tongue.

In May, there was a large group from Brazil and another of Arabic-speaking police commanders from the Middle East. As visiting chaplain, I have the opportunity to converse and mingle with any of these during meal times, to sit in on some classes, and even be at the firearms range with new agent classes. This session I had significant conversations with officers and/or agents from Brazil, Kenya, Iraq (!), Michigan, California, New York, Florida, etc. An officer I've known from his rookie days in Oregon was attending the National Academy, and that has happened twice in previous year's visits. This year I also gave prayers for the graduates of a class of new Intelligence Analysts, a highly important FBI role in the age of global terrorism. I was also able to encourage a new local FBI chaplain on his first visit to the academy.

Because the FBI Academy is in an isolated secure location 35 miles from Washington DC, and miles from any town, the "Bureau" allows the visiting chaplain to conduct a chapel worship service on the two Sunday mornings of his/her stay at the academy. Many personnel have vehicles and leave on the weekends, even to attend churches in Northern Virginia. So we usually have only 10 to 20 (50 plus on Easter) who come to the beautiful chapel built into the ground level of one of the high-rise buildings. On the Sunday after Easter my message was "The Hope of the Post-resurrection Appearances of Jesus"; and on the other Sunday I gave a sermon on godly leadership

from the biblical secular leaders, Joseph and Daniel. On May 5th, the National Day of Prayer, I lead an outdoor prayer service at noon around the flagpole. Many FBI staff prayed aloud that day for our country, our FBI agents, families, soldiers and other war fighters-and this was just after the death of Osama bin Laden.

That's a quick glimpse, but I thank you for making it possible for me to be there, to represent our Lord, and be His "pastoral agent" among the fine people of the FBI who quietly labor to protect our freedom--today ...and tomorrow.

*Chaplain Russ Guppy
Tacoma Police Department
Check out our website at T-PCC.org*

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Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Michigan Cluster

September 19th

Contact Mike Wetzig, 231-853-6021

Central Illinois Cluster

September 20th, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Edwards, IL

Contact Scott Boerckel, 309-454-3833

Wisconsin/NE Minnesota

September 15, noon at Perkins, Eau Claire

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

The list of Pastor Cluster Leaders on our website can be viewed by clicking

[here](#)

Iowa CB Annual Meeting

October 10 & 11

Colfax, Iowa

Call Phil Butler for information, 515-674-3752

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Pekin IL--Two positions: WORSHIP LEADER and CHURCH PLANTER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)
- Hillcrest Baptist Church--Muscatine IA
- 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

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - nccba@triwest.net

North Central Conservative Baptist Association | P.O. Box 568 | Whitehall | WI | 54773