

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

August 2012

Groundbreaking in Eau Claire WI

What a glorious day it was, and all the glory goes to Jesus Christ, the Sovereign Head of His church. After almost eleven years of watching our Lord accomplish His timeline and prepare His people at Calvary Baptist Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, groundbreaking ceremonies for a new ministry center were held on Sunday, August 12, at the conclusion of the morning worship service. Over 250 people gathered under the big tent on the 10-acre building site for two hours of worship music, ministry testimonies, prayer, and preaching. The challenge from God presented by Pastor John van Gorkom [continue article below](#)



First shovels of dirt turned by charter members and former Pastor Ralph Miller

From our Regional Director:

Fighting to Keep Focus

- **Focus (fo-kus) noun, [Latin] 1. A focal point 2. To concentrate 3. A center of interest of activity 4. To sharpen or clearly define. 5. The point at which an object is most clearly seen.**

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The headlines for the XXX Olympic boxing world on August 8 reads, "Knocked Out! American men leave Olympics without a medal for the first time." I saw the fight. It was between the Russian welterweight boxer, Andrey Zamkovoy and USA boxer, Errol Spence. I kept saying to the USA boxer, "Come on, let's start boxing!" The rest of the world finally caught and passed the once dominant American team. Why the spectacular collapse? What caused them to lose nine of their last ten bouts? I am not a boxing analyst, but in the Olympic fights I witnessed, the Americans lost focus and became tentative.

I have passed my one year mark as Director of NCCBA and what a marvelous journey it has been. I would not trade one minute of all the things I have seen and experienced with our CB churches. Being new, there is one thing that I do have and that is fresh perspective. I have more observations and opinions than you might want to hear, but here is one for you. "When the 'fight is on' and conflict or opposition abounds, some leaders become very tentative and lose focus." I want to say at times to my fellow fighters, "Come on. We can do this! Don't give up! Let's keep fighting to do what is right!" Once leadership loses focus on what they are called to do and become tentative in the fight for truth, then comes the knock-out punch from the opponent.

To a casual observer in the world, Jesus might appear as a nomad who performed miracles. Maybe He was like a first century Johnny Appleseed who scattered goodness like throwing confetti at a New Year's Eve party. Possibly He was like a Galilean Socrates whose idealism attracted starry eyed disciples. Nothing could be further from the truth. He was the world's most focused leader and a genius in organizational development and human resources. He specialized in visionary management. Of course, He was God.

I love His leadership style as He faced opposition on every side:

~ ~ The religious leaders set traps in hopes of discrediting Him . . .
."Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words." (Matthew 22:15)

~ ~ His disciples tried to rewrite His agenda . . ."Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." (Mark 10:37)

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Customized demographic information available about your church location. This is a free service for all NCCBA churches. Call Pat at 952-322-7173 at his home office.

Ministry Quick Links

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~ ~ Even Satan took his best shot at Him. . . *"All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me."* (Mark 4:9)

How did Jesus survive the constant bombardment of second guessers and obstinate rivals? As far as that goes, how does any leader in the church maintain focus in the middle of hostile distractions?

First of all, Jesus was determined to do God's will and nothing else. He said in John 6:38, "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." Nothing would divert Jesus from doing the Father's Will. Not his overwhelming success. Not his triumphant debates. Not even the cross removed His focus.

He focused His message. Every thought, dialogue, conversation and comment was deliberately centered on the message of salvation given to Him by God Himself. Nothing could distract Him from words that changed the world.

He wasn't intimidated by complaints. Crowds walked away from Him in droves. Many complained about Him and questioned His motives for such a bold message, but still it did not stop Him. *"On hearing it, many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?'"* (John 6:60)

And finally, He was determined to replicate Himself through His disciples. *"As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."* (John 17:18) From hundreds of candidates He chose only a dozen followers, each with varying degree of strengths and weaknesses. He held nothing back and they became "discipled" (learners) for kingdom work.

Jesus was focused on the fight and His mission at hand. Now it is our turn. Summer is such a fun time to relax. Taking great vacations and spending time with family and friends is a must, but as we think about church this fall . . . LET'S BE FOCUSED.

Do you remember the USA boxer, Errol Spence? This is what he said after he was defeated by the Russian, "I'm glad a better guy beat me this time. I just tried to fight my fight, and it didn't work out. He was the better man." Are you ok with that?? I close with a quote from one of the greatest boxers known to man, *"I have*

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 the office, 715-538-2298.

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 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.

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fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8 Let's keep fighting!

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From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

Many of us have favorite or life passages of scripture that are meaningful to us. As I look back, there are passages that stick out which were pivotal in shaping my life journey. These are passages that continue to inspire and encourage. They continue to guide my path. Romans 12:1-2 convinced me that I can trust God's plans for my life. This is a lesson I often need to remember. Ephesians 4:11-13 helped me to drill down and better understand my role as a pastor. Proverbs 2-4 remind me of the importance of pursuing wisdom, learning from other's life lessons, and the fact that pursuing wisdom helps me to totally avoid those things that can sidetrack and destroy my life. There is a pleasure and comfort that comes from these personally familiar passages that have and continue to impact and shape my life.

On the flip side, are there any passages of scripture that annoy or irritate you? Passages or stories that you go back to and they still push your buttons? Hezekiah and the events of 2 Kings 20:12-21 is one of those passages for me. For as long as I can remember, Hezekiah's response to Isaiah has astounded and really annoyed me. To paraphrase, Hezekiah has shown the Babylonian envoys all the wealth and grandeur of his kingdom. God was displeased with Hezekiah's actions and sent Isaiah to rebuke him and announce judgment.

Here is God's judgment and Hezekiah's response ...

17 "The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the Lord. 18 And some of your

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 the NCCBA office at 715-538-2298 or by email nccba@trivest.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.

NLT Bibles

CBAmerica is again offering Bibles at greatly reduced rates when ordered by the case. We would like to recommend the NLT Parallel Study Bible and the NLT Study Bible to our NCCBA churches.

NLT Parallel Study Bible (Hardcover)
Normally \$44.99 is \$24.00 each (in cases of 8)

NLT Study Bible (Hardcover) Normally \$39.99 is \$21.00 each (in cases of 10) Available by filling out the order form on the CBAmerica website www.cbamerica.org or toll-free 888-366-3010 in CASE LOTS ONLY

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descendants, your own flesh and blood, that will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

19 "The word of the Lord you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?" (NIV, 1984)

I am taken back by Hezekiah's lack of repentance. His selfish indifference so warped his perspective that he classified this rebuke and judgment as "good". After all of these years, I continue to be stunned at Hezekiah's callousness toward his descendants and the nation he was called to lead.

I don't see anything positive with Hezekiah's response, but I think time and life experience has helped me to understand some of what prompted his response. As you read about his life, Hezekiah was a Godly man and a good king. Despite all that, I think he lost God's perspective and he started to think that his life was all about him. If we are not careful, we can start to think that our lives are about us. As I examine my own life, I see how much I am inclined to think my life is about me. I am not alone. This "it's all about me" mindset permeates our culture and, if we are not careful, it can dominate our lives and the life of Jesus' church. I think Rick Warren hit the bulls-eye when he penned the first 4 words in his book, "The Purpose Driven Life" ... "It's not about you."

This brings me back to one of those passages that continues to resonate with my soul and that continues to pull at my heart and mind ... Philippians 2. Here, the Apostle Paul challenges us to live life without selfish ambition and vain conceit. Paul modeled this value with his life. Paul did not have a Hezekiah mindset. However, Paul did not use his own life as the example. He challenged us with the example of Jesus. If anyone had the right to claim status and position, it was Jesus. Instead, Jesus chose obedience to the Father and the role of a servant, even death on a cross.

I do not know how this might apply to you, but for me I need to continue to guard my heart. I live with a constant tension. Follow the example of Jesus or fall into the path of Hezekiah.

*Andrew Brown, Senior Pastor
FBC, Long Prairie, Minnesota*

insurance. Call or email Pat to find out more, 952-322-7173 or patnccba@trivest.net. A link is included on [our website](#) to this insurance broker's website.

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR:

Sound Doctrine Needed

During the past two decades in youth ministry, I have been introduced to the vast variety of resources, books, and conferences all suggesting "This resource, book, and conference is exactly what you need: it has a wonderful plan for your youth ministry!" Within the array of youth ministry helps have been ideas, beliefs, and values aimed at shaping my heart, the heart of a youth pastor.

Often, these heart shaping messages conflict, and at times contradict each other: should youth ministry be purpose driven or should it be contemplative in order to grow souls? Do I need a new kind of youth ministry or should I revisit relational ministry? Do I need to do postmodern youth ministry or should youth ministry be family based? Listening to today's American youth ministry "experts" can leave the sincere youth pastor questioning everything and wondering what, if anything, is true and worth pursuing.

What we as youth pastors believe to be true is vital to youth ministry. What you and I believe to be true will become the beliefs we will teach the young people God has entrusted to our care. These beliefs will shape what our young people think concerning right from wrong, how they view reality from fiction, and how they understand what it means to walk as Jesus walked.

What we believe will be passed on to the young people we shepherd, which will influence how they behave, which will ultimately have consequences, the greatest consequences being eternal (Rev 20:11-13). In the New Testament, these truths to be passed on are called doctrines. As youth pastors, we must be sure of the doctrine we teach and the doctrine we live because the end result of doctrinal beliefs are eternal consequences.

The apostle Paul understood the importance of doctrine when he gave Timothy the following instruction: "Watch your life and

doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Tim 4:16 NIV84) Paul understood that what Timothy believed to be true would become a part of his life and lifestyle. Paul commanded Timothy to "pay close attention to" his life and doctrine and to "continue" paying close attention to his life and doctrine. These were not cultural suggestions, but life preserving commands to be obeyed and put into practice.

Paying attention to how Timothy lived his life and what doctrines he adhered his life to would not only impact his own life, but also the lives of those entrusted to his care: "you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Tim 4:16) There is a supernatural saving affect on each life when the shepherd is guarding his lifestyle and doctrine. "To save" indicates that Timothy's obedience to guarding and persevering in the sound doctrine he had learned from Paul, and the right way to live out that doctrine, would have a positive, saving affect on his own future as well as on those Timothy had the privilege to shepherd. Not that Timothy himself could save anyone, but God would use Timothy's obedience and righteous life to impact his "youth group." Timothy's life and doctrine were vital to being an effective pastor. This is why knowing sound doctrine, teaching sound doctrine, and living sound doctrine are vital to youth ministry.

We as youth pastors must be aware of anything that is contrary to sound doctrine (1 Tim 1:10). We must command men not to teach false doctrines (1 Tim 1:3). We must watch our life and doctrine closely (1 Tim 4:16). We must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). Paul said that anyone who teaches false doctrines and does not hold on to sound teaching engages in sin and has been robbed of the truth (1 Tim 6:3-5). The doctrines we embrace, teach, and live out will impact the lives of our young people, not just in the present, but for eternity.

This month, as you navigate your Fall programming and activity schedule, what doctrinal truths are you seeking to live out, to teach, to model before those you shepherd? Youth ministry resources, books, & conferences telling us how to "do youth ministry" can be helpful, but knowing and living sound doctrine is key to being the youth pastors God has called us to be. What is needed in the church today is a renewed commitment as youth pastors to watch our life and doctrine closely, to persevere in the

sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel that He has entrusted to our care (1Tim 1:11).

*Matt Slippy
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries
Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids IA*



Pastor John and Denise van Gorkom

Groundbreaking Continued:

was taken from Genesis 11:1-9, where in the story of the Tower of Babel we discovered that the Lord requires right management, right motives, right materials, and the right mission. Following the message, everyone gathered outside the tent with their shovels in hand. The Elders of Calvary began the groundbreaking ceremony with Scripture that God had given us during the previous eleven years of planning.

Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. Isaiah 54:2-3 (NIV)

Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. Hosea 10:12 (NIV)

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout; I the LORD have created it. Isaiah 45:8 (ESV)

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. Isaiah 44:3 (ESV)

And I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. Ezekiel 34:26 (ESV)

It was a great blessing to have representatives of two of our NCCBA churches (Chippewa Falls and Bloomer) present to represent our partnership in the Gospel with our sister churches. Also present was Gordon Ellison of World Venture to represent our worldwide mission. Each brought greetings, along with representatives of a local mission supported by Calvary and a representative of Derrick Construction, our general contractor.

Pastor Dennis Pond then introduced our honorary groundbreakers, consisting of seven church members with over fifty years of ministry at Calvary who were not able to be present because of health reasons. The honorary groundbreakers also consisted of two charter members, Marlene Cripe and Wilma Hodges, several other long time ministry partners including Joyce Russell, John Schone, Bob Strait, Marilyn Thames, and Janet Faulcner. They were joined by former Pastor Ralph Miller and his wife Dorothy. These people represented the heritage of our church, and were given the honor of turning the first shovels of dirt. Our ministry guests turned the second shovel, and then all of the congregation joined in turning over dirt in what will eventually become the children's ministry center of the facility.

The service was closed with everyone praising God with shouts of rejoicing and then singing what has become our theme song of our mission, "Mighty to Save."

The timeline for construction is as follows:

- Hauling of fill to begin as soon as DNR issues permit, hopefully this week.
- Excavation for footings should begin mid to late September.
- Construction completed in late April

The building will be over 21,000 square feet.

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CHAPLAINCY:



First Baptist Church of Enterprise, Oregon

"But God Demonstrated His Love"

Below is an article written by one of our prison chaplains in Ontario, Oregon.

Walking out of prison this time was different!. Dan, a graying 56 year old, wasn't the same man who entered prison 24 years earlier. Except for a few years (here-and-there), Dan's life revolved around entering and leaving lock-up since age 14! It was different on July 19, 2012.

It was different because he wasn't walking out of Tracy, Folsom, or San Quentin prison back to a bustling environment of old associates, old ways, and old stomping grounds. Instead, he released from Oregon's largest prison - Snake River Correctional Institution - to a remote Wallowa County community in Northeast Oregon. This time he releases as a Christian assisted by a Christian community - the First Baptist Church of Enterprise, Oregon. When Dan steps onto the church parking lot, it is only his second visit to Wallowa County. On his first, he was passing through on the run looking to hide out in Hell's Canyon on the Oregon/Idaho

border. "It was 1988 and I was in a very negative mindset. I got a gun, a girlfriend, some meth; stole a 1979 Dodge van and did a robbery spree across California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. We were arrested 6 weeks later on the upper Imnaha River at Hell's Canyon. Looking for gas, I left my gun in the van. As I look back I realize it was an act of God - me leaving my gun. County and State police arrived and drew their guns down on me. I recall reaching to my waist band, but no gun!" writes Dan. God's grace was keeping Dan from sure death that day. Interest! Dan was on his way to Hell(s Canyon) caught & kept by God for the time of his salvation (Wallowa is a Nez Perce Indian word for the fish trap used by the tribe).

At the Snake River Correctional Institution, God caused the paths of Dan and CB Chaplain Tom Armstrong to converge. While attending Chaplain Armstrong's chapel services, Dan shared his fear about



(left to right) Neal Isely, Director, Point of Connections Ministry; Dan Marriott; Chaplain Tom Armstrong

releasing to an area where he didn't know anyone, had no family, and no place to work or live. Part of Chaplain Armstrong's ministry includes coordinating help to inmates who want spiritual connection when they come out of prison. The Oregon Department of Corrections program is called "Home For Good - Oregon". Chaplain Armstrong contacted two CB pastors, Pastor Mark Garland (First Baptist Church, Enterprise) and Pastor Steve

Bartlow (Joseph Baptist Church, Joseph). Together, in conjunction with the local parole and probation office, preparation began to bring a new brother - an unknown brother - in Christ into the community. One year later, July 19, 2012, Dan was met by Pastor Mark at the LaGrande, Oregon bus station and the two drove the 1 ½ hour trek back to Enterprise. Dan found a home and a family in the Body of Christ.

Chaplain Tom, and wife Toni, spoke at First Baptist of Enterprise on Sunday, July 29, 2012. "It was extremely exciting to preach in SRCI chapel the week of Dan's release. In that chapel service, some of our men laid hands on Dan as we prayed for him and commissioned him as a Servant of Christ to the Wallowa Valley. Then, two weeks later, to preach to the saints who have so readily received him!" explained Chaplain Armstrong.

Research identifies several starting points of criminal activity (in the field it's called "criminogenics") which includes anti-social associates and anti-social attitudes. Prison ministry confronts, teaches, and models "pro-social" associates and attitudes through the gathering of the saints behind prison walls. Including, as in Chaplain Armstrong's ministry, helping faith-filled men come into a community of God-loving believers.

If you want to know more about what God is doing through CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or e-mail at chapruss@cbamerica.org.

Beware of Costly Copyright Infringement

This past month NCCBA was contacted and informed that we owed \$7,500 to settle a copyright infringement from a work we published in 2008, even though we had given the author credit and provided a link to the author's website. Thankfully, through email negotiations, the final amount due was considerably less and this case has been closed.

We urge our pastors and churches to be aware of possible consequences of copyright infringement. One of our youth pastors wrote a good article concerning copyright laws, found in our newsletter [Archives](#) (August 2010). Also, [Church Law & Tax](#) has helpful articles concerning this, as well as your church's insurance company.

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Michigan Cluster

September 8th, 1:00 pm
Home of Doug Bytwerk
Spring Lake
Contact Mike Wetzig
231-853-6021

S Illinois Cluster

September 11th, 11:00 am
Home of Joe Stewart
Contact Mark Friday
309-347-5965

Wisconsin/ NE Minnesota

September 17th, 8:00 am
Perkins in Eau Claire
Contact Wade Duroe
715-723-1054

For a Pastor Cluster Leader in your area, click [here](#)

Iowa CB Meetings

October 8th & 9th

Colfax, Iowa---Contact Phil Butler

515-674-3752

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Mason Township Baptist Church--Cassopolis MI SENIOR PASTOR
- Noelridge Park Church--Cedar Rapids IA SENIOR PASTOR
- First Baptist Church-Bradford IL SENIOR PASTOR
- New Providence Baptist Church--Greencastle IN SENIOR PASTOR

- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH WORSHIP LEADER
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson MI WORSHIP LEADER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)

Contact Our Office

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

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