

CB  
North Central  
E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

December 2012

## HURRICANE SANDY UPDATE

To give through CB America, [click here](#).

For news from CB Mission Mid-Atlantic and how to help [click here](#).

*From our Regional Director:*

## Christmas -- Manger or Mall

If you were to choose your favorite holiday of the entire year, what would it be? For most of us, this is undoubtedly a very easy question to answer. We would probably all agree that the Christmas season is by far our most festive occasion of the year. It is a time of joyful celebration for God sending His Son to redeem the world.

But wait. Imagine going Christmas shopping at your local mall and someone starts shooting. That's exactly what happened in Portland, Oregon, on Tuesday afternoon, December 11 when a lone gunman killed three, including himself. For reasons that weren't immediately clear, a shooter described by officials as simply an "adult male" entered the Clackamas Town Center with an assault rifle and started shooting somewhere near the food court. Witnesses counted as many as 60 shots before the assailant turned the gun on himself. The police found the shooter's body, when they arrived, and officers secured the entire scene without firing a shot themselves.

### In This Issue

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From the  
**TRUTH  
PROJECT:**  
"Does God  
Exist?"

At approximately 3:30 pm Portland time, my daughter calls in a panic. She says, "You will never believe what just happened. The kids and I were getting ready to enter the Clackamas Town Center Mall when people came flying out the doors screaming, "Take your kids and run. There is a shooter in the mall." My daughter turns and runs for her life with two kids in hand. In a panicked voice on the phone my daughter says, "Dad, for some reason I forgot my coupons to Barnes and Nobles, so I had to go back home to get them. If I had originally gone to the mall with the coupons, I would have been in the store with the shooter."

But wait. Isn't the Christmas season a time of joy and celebration? Isn't it a time of trimming the tree, Christmas cantatas, candlelight services, singing carols, poinsettias, mistletoe, turkey with cranberry sauce, and presents? This is true, but not for all. "How can this be?" For many, this time of year brings extreme loneliness, discouragement, and even depression right in our churches. I mention this to you because we can become so caught up in the joyous season that we don't see the hurting needs of people right around us. We have a basic responsibility to care for those hurting people like Christ did and then make an effort to carry their burden with His love. Paul said, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

The well-worn cliché' is true: "If one acts as a friend, one will have a friend." Do you know what? The people who are lonely during the Christmas season need more than just a friend who will fill gaps of time. They need to hear about the real reason for this season. Jesus is the one who will bring healing into the lives of those lonely people. You probably will have more contact with relatives and friends at Christmas than at any other time of the year. That makes Christmas an ideal time for a "seasoned" note or comment about the God that cares for them. During this Christmas season, let us make ourselves accessible to those around you who are weary, hurting, and needing a friend. According to what Jesus said in John 13:34-35, our love could make a difference. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

At Christmas 2012, our hearts are filled with thankfulness that God spared our daughter and grandchildren from a looming disaster by delaying her trip to the Clackamas Town Center by a mere 10 minutes. As grateful as Karen and I are for God protecting our family in Portland, let us not forget the many needy people that walk the mall right beside us, like the shooter, who need to experience the unconditional love of God.



### LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE

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](http://www.trueu.org) and check out: The Toughest Test in College.

### Natural Church Development

### How Healthy is Your Church?

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

Give us a call at 715-538-2298.

Take another look at the manger scene this Christmas. Look beyond the tender scene and see what Jesus Himself knew even before He came - he was born to die. He purchased our salvation. He destroyed our enemy. He is seated next to the Father in heaven, ready to make intercession for us.

This is God's gift to us and especially to the lonely who need to experience this unconditional love. This is the sum of the Christmas message and we must respond.



*Pat Phinney, Regional Director*  
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We are **CB North Central**. If you missed Pat's article in September introducing our new name, [click here](#). Our legal documents still say "North Central Conservative Baptist Association" but we are doing business as CB North Central.

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## ***From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS*** **Resolutions?**

This is that time of year when people start talking about "New Year's Resolutions". I am not much for these annual resolutions. I think the old saying is VERY true ..... "New Year's Resolutions are made to be broken." I think many of these resolutions fail for two primary reasons. *1. People treat these resolutions as desirable but optional. 2. People do not count the cost before they "make" their resolutions.*

Now, I am not suggesting that we shouldn't take time to review our life or ministry, highlighting areas that require change and establishing plans and goals for growth and change. Actually, this is not an optional choice. Each of us should be doing this for our lives and our ministries. My only suggestion is that we don't treat this process as most people treat New Year's Resolutions.

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.**

**Valuable Information About Your Church's Area**

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

**Ministry Quick Links**  
[CBAmerica](#)

**NCCBA**  
[www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by State on our website under RESOURCES**

If I sit down and evaluate my life and see things that I need to change so that I can more fully be the dad or husband that God wants me to be; Are Those Changes Optional? As we sit down and evaluate ministry and see some key areas that need to be addressed so that we can better fulfill the mission that Jesus has given us and His Church; Are These Changes Optional? Now, if you are like me, you will usually have multiple things that you need to be working on. I cannot effectively address all of them, but I can highlight the top one or two issues and focus on them.

We also need to count the cost. In Luke 14:28ff, Jesus tells us to count the cost of being a disciple. What is the cost of change? What is the cost of growth? As we count the cost, are we making the space in our lives or ministries to accommodate the issues we are seeking to address? Every change requires many costs. If we want to succeed, we need to make sure that we count the cost. The cost sometimes is money, but more often it is in time, energy, priorities, and those other similar commodities that are precious to us.

Sometimes, when we count the cost, we conclude that the price is too steep. However, before you decide that the price is too steep, you should also count the cost of maintaining the status quo? If you have already concluded that change is needed, the cost of keeping the status quo is probably much higher than the cost of change.

As you evaluate and review, recognize that growth and change is not optional. When you count the cost, establish a plan so that you can succeed.

*Andrew Brown, Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Long Prairie MN*

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## **YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR**

### ***Leaders Are Readers***

One Fall morning during my first semester in seminary, one of my profs made a statement I will never forget: "leaders are readers." Then, putting on his professor game face, he looked at us and said, "if you don't want to be

### **Your Church and the Sex Offender**

Free website links to [National Sex Offenders website](#)

Call Pat at 952-322-7173 for a power point presentation.

### **New Staff Background Checks**

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

### **Antioch School of Evangelism & Church Planting**

**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

a reader, there's the door!" as he pointed to the exit. As I sat there eating my pop tart I thought to myself "people don't consider youth ministry real ministry, I won't have to read books to work with teens." I had spent my entire life up to that point, including my undergrad, avoiding all opportunities to read...unless what I was reading had large print with pictures or box scores. Otherwise, I wasn't interested.

Then one fateful day it happened, one bright young man within our youth ministry read a book. It so stimulated his thinking that he challenged me to read it to see what I thought. To save face I reluctantly read Love Your God With All Your Mind by J.P. Moreland. Though I didn't agree theologically with everything in the book, God used it to convict me of sin buried deep within my heart.

At the time, I had been in vocational youth ministry for over a decade. I had watched several generations of students cycle through our youth ministry. I didn't realize that I had become an autopilot youth pastor who had become mentally stagnant. My lazy heart had caught up with me. Youth ministry lessons & programming had become easy, routine, thoughtless. Then I re-read Matthew 22:37 where God commanded us "to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our MIND." Loving God with my heart was easy, loving God with my mind was non-existent.

Loving God with my mind meant I needed to stop being a passive thinker who allowed ideas and information to pass through my mind without careful analysis of the content I was digesting. I needed to become an active thinker who gives careful attention to what I see & hear. I needed to actively engage God's Word to learn how to discern between truth and error. I needed to grow in my theological understanding, not content with the status quo of my current theological knowledge. To be the leader and shepherd God had called me to be meant that I had to love Him with my mind as well as my heart, and that meant I needed find ways to stimulate my mind toward loving God - READING books, good books.

In truth, we all read every day: e-mails, blogs, facebook posts, text messages, articles in newsletters, etc. Yet, most of what we read doesn't push us beyond the meaningless dribble of life. For instance, some of the facebook posts from this morning read: "it's snowing outside." How about this thought provoking message: "Brace yourself, time wasted while reading this status is coming." Or my personal favorite from this morning "Cheese = happiness"...what does that even mean?

We have become a culture that thinks with our "feelings" and not with our

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](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

### Software Discounts

## BIG savings on software!

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2010, Windows 8 Professional, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Acrobat and other Microsoft and Adobe products are available for lease to member churches. [Click here](#) for an order form.

### Bibles

CBAmerica is again offering Bibles at greatly reduced rates when ordered by the case.

Available by filling out the order form on the CBAmerica website [www.cbamerica.org](http://www.cbamerica.org) or toll-free 888-366-3010 in CASE LOTS ONLY

"minds." Sound bites, wordy phrases, texts, posts, titles - cause us to passively feel, but they do not push us to actively think. Reading a good book creates sequential thinking, not fragmented thoughts. Reading a good book requires active mental engagement and a prolonged attention span. Reading a good book pushes us beyond our mental comfort zone and doesn't allow us to stay passively neutral in our thinking, it stirs our brain into action. Is it any wonder why God in His infinite wisdom chose to give us His special revelation in the form of a book?

This Christmas, give yourself and your ministry a gift: read a good book. Instead of reading a few verses here and there, sit down and read an entire book of the Bible in one sitting. If you would like to read a good book but not sure what to pick up, here are a few suggestions:

For personal growth: [Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ](#) by John Piper and [The Transforming Power of the Gospel](#) by Jerry Bridges. For apologetics, you could read: [Beyond Opinion: Living the Faith We Defend](#) by Ravi Zacharias, [Total Truth](#) by Nancy Pearcey, or [Apologetics For a New Generation](#) by Sean McDowell. On our postmodern culture, you could read: [The Courage to Be Protestant: Truth-lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World](#) by David Wells, [Why We Not Emergent](#) by Deyoung & Kluck, & if you are really feeling ambitious, [The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism](#) by D.A. Carson. For marriage, there is: [This Momentary Marriage](#) by John Piper and [When Sinners Say "I Do"](#) by Dave Harvey. Two of my favorite books on parenting are: [Shepherding A Child's Heart](#) by Ted Tripp and [Age of Opportunity](#) by Paul Tripp. Feel free to drop me a line about what you are currently reading, or would like to read, or books you have found helpful, or Q's about some helpful books on a particular subject.

Whatever your theological, ministry, or personal interest, there are good books out there just waiting to stimulate your brain to love God, not only with your heart, but also with your mind. So, grab some pop tarts and start reading. Remember, leaders are readers, so if you do not want to read...there's the door :)

*Matthew D. Slippy, D.Min.*  
*Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries*  
*Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA*  
*319-396-3233*  
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### Health Insurance Option

We have found a good option for pastors looking for health insurance. Call or email Pat to find out more, 952-322-7173 or [patnccba@trivest.net](mailto:patnccba@trivest.net)  
† A link is included on [our website](#) to this insurance broker's website.

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## **ENGAGE: Annual Youth Apologetics & Preaching Competition**

Hosted by Bethany Baptist Church, Edwards, IL  
Saturday February 9, 2013 beginning at 9 a.m.

*"Encouraging young people to confidently communicate and defend the gospel"*

### **Purpose**

The purpose of Engage is to promote and encourage churches to mentor and develop young people to effectively learn, communicate and defend Biblical truth.

**Who can participate?** The apologetics competition is open to young men or women from 7th through 12th grade, and the preaching competition is open to young men only from 9th through 12th grade. A previous winner at Engage in a particular area/category cannot win an award in a consecutive year in that same area/category. **This event is for Bethany youth and students from other churches around the midwest region.** We hope that many Bible believing churches become involved in the competition by encouraging and assisting young people as they prepare to participate in the competition.

Call Bethany Baptist Church at 309-692-1755 or [visit their website www.bethanycentral.org](http://www.bethanycentral.org) for more information.



## **Go Tell It On The Mountains!**

One of the songs we sing a lot during the Christmas season is "**Go Tell It On The Mountains!**" We are to tell the story of Jesus over the hills and everywhere. Our CBAmerica chaplains are scattered all over the US and around the world. As they go into the world they are spreading the good

news about Jesus.

One of our navy Chaplains is stationed on a remote island out in the Pacific Ocean far away from home and family. Several Saturdays ago the office phone rang and when I answered it the excited voice of a chaplain on the other end was rejoicing and quickly shared the news of a sailor who entered his office that morning just to chat and left with a new relationship with Jesus Christ. I love phone calls like that. There was much rejoicing in heaven that morning as a young sailor invited Christ into his life.

Carol and I recently had dinner one evening with one of our hospital chaplains. Earlier that week he had entered into the room of a patient to visit who had recent surgery. He was discouraged so the chaplain talked with him and prayed with him before he left. Several days later he was asked to take a family to the morgue to view the body of a loved one. The chaplain was shocked when the sheet was pulled back to see the body of the man he had prayed with just a few days earlier. He was able to share with the grieving family he had been with their loved one and they talked about God and prayed together. This gave relief to the family. When he went back to his floor a nurse at the nursing station called to him and thanked him for visiting with the man several days earlier. She said "he was a different man after you left, chaplain." The ministry of presence is so important.

God is using our chaplains to encourage people. Many have been prayed with and have received Christ and become part of the family of God. Don't forget to pray for our chaplains. Many are away from home this Christmas season or have to work so can't spend time with their families. Pray for their safety and for their families.

***If you want to know more about CBAmerica Chaplaincy please contact Al Russell by phone 218-776-2813 or by e-mail [chapruss@cbamerica.org](mailto:chapruss@cbamerica.org). Our ranks keep growing as the Lord sends gifted called chaplains to our ministry.***

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The CBNC office will be **CLOSED** from December 24 through January 1. Regular office hours will resume on January 2, 2012.

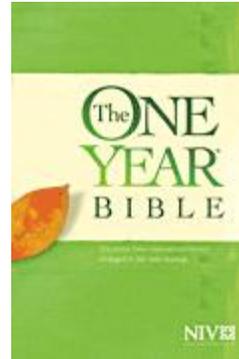
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## Bibles at Significant Savings for CBA Churches!

### *The One Year Bible*

Available in NLT, NIV, KJV & NKJV



*The One Year Bible* divides God's Word into daily readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs, creating an achievable, unforgettable devotional experience.

[Click here](#) for information on how to order.

Retail Price: \$18.99 softcover

Price through CBAmerica: \$9.50 softcover

(NLT & NKJV only available in case lots of 20)

(NIV & KJV only available in case lots of 24)

Many other Tyndale Bibles available, including [The Spanish OneYear Bible](#), [Life Application Study Bible](#), [Life Recovery Bible](#), and the [One Year Chronological Bible](#). Go to the CBAmerica [website](#) to order any of these materials.

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## Are your nursery cribs compliant with the law going into effect December 28?

If your church operates a daycare facility or pays nursery workers, this law applies to you. Even if nursery workers are volunteers, parents are looking for nurseries with compliant cribs, and the church could be liable if non-compliant cribs result in an accident.

Review this thorough article from Church Mutual Insurance:

<http://www.churchmutual.com/riskreporter/index.php?id=46>

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### END of YEAR Financial Reminders

- 1) Church donors CANNOT deduct donations until a written receipt is received from the church. (Tax return cannot be filed)
  - 2) Contributions received in the offering plate after December 31, must be deducted in 2013. EXCEPTION: if the donation was mailed and postmarked by December 31. Credit card donations are deductible on the date of the transaction, not when statement is paid.
  - 3) Housing allowance for pastors **must be in the form of a resolution** by the Board or congregation every year. Contact NCCBA if you need a sample resolution.
  - 4) CHRISTMAS GIFTS must be included as taxable income, in most cases, and included on the W-2 or 1099 for 2012. 5) For a sample Church Insert regarding congregational charitable giving, [click here](#)
- These can be ordered in tear-off pads of 100 for \$12.95 at [YourChurchResources.com](http://YourChurchResources.com) or by clicking [here](#)

### Upcoming Events

#### SAVE THE DATES!

Relax & Renew at [The Abbey Resort](#), on Lake Geneva  
(Fontana WI)

**Pastors and Wives Retreat: April 25-27**

**Pastors Seminar: April 25** (includes lodging the 24th)

#### Retreat Speaker

Leo Cumings, Retired Senior Pastor, Jackson MI

#### Seminar Speaker

Bert Downs, Retired CB Southwest Regional Director  
Former President of Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon

**NCCBA Annual Meeting: April 26**

#### AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

##### Wisconsin/NE MN

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

Wisconsin Retreat: January 13-14, 3 PM to 11:30 AM

## **SW MN**

2nd Tuesday of each month, 11 am  
Contact Doug Noonkester, 712-754-3310

## **ILLINOIS**

Retreat: January 15-16, noon to noon.  
Contact Mark Friday, 309-347-5965

## **Northern MN/ND**

Skype meeting, January 17, 10 am  
Contact Steve Daggett, 701-520-5399  
or Andrew Brown, 320-732-2179  
for information on how to attend

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

## **CBNC 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
- First Baptist Church--Streator IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Delavan Baptist Church--Delavan IL SENIOR PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Elmhurst IL SENIOR PASTOR
  
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH WORSHIP LEADER
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson MI DIRECTOR of FAMILY MINISTRIES
- Calvary Baptist Church--Eau Claire WI DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP
- First Baptist Church--Whitehall WI YOUTH PASTOR

## **Contact Our Office**

CB North Central - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - [nccba@triwest.net](mailto:nccba@triwest.net)

