



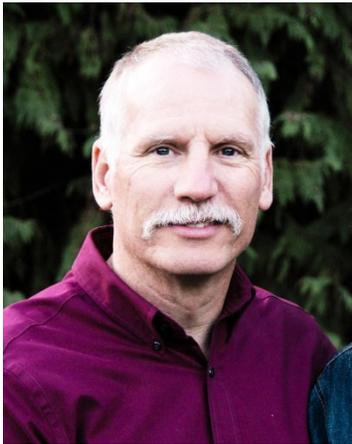
Your Invitation from
**North Central
CBA** and the
E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

February 2012

Don't miss this chance to Relax, Refresh, Relax and Refuel



Mark Hoeffner

Pastors' Seminar

begins with lodging Wednesday, April 25, and includes lunch the 26th. The Seminar with CB Northwest Regional Director, Mark Hoeffner, begins at 8:30 AM on Thursday, April 26th. He will lead four sessions on "Relational Elder Training" with discussion and breaks between each session.

- Session I: Eldering in Light of the Trinity
- Session II: Eldering as a Relational Community
- Session III: Foundations for Creating an Elder Team
- Session IV: Elders and Decision Making

Seminar ends at 3:30 PM.

For more information about Mark, a full schedule, and to register, go to our website, nccba-gc2.com

Pastors and Wives Retreat

starts with dinner at 5:30 PM, Thursday, April 26, and ends with checkout Saturday morning, April 28. Two delicious dinners and the **Ladies Brunch** are

included. Our retreat speaker will be author and speaker Marty Giese, Senior Pastor at Faith Baptist Church, Park Rapids, Minnesota. Marty has pastored in NCCBA churches for over 30 years.



Martin Giese

Retreat topic is: "The Things that Matter at Home--In pursuit of a grace based family."

Session #1 Embracing the Commitment
(Thursday evening)

Session #2 Investing Communication (Friday morning)

Session #3 Dealing with Crisis (Friday evening)

For a complete schedule, bios, and to register go to our [website](#).

Remember **\$20 DISCOUNT** if registered by **March 1st** or if you are a first-time attendee. Best value when you register for BOTH the Seminar & Retreat.

NCCBA Annual Meeting, April 27, 2012, at 8:15 AM

Ladies Brunch with Lisa Nelson from Wanamingo MN, Friday AM.

Where: **The Abbey Resort** on beautiful Lake Geneva, in the town of Fontana Wisconsin. For directions go to www.theabbeyresort.com

Details and registration forms have also been snail mailed to every pastor. Questions? Call Jean at 715-538-2298 or email nccba@trivest.net

FINAL deadline to register: April 1

How's Your Love Life?

We recently celebrated Valentine's Day. Romantics all over the world found clever ways to express love to their Valentine with chocolates, hearts, roses and maybe a tearful Hallmark card! I am not a poet - the only poem I know is "Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you!" Enough said. I don't think my wife wants to hear that again.

I just spoke with my son who told me how excited our grandson Gabriel

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was to go to school that day. I am serious. He got up way early, got dressed, made his bed, had breakfast, brushed his teeth and sat in a chair to read a book. Nothing unusual about that I guess. Oh one thing, it was one hour before they were to leave. He was so excited about getting to school and sharing Valentine's Day with his friends.

We all know that it is not about all the fun romantic stuff we can get on Valentine's Day, though it is fun. It is the hearing of the three most beautiful words known in the English language, "I love you!" Listen to one of the greatest Scriptures ever written on the subject, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) May I become a bit personal? "How's your love life?" Now before you jump to conclusions, I am not talking about your social life. I am not even talking about love to your spouse, parents or anyone else. I am talking about the number one Valentine in your life . . . God!

Though Valentine's is passed by a few days, do some thinking for me. **Think about the PURSUER.**

1 John 4:7-8 says, "Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." It doesn't say, "God loves" or even, "God is the love". God can never function contrary to His own nature. Never will He express His will toward you except that which is an expression of perfect love. It is not that God is lacking something in Himself, but that He desires to give Himself for the well-being of those loved. He is not merely benevolent. He is the essence of benevolence itself. In the darkness of this world of sin and all the sorrows that comes, we have the assurance that a God of love rules over all.

I want you to think about the PURSUIT. Not only is the nature of God the essence of pure love, He actually initiates and pursues a relationship with mankind. Don't forget that God did not create us just for time, but for eternity. So the purpose of our creation is to get acquainted with God and build a relationship with Him. I enjoy so much what 1 John 4:9-10 says, "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him . . . not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice

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.

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 NCCBA churches. Call Pat at 952-322-7173 at his home office.

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

for our sins." The pursuit then is an expression of the Pursuer. God came to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; He came to Jonah on the sinking ship; He came to Moses in the burning bush; He came to the disciples in their busy lives; and He came to Paul on the road to Damascus. The pursuit, the ongoing process of establishing that love relationship with mankind, is changing the world. Watch out! He may just catch you.

I leave you with one last Valentine's thought. **Never forget that you are the PURSUED.** Once the Pursuer initiates a love relationship, catches us in our sinful state, then He expects something from us . . . to love Him back. That's what Moses said in Deuteronomy 30:19-20, "Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life. . ." Just think, everything about knowing and experiencing God depends on the quality of your love life. It is that simple. He has initiated a relationship, drawn us to Himself and now He wants us to respond back. It is what lovers want, right?

What a joy it is to see this Valentine's love expressed in every church I visit within the region. As we love God personally, each other as a church and the world that He has placed us in, we complete the Greatest Commandment and Greatest Commission known to man. The words of Richard Bach ring true, "True love stories have no endings."



Pat Phinney
Regional Director
Home Office: (952)322-7173
Cell: (952)500-3743

patnccba@trivest.net

From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

On-Line Clusters

We all know the cluster ideal: gather about once a month for pray for each other, share ministry ideas, get professionally stretched and develop a common vision that we then work to realize together. But my experience in the North Woods of Minnesota has led me to wonder if that vision might not need some Revision; or at least a tweak here and there.

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 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.

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

For one thing, it can be hard to get a dozen men to jump in their cars and drive up to 3 hours on often icy roads for a meeting that lasts possibly no more than 3 hours. Many of us feel the demands of ministry and feel the need to justify how we spend the hours we are given each week. Others are bi-vocational, and are thus forced to choose between clustering and a paycheck.

Our northern sub-region is now looking at the potential for using technology to link us more closely and more consistently as pastors. Linking pastors in sub-clusters of 2-3 for monthly prayer and encouragement can be done easily via Skype and other internet options. We're still ironing out the wrinkles, but we hope to have a working plan in place within a few weeks. Obviously this type of approach can't be the sum total of our interaction. We still plan to meet for face-to-face fellowship two to three times a year.

Stay tuned for news of how this plan develops and changes in the coming months.

*Steve Daggett
Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND*

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR:

Sin and McDonald's Have a Lot in Common

I recently saw the movie "Super-size Me." It's a documentary about a guy who eats nothing but McDonald's food for 30 days straight - breakfast, lunch and dinner, nothing but McDonald's! It was intriguing to see the effect that the "Golden Arches" had on him. After I watched the movie, I thought that the film really resembled our walk with Christ and is quite similar to the struggles we have with sin every single day.

Both sin & McDonald's can be found everywhere we go (from downtown Minneapolis there are over 50 McDonald's in a 10 mile radius). Just like McDonald's are around every corner, so is temptation and let's be honest, they are both incredibly enticing. They are visually enticing from the outside looking in. They are physically enticing because they taste good (if only for a moment). Finally, they are financially enticing because both sin and McDonald's seem inexpensive (at least at first).

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

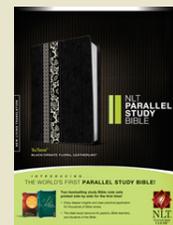
this resource. **Antioch School of Evangelism and Church Planting** is a resource that will help equip your church for all of the above. We have three churches in the region that have become certified-- Forest City Baptist, Rockford, IL; FBC Jackson, MN; and FBC Whitehall, WI. For further information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

The thing that McDonald's and sin have most in common is the fact that they both have consequences. In the movie "Super Size Me" the main character was in above average physical condition when he started the experiment and in the beginning things were great. He can't wait for an Egg McMuffin, Big Mac, or french fries! However, after a very brief period of time he becomes both ill and addicted. He could barely finish his meals. He's frequently vomiting. He has no energy and is constantly fatigued.

In the same way, sin has consequences. This is why we need to ask God to keep us away from sin and temptation in our lives and ministries. In Matthew 6:13 it says we are to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Notice that we are instructed to pray that the Lord will keep us away from temptation, not to help us in the middle of it!

If a person doesn't want to eat McDonald's food then they shouldn't go to McDonalds! It seems like a no brainer but I am tired of hearing people say that they, "fell into sin." That just doesn't make any sense since falling would generally indicate a surprise when it happens. James 1:14-16 says "but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

My friends in ministry, lets recommit to staying away from tempting situations in our lives. Let's also continue to pray that we are not led into those situations by our own evil desires.
about your church? Do you have a consistent way of doing ministry throughout your adult and student ministries? It may be worth taking the time to gather your church staff and make sure you agree not just on goals and values, but also on how you do ministry.

Go Bless,

*Craig Sanborn, Youth Pastor
First Baptist Church, Long Prairie MN*

HENRY SPICER SCHOLARSHIP for High School Seniors

The Henry Spicer Scholarship is awarded each year to high school seniors planning to attend college in the fall. To qualify, an applicant must be a committed Christian AND a regular attendee of a NCCBA affiliated

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

church. The amount and number of scholarships varies from year to year. For more information and an application go to our [website](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298.

CHAPLAINCY:

Hospice Chaplaincy

Hospice is a well-known type of care in the United States. Hospice groups are specially trained to work with dying patients and their families to give support, physical help and comfort. A hospice team usually consists of nurses, aides, social workers and a chaplain.

Hospice care is end-of-life care provided by health professionals and volunteers. They give medical, psychological and spiritual support. The goal of the care is to help people who are dying have peace, comfort and dignity. The caregivers try to control pain and other symptoms so a person can remain as alert and comfortable as possible. Hospice programs also provide services to support a patient's family. Usually, a hospice patient is expected to live 6 months or less. Hospice care can take place at home, at a hospice center, in a hospital, and in a skilled nursing facility.

Hospice in the United States has grown from a volunteer-led movement to improve care for people dying alone, isolated, or in hospitals, to a significant part of the health care system. In 2008, 1.45 million individuals and their families received hospice care. Hospice is the only Medicare benefit that includes pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, twenty-four hour/seven day a week access to care and support for loved ones following a death. Hospice care is also covered by Medicaid and most private insurance plans. Most hospice care is delivered at home. Hospice care is also available to people in home-like hospice residences, nursing homes, and assisted living.

A part of the overall hospice team, a hospice chaplain gives pastoral support to terminally ill patients and their families. The chaplain is a vital member of the hospice team. Although he/she gives no medical care, he is trained to listen well and to be a comforting and supporting presence in a difficult time. The hospice chaplain is the team member responsible for the spiritual care of the dying patient and the family. Chaplains are nonjudgmental and make no distinctions for different denominations or cultures. Additionally, hospice chaplains help conduct workshops for

other hospice team members on sensitivity to patients' spiritual needs.

Hospice chaplains say much of their time is spent simply sitting with dying patients and listening to them talk. The chaplain's most important duty is giving spiritual counseling and support. If requested, chaplains may conduct religious services of their own faith, but they refrain from proselytizing. Since hospice foundations receive government money, they are required to be nondenominational. Hospice chaplains visit the patient and family as often or as little as requested. Most visit the patient at least once a week. If the patient is active in a church, the chaplain stays in touch with the minister and other church members. They are also available for prayer or counseling. Volunteers who have received hospice training may also assist the hospice chaplain in his duties. After the patient's death, the hospice chaplain is also available to help with funeral plans.

Most hospice chaplains receive their training from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, an organization that comprises all faiths and cultures. Although some of the training is done in a traditional classroom setting, student chaplains study and learn by participating in hospice work. Many receive professional certification from the Association of Professional Chaplains or a chaplain organization within their particular faith. Membership in the APC means the hospice chaplain does his work according to national standards and a code of ethics. Many hospice chaplains are ordained ministers.

After the patient's death, the hospice chaplain is available to help family members work through grief. Many hospice chaplains are also on staff at hospitals as grief counselors.

I recently had breakfast with one of our hospice chaplains in Vancouver, WA. Jason shared a great story with me. One of his patients he was assisting said during their many conversations that he believed in God but not Jesus. They talked about this and one day when Jason came for his visit the man said he now believed in Jesus. He was in his 90's. On another visit he asked Jason if he could baptize him. The patient was not able to get out so this was not a real possibility. When the man heard this he said, "but I have a big bath tub!" The family was called and Jason baptized the man in his large tub. On another visit one of the family members who had witnessed the baptism said she also wanted to be baptized so the tub was filled and another person was baptized. Pray for our many hospice chaplains who are ministering to their patients at the end of their lives.

If you have interest in becoming a chaplain or would like more information about CBAmerica chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or 218-776-2813. Blessings!

Ten Money-Saving Tips for Your Congregation

*Reprinted from **Risk Reporter**, Winter 2012*

By Church Mutual

Nearly every congregation is looking for ways to cut costs and save money. One of the best ways to save is with a proactive approach to maintenance. Here are 10 inexpensive maintenance projects that congregations can tackle without the help of a professional or investing in costly supplies:

1. Clearly mark uneven steps and areas

Slips, trips and falls are one of the most common liability claims for congregations. In fact, they account for approximately 50 percent of all injuries each year. However, in many cases, there are simple, inexpensive solutions that can help prevent a slip, trip and fall.

For example, use a can of yellow spray paint to clearly mark the edge of exterior steps or highlight uneven areas in the pavement. Indoors, mark the edge of steps with bright yellow caution tape.

"Fix small cracks in concrete promptly," said Danny Lipford, do-it-yourself home improvement expert and television host. "Water can seep into cracks and freeze, causing more damage. Use a concrete repair caulk to fill small cracks."

Each of these solutions costs less than \$5 but can save thousands in a potential liability claim.

2. Keep light fixtures clean and functional

Dedicating a few minutes each month to lighting maintenance can help prevent slips, falls and other injuries as well as save money on the utility bill.

"We recommend a monthly walk-through of all congregation buildings and lighted outdoor areas," said John McKittrick, estimating manager for Fitzgerald Lighting & Maintenance Co. in Aurora, Ill. "Note any burned-out light bulbs and the proper wattage required along with any additional lighting issues."

Replace all burned-out bulbs promptly with an ENERGY STAR-qualified fluorescent light bulb. It will last 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb, saving \$30 or more in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb.

"It also is important to perform a simple cleaning of all light fixtures

several times a year," McKittrick said. "Carefully wipe down dusty fixtures or remove coverings to clean out dirt and debris."

3. Clear clutter from the boiler or furnace room

Storage space is often at a premium for many congregations. Over the years, items tend to accumulate and it's easy to want to stash these supplies in a seldom-accessed space, such as the furnace or boiler room. However, this is one area that needs to be kept free of combustible materials and general clutter. Make a point to clean out the boiler or furnace room, removing all flammable or combustible materials, including paper, cardboard, paint or other solvents.

4. Reconfigure electrical cords

Outlets and electrical cords can be an area of concern for many congregations. Extension cords stretched across walkways present a tripping hazard, while overloaded power strips could cause a fire. "Extension cords and power strips should be for temporary use and not a permanent power solution," McKittrick said. "If use persists, consider contacting an electrician to install additional power receptacles in more appropriate locations." Adding a new power receptacle can be done relatively inexpensively, between \$1,000 and \$1,500 on average, and saves the hassle and potential risk of using extension cords or power strips.

5. Install or repair handrails

Stairs are a frequent cause for slips, trips and falls. Installing a handrail can help reduce this risk. Handrails should be installed on any stairway with more than four steps. Consider adding a second handrail for particularly long, wide or steep stairways.

"The handrail should be securely mounted 3 inches from the wall at a height that is no more than 34 inches or less than 30 inches from the upper surface of the handrail to the surface of the tread," Lipford said.

6. Clean gutters and downspouts

Seasonal debris, such as bark and twigs, has a tendency to accumulate in gutters, resulting in clogs and restricting normal water flow. Clogs can cause water damage, flooding and even foundation erosion. This damage is easily avoidable with a simple gutter cleaning.

"Gutters should be cleaned at least twice each year," Lipford said.

Safely set up a ladder that allows at least eye-level access with the roof. Gutters can be cleaned by hand wearing gloves or using a small shovel. Start cleaning closest to the downspout, removing all debris from the gutter. Move along the edge of the gutter, repositioning the ladder as needed. Once the debris is removed, use a hose to run water through the gutter and into the downspout to ensure water is moving freely, without disruption.

7. Set outdoor lights with a timer

Sufficient outdoor lighting helps protect a congregation from unwanted or unintended events. It's crucial for illuminating walkways and parking lots, while deterring potential theft or vandalism.

"One simple way to save on outdoor electricity costs is to set lights to turn on and off with a timer or to install a photoelectric sensor that turns lights on during the hours of darkness," McKittrick said. "Lighting can be purchased with a photoelectric sensor, or you can retrofit existing lighting with one. They are sold separately and can be installed with minimal electrical work."

8. Maintain the playground surface

Falls from equipment account for more than 70 percent of all playground injuries, and 80 percent of those occur at playgrounds with unsuitable surfaces. Loose materials, such as sand, pea gravel, wood chips or wood mulch, make excellent playground surfaces, but they do require maintenance. Regularly rake or till the material and check to make sure there is at least 12 inches of loose material. Add additional material when needed.

9. Trim overgrown shrubs and tree limbs

Trees and shrubs add curb appeal to worship facilities, but if left unattended, they can lead to costly damage and repairs. Inexpensive, regular maintenance can help keep trees and shrubs looking beautiful. Trees should be inspected seasonally, as well as after a storm, to look for any dead limbs or damage and pruned annually.

"General pruning of trees and shrubs doesn't require a professional - you just need several inexpensive tools, including a pole pruner, a pruning saw and a sharp pair of hand shears," said Tom Brannigan Jr., owner of Home and Garden Supply Co. in Matteson, Ill.

Flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned within 14 days of when the flowering stops. Nonflowering trees or shrubs should be pruned right after or before their growth flush, generally in the spring and fall.

"In addition, any woody material that is pruned by hand should be cut at a 45-degree angle so water does not get into the cut and allow for rot," Brannigan said. "Cuts larger than 3 inches in diameter should be sealed with a pruning sealer to help heal the tree."

10. Keep walkways free of ice and snow

With cold weather comes the threat of ice and snow. Regular maintenance of walkways and parking lots can help prevent injuries or accidents. Shovel walkways as soon as possible after snow and use salt or sand on icy areas.

"You can reduce ice buildup by trying to prevent moisture from getting on pavement," Brannigan said.

Shovel and clear snow back away from walkways to prevent snow melt

from running across and remove icicles or snow from the roof that might melt and drip onto the sidewalk.

"Salt and sand treat icy areas in different ways," Brannigan cautioned.

"Use salt to help melt the ice and keep sand handy to quickly add traction to slippery spots."

Remember our pastors who have recently lost loved ones

Upcoming Events

NCCBA Pastors' Seminar, April 26

NCCBA Pastors & Wives Retreat, April 26-28

NCCBA Annual Meeting, April 27

The Abbey Resort, Fontana, Wisconsin, on Lake Geneva

Register at www.nccba-qc2.com

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Wisconsin/NE Minnesota-

February 23, noon at First Baptist Church, Whitehall WI

March 22, noon at First Baptist Church, New Richmond WI

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

Michigan Cluster

February 27, 10 AM Sparta Baptist Church, Sparta MI

Contact Mike Wetzig, 231-853-6021

SW Minnesota/N Iowa

March 13, 11 AM

Contact Doug Noonkester, 712-754-3310

The list of Pastor Cluster Leaders on our website can be viewed by clicking [here](#)

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
- Cornerstone Community Church--Manchester IA SENIOR PASTOR
- Wildwood Baptist Church--East Moline IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Forest Glen Community Church--Chicago IL SENIOR PASTOR

- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Pekin IL-- CHURCH PLANTER
- 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



[Forward email](#)

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