

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

January 2011



Pastors Seminar with Leith Anderson

April 28, 2011

Pastors & Wives Retreat with Ted Kluck--co-author of Why We're Not Emergent (by Two Guys Who Should Be)

April 28-30, 2011

NEW LOCATION: [The Abbey Resort](#) on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Brochures will be snail mailed next week. More information and how to register on our [website now](#) including a \$20 discount for early registration.

Renewed Resolve

Maybe because it's the time of year but of late the words to an old song found in our hymn books have been going through my mind: "I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight; things that are higher, things that are nobler - these have allured my sight."

The other factor that may be the source for this line going through my mind has to do with N.T. Wright's book After You Believe. Wright seeks to address an issue I think many of us have struggles with; if we are saved by faith and absolutely nothing else is required to secure

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Natural Church

that salvation, what is our lifestyle to look like.

He suggests that the two most common answers to this question are; since it is faith alone then it really doesn't matter how one lives, or as a professing Christian we must follow the rules. In regard to those who claim what one does is not important, you then have to ignore some very specific statements like: "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I say." However, if you demand following the rules you can end with a new version of Phariseism.

Wright suggests that there is another way to seek to answer the question of what our lives should look like after we believe. This is what the crux of the book deals with. He points to the Greek understanding of virtue, the Garden of Eden and heaven as backdrops for help for us to understand his explanation of life after you believe. I do not intend to explore this and encourage you to read the book.

However, in his description and apology for his position, Wright did make a statement that I thought was very relevant for the church culture we are in. This is the statement; **"Community is vital, but all members must make it their own. It's not hoping that, because you have been converted, because you attended church, because you say your prayers, because you have Christian friends, you are going to discover the qualities of kindness, gentleness, humility and the rest just happen, without any effort on your part."**

In this statement you can get a clue as to what a life after one believes is to look like but also notice the importance that "community" plays in the development of life after you believe. Community for Wright is the church. He asserts that it is vital to have regular interaction with other believers within the church community for the development of what is cited above. As leaders we face a growing challenge in our culture to help believers understand the importance of the church community in the development of life after belief. It calls for a renewed resolve.

His statement also has implications for us as CB's. Historically we have placed a high value on being both independent and autonomous to such an extent that we view association structure as a threat. However, if it is true that individual believers have need for community for the appropriate development of life after belief is it not also logical for individual churches to also benefit from interaction. Since local churches are comprised of individual believers.

At the end of the month the Directors of each region will gather

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.

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

Give us a call at 715-538-2298.

Valuable Information About Your Church's Area

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

again. Our purpose, resolve, is to come together to help each other as individuals and regions to grow in our life and the life of other believers. We have come to realize that each person and each region represented brings to the table gifts and resources that enable disciples to grow. There is also a renewed resolve to plant new churches in order to reach those who need to come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation.

Don Shaw, Regional Director

donnccba@trivest.net

PASTOR CARE

"Because..."

As a pastor and as a marriage and family therapist, I often encounter situations in which someone is saying, "Just because..." Sometimes it is a rebellious child/teenager hearing "because I am your parent." Sometimes it is a person playing another kind of power card, but very often it is about trying to avoid actually dealing with the issue at hand on a factual and reasonable basis. That is the reason "because" statements often seem to be rationalizations rather than explanations or reason.

About three months ago, I was confronted with a number of because statements that intrigued me, and prompted me to wonder how they might apply to our pastoral/church relationships. Sandy and I had the opportunity to search for a new or newer car, replacing our 1998 Dodge Grand Caravan, lovingly dubbed "the grand old lady" by one of our daughters-250,000miles. Hung from the show-room ceiling on a large poster was the following list of Because statements.

"Because the customer has a need, we must perform. Because the customer has a choice, we must be the better choice. Because the customer has sensibilities, we must be considerate. Because the customer has an urgency, we must be quick. Because the customer is unique, we must be flexible. Because the customer has high expectations, we must excel. Because the customer has influence, we have hope of more customers. Because of the customer, we exist."

I cannot be sure how completely the car dealership and staff actually believe and practice this list. I also am not sure that all of it can be legitimately translated into the pastoral/church context. However it is

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

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

New Staff Background Checks

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

MEDIA RESOURCES

Father, Son & Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles & Relevance

This book by Bruce Ware is available from the NCCBA office for \$10. Highly recommended. Email the office at

challenging to think it through carefully and then use the outcome as a standard for evaluating our day to day involvement in the lives and activities that populate our ministries.

Because the congregation/community member has a need, we must work at meeting the need. Of course, we all know only God can meet their needs. However, He has made us His hands and feet. James 2:15-16: "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?"

Because the congregation/community member has a choice, we must be the better choice. It is easy to "awful-ize" about all the other churches and cults that seek to attract people in ways of which we disapprove. However, we must be committed to doing what we understand and believe God has called and equipped us to do in the most winsome and effective manner possible.

Because the congregation/community member has sensibilities, we must be considerate. We must know our people, both inside and outside of the church, and present the truth clearly and powerfully in a way that takes into account their attitudes and motives. Jesus and others in the Bible (i.e. Nathan and Paul) did this frequently through stories and parables that conveyed the message without unnecessary offense.

Because the congregation/community member has an urgency, we must be quick. People often seem to be in a hurry when seeking the remedy for a felt need, and can be seen as merely an interruption of our plans. As a military chaplain and as a pastor, people often sought my help at the last minute. Soldiers would come to my office late Friday afternoon desiring to get married the next day. When I explained the required process of counseling and marriage license, they often became angry, but there was nothing I could do to meet their "need." However, it was important for me to deal with them with kindness and gentleness, and to provide them with as much help as possible as soon as possible. It is often inconvenient to be God's servant to others.

Because the congregation/community member is unique, we must be flexible. One size does not fit all. People are quite different from each other in many ways. If we demand that people must deal with us (and more importantly God) our way, we will fail in our privilege/duty/purpose of introducing them to Him and His way of

nccba@trivest.net



From the Truth Project: DOES GOD EXIST?

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

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

Antioch School of Evangelism & Church

meeting their needs.

Because the congregation/community member has high expectations, we must excel. We must never be content with the level of our knowledge, wisdom, skills, and relationships. Constantly we must be striving to become more completely what God has purposed and equipped us to be and do. This side of Glory, God is not finished with us yet.

Because the congregation/community member has influence, we have hope of attracting others to a relationship with Christ and His church. Even those who seem the most destitute and lost have connections with other people. If we are able to meet that person's need, he or she will recommend us to others. A significant number of my counseling clients have been referred to me by previous clients. And statistics prove that most people come to a church because satisfied members invite them.

Because of the congregation/community member, we exist. We are well aware that "the reason for being" of the Church/church goes far beyond meeting peoples' needs. We exist to honor and glorify the Almighty God of the universe, Maker and Sustainer of all that there is. While we can do that by the choices we make that are private and internal, our effectiveness is severely limited unless and until we are in contact and connection with others. Many have suggested that the two reasons God leaves us here after our conversion is to witness to others and to spare us the shock immediate rather than gradual transformation into Christ-likeness. Needless to say (for those of you who know me well), it is still going to be a rather dramatic event.

I hope and pray that these few musings about the car company's "Because..." statements will inspire and encourage you to ponder what God wants to accomplish in and through you and your congregations in this new year. Through His Word and His Holy Spirit, may He do in us that which is "immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 2:20). "To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 2:21). And, amen.

Respectfully and hopefully,

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT, Stillman Valley, Illinois

ndbskb@gmail.com

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 look into this resource.

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

715-538-2298 or by
email
nccba@triwest.net

Software Discounts



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

CHAPLAINCY: Surprises In Ministry

One of our Army National Guard Chaplains who recently was deployed to Afghanistan discovered a large group of Christian soldiers from several African countries on their base. There was no chaplain only several lay leaders from Africa working with them. Several weeks after he arrived he was able to help baptize some 55 new believers. The soldier lay leaders had provided ten hours of instruction to them. What a great surprise for our chaplain to have this delightful opportunity. Pray for the chaplain's family and church back in Idaho.

One of our Air Force Reserve Chaplains in Kansas has been asked to conduct several funerals for families unassociated with a church and had the opportunity to share the gospel. He was also asked to be involved in counseling the family of a unit member who had committed suicide. This opened the door to share with other unit members. Pray for our chaplains who minister during their weekend drills.

A chaplain in Colorado recently conducted a graveside service for the wife of a Commander who had committed suicide a week before Christmas. He writes about the difficulty of kneeling before the three children to share with them answers why Mom wasn't coming home. A week later he dealt with the situation of a 24 year old soldier returned from the war zone and committed suicide. His mother had put him out of the house because of his lifestyle, and when he told her he was thinking of killing himself she told him, "Why don't you just do it." So he did. The National Guard leaders want the chaplains to stem the tide of suicide. Pray for our chaplains as they deal with many soldiers struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

A chaplain in specialized ministries in Florida is beginning a ministry to Single Moms called Saved To Serve. Pray as they seek help funding this ministry. He was recently selected as the new counselor for his job at a Detention Center for Illegal Immigration. Pray that God would give him wisdom and help him find favor in the eyes and hearts

of his superiors and unsaved co-workers.

If you would like more information about becoming a chaplain or if you would like a presentation in your church contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or by e-mail at chapruss@cbamerica.org.

Is Your Church Financially Healthy?

If you need to borrow funds or would like to know your church's financial health, contact North Central CBA for a tool that will help, 715-538-2298 or email nccba@trivest.net

CLUSTER CORNER

Personally, I'm not much of a Barna groupie, but some of his latest research has shown that the lifestyles of evangelical, church-going Christians are virtually indistinguishable from those in the rest of our post modern, hell-bent culture. We divorce at the same rate (if not slightly more frequently). We are just as money-loving and pleasure seeking as anyone else. This should alarm us. The people in our pews are not getting it that we are supposed to be different from the world around us. Jesus prayed that we would not be taken out of the world but that we might be protected from the evil one as we live "in it" (John 17:15-17). He cast the vision of a group of followers who would live counter to the culture because they were sure of their citizenship in His Kingdom.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven and sent His Spirit to live in us, He issued our marching orders in what we now call the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). He reminded us that since all authority is now His, we (as His representative) are commanded to "make disciples" as we carry the message of His salvation and grace into the whole world. He even told us how to make disciples. We do this by "baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit... and by "teaching those converts to obey *everything*" that our King commands.

For 2000 years now, His church has been carrying out His orders. Over that span of years hundreds of millions of people from all over

the globe have come into relationship with Jesus and have been baptized in his name. But I wonder about that second part of disciple making... that "teaching them to obey everything" part. I wonder if perhaps we have fallen behind on that here in America. We have emphasized a relationship with Jesus Christ our Savior, but perhaps we have done so at the expense of a clear understanding that He is still our King.

Our people just aren't getting it for some reason. Notice that the command is not just for us to teach them *what* to obey... but to teach them to obey. How do we teach them that obedience to Jesus isn't optional? What is the "everything" that Jesus commanded? How exactly do we obey it in our current culture? How do we teach how to obey? And how do we do this without becoming legalistic again? This is my passionate concern these days and this is what I intend to explore together this year in the clusters for and to whom I am responsible in the Twin Cities area. We've been reading a lot of books lately... and they have been immensely helpful, but maybe we need to do some digging into this for a while. I'm open to any of your suggestions too.

Stephen Schoenwald, Twin Cities Cluster

River of Life Church, Hastings MN

Upcoming Events

2011 Pastors' Seminar/Pastors & Wives Retreat

Pastor's Seminar April 28

Pastors & Wives Retreat April 28-30

NCCBA Annual Meeting April 29 [Register online now](#) for \$20 discount

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

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Wisconsin/Northeast MN Cluster

January 17 & 18 Retreat Oak Forest Center, Frederic WI

Contact Eldon Carlson 715-568-1979 or Wade Duroe 715-723-1054

February 17 Pastors & Wives Fellowship, Taylors Falls MN, 5-8 PM

SW Minnesota/NW Iowa Cluster

February 8, 11 AM-1 PM

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

Illinois Cluster

January 18 & 19, Retreat Center in Tiskilwa, IL Contact Lyall Sutton 309-692-1755

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--Colfax IA YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Pekin IL--Two positions: WORSHIP LEADER and CHURCH PLANTER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)
- Hayden Heights Baptist Church--St. Paul MN
- First Baptist Church--Bradford IL
- Keystone Baptist Church--Chicago IL
- Monona Oaks Community Church--Madison WI

Thank you for your prayers. Matt Sconce is the permanent part-time pastor for Laporte Community Church in Laporte MN.

Contact Our Office

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

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