

## North Central CBA

## E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

July 2011

## "Off to the Races"

"Animal Kingdom Wins the 2011 Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs". These were the headlines in the papers on May 8, following the most famous horserace of thoroughbreds. I watched the race with interest, but what I really noticed was the competitive tension leading up to the race. The horses pranced around the track and then one by one, they were led "into the gates" for the start of the race. For what seemed like an eternity, the horses waited for the infamous bell AND THEY WERE OFF. This describes my journey into this new position as Regional Director for the NCCBA.

I was examined by the Search Team in November of 2010. They asked me to wait "in the gates" for the next level of approval and meet with the Regional Board in January. It was there that the Board unanimously approved the Search Team's recommendation, which allowed me to wait "in the gates" again. I was asked to meet with the other CBA Regional Executive Directors, at their scheduled meeting on April 25-27. It went well. My next step of approval would come a few days later at the Pastors/Wives Retreat on April 29 during the Annual Business meeting. I was presented as the new candidate for the Regional Director position: God gave further confirmation. Since then, I have been waiting "in the gates" with my official start date on July 1. The excitement and positive tension was

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### Natural Church Development

How Healthy is  
Your Church?

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that can help your  
church with growth,  
not just in terms of  
quality but in terms of

great around my house as I waited "in the gates" a little longer, just like the anxious horses at the Kentucky Derby. Well, the starting bell finally rang and I have begun the race of a lifetime. Though the beginning of my race has presented some challenges, like a serious heart attack on January 12, it is a time I have cherished with the Lord, my family, and many friends within the CBA family. I love what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, as he came flying out of his own gates . . . *"Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim . . ."*

Running the race as your new Director is not a new one. Many godly men have preceded me over the years, like my good friend Don Shaw who has given you his very best since 2005. Like Don's example, it is my heart desire to follow and serve the Lord just as He said in John 12:26, *"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."* Sure, it will be easy to follow the dreams, the goals, the aspirations, the challenges, the solutions, and even the people. But I will not! As your new Director, I commit at all cost and sacrifice to follow Him with all of my heart. I commit to serve Him first and then the many pastors, their families, the church, my Board, and the absolute truth of our Biblical mandate as commissioned in Matthew 28:28-30.

I remember the Search Team asking me a rather penetrating question during my November interview. *"Pat, what are you truly passionate about as the possible new Director for NCCBA?"* Please stay tuned in the coming months of our newsletter, as I share about those passionate things God has put on my heart as your new Director.

Yes, I am "out of the gates" and my race is on . . . but will you join me? Hebrew 12:1-2 invites us to run together as a NCCBA team . . . *"let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith . . ."* See you at the finish line!

*Pat Phinney, Executive Director*

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evangelism.

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715-538-2298.**

NCD will help you identify the eight qualities and six growth factors for a healthy church.

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

Pat's Home office phone: 952-322-7173

Pat's Cell phone: 952-500-3743

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## **Cluster Leader Corner**

I've done a lot of reading this year. I've read stuff about leadership and discipleship and peacemaking and all kinds of "how to" stuff about how to have an effective ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was all good. Then I went rummaging through my library in search of some old books that my dad used to read in his day.

I found a couple, one I had read before and another I hadn't. The one I hadn't read was written in the 1930's as a manual for the instruction of young people in the basics of Christian doctrine. It was entitled "**Thinking With God**," by Norman H. Camp.

Do you know what I discovered? Those guys back then weren't so dumb. They knew their stuff and how to deliver it in their day. I'll admit that the language was dated and some of the illustrations were too. But the thought was clear. The content was solid and the curriculum was well laid out. I think that I'm going to use it as the outline for our Middle school Sunday school class. It is better than anything that I have seen published for youth in years (with the possible exception of some of the Truth Project material).

The other book that I picked up had actually been recommended by a friend of mine. It is interesting that two other pastors in my city were reading it as well. It was by A.W. Tozer (my father's favorite author) and was entitled, "**The Knowledge of the Holy**." The first two chapters took my breath away and dropped me to my knees. I was confronted with of the idolatry of my personal view of God. I say my "personal view" because it isn't my official, theological, Sunday morning view of God, but it surfaces when I am discouraged and disappointed with what God is allowing into my life.

That God IS NOT the God who is. No wonder I have trouble with him. The God who is... is Holy and Just and Faithful and True. He is the Self-existent One to whom all things owe their mere existence. The God who is... is good and He loves me and He is wise beyond all measure and merciful far beyond what I deserve. He is the Potter. I am the clay.

God in His kindness used this book to lead me to repentance and to

## **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**

**New Staff Background Checks**

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

**MEDIA RESOURCES**

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

This book by Bruce Ware is available from the NCCBA office for \$10. Highly recommended. Email the office at [nccba@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

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

feed my parched soul. I needed it and I suspect that there are many others like me among my brothers and sisters in ministry in the NCCBA. This is one of the reasons why we are changing directions in our cluster studies this year in the Twin Cities area. We are going to study together books that feed the soul... not that there is anything wrong with improving our leadership or administration or preaching skills. But if our souls are parched... all that study... is just fluff.

God has to have access to our hearts in order for our preaching, leadership and administration to be spiritually effective and productive. Pray for us as we seek our God's face in the months ahead.

*Stephen Schoenwald*

*Twin Cities clusters*

*River of Life Church, Hastings, MN*

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## YOUTH PASTORS:

For more information about State Youth Fellowship-Illinois and the **Converge** conference, visit their website at [syfil.org](http://syfil.org)

In today's society there is never a break from learning. Especially for students who are in school, studying so many things that are so different. School is more about the process of learning when young, rather than the material you actually learn, then you get older and you study more of an area you will be in. I found that frustrating when I was in early high school, and I didn't seem to be the only one. It can be difficult for someone at times to pick up on the topic in youth group, or understand the theology behind certain "controversial" issues. If there is one thing that I think almost every student will flock to, is applicability. For example music: the pop culture is only applicability. If we ever took the words out of that music and brought it to a true musician, most of it would be appalling, but people want music that speaks to them, whether it's sinful or not. Everything that I felt had more applicability, I did better at, I enjoyed more, and I certainly remember much more of it. The Bible is full of life application, and praise God it is. One of the most

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

**Antioch School of Evangelism & Church Planting**

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life applicable things and common themes of the Bible is the sharing of faith. Whether it's on missions across seas, or sharing with a stranger you run into at the YMCA, or a friend you have know well for a while. Bringing people to Christ is one of the most, if not the most important things to do on this earth; it's the one things we can't do in heaven, it's the reason we are still here. Sadly it is probably the thing that Christians are least comfortable with. Statistics say that two percent of Christians share their faith regularly, and I am guilty of falling in the other 98 percent at times. We have a battle; we need to have Christians sharing their faith.

**Converge** is a weeklong event (sponsored by State Youth Fellowship-Illinois) that focuses on teaching and applying evangelism to high school students in their everyday lives, in different ways while still growing closer to God individually throughout the week through prayer, worship, and group meetings. There are outings and opportunities to practice everything learned, and the results are truly blessed by our God and Savior.

The sessions are where the students are taught to share their faith, in many different ways. Tools are presented as well as different styles by the students. Like in war, you need to know your enemy. Well, it is the same with spiritual warfare. The sessions focus hard on the different types of "road blocks" or things that prevent people from accepting Jesus. Examples would be intellectual road blocks, or problems because of emotional issues. The students learn to identify by talking with the individual, (witnessing is usually not a presentation, it is a conversation) and then respond to the individual in a loving, Christ-like way. We practiced every day before we went out, which was basically every day. We went to Chicago to the beach, to the Naperville river walk, and we spent time texting and emailing/facebooking our friends about their salvation, as well as going out and providing a soccer camp for the Spanish community. The results from all of this were truly glorious. If you want to put someone on fire, show them that. Wow! God was working miracles! Miracles right here in our lives! God is blessing us and using us for his holy work.

No one brings a person to Christ by their smooth talk, or great analogies. It is always by the doing of the Lord. I recently missed an opportunity at the YMCA to witness, the man opened the opportunity right up, and I blew it, and I beat myself up but I realize that I don't save him, God does. Constantly I have been praying for

## 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

this man. I pray for him, for another opportunity or for someone taking the one I missed. Prayer is so, so, so important in life and especially in witnessing. I challenge myself and others to pray for a person as much as more as you witness to them, no matter whom they are, or how long you talk with them. Prayer is a focus at Converge and not just for others, but also for ourselves. We were blessed with Dave Pikel's presence and leading a concert of prayer. For Christians to gather together and pray and about the same things and for each other, and for each other's friends and for the world, to admire God together is an event that is worth not missing.

Worship is done in many ways and at **Converge** every night we worshiped with music; music moves the heart and sets us in a ready spot for the Spirit to move. Every worship night was with the very blessed band and was moving to a lot of students. God- focused worship like that every night, after days like we had is like the icing on the cake, or the whip cream on a pie. It just tops it off so well, such a blessing to us all.

Of course with these types of events is great food (real food) from Bill Badal and fun for everyone there. Free time is a reoccurring activity that happens throughout the week as we grow. Crazy ping pong, Frisbee, soccer, basketball, and all sorts of things keep you doing more than you can do in all the time allotted. Developing friendships while everyone is just hanging out and playing some ball is really great.

**Converge** has been a blessing in everyone's live that I have met from there. The Word of the Lord shall not return void, and to give anyone that hope in the Lord is the best feeling along with growing closer to the Lord. Converge has been a blessing and I pray God continues to bless it. I really hope everyone can get a chance like this in their life, and the sooner the better. I pray this for the Church.

*God bless and thank you,*

*Evan Rhule*

*Contact info: First Baptist Church, Sycamore IL*

[nccba@trivest.net](mailto: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.

## FREE ADOBE ACROBAT

NCCBA has an installation disc for Adobe Acrobat 6. FREE for the cost of postage (approximately \$10). If you own an older computer, this may be perfect to create Adobe documents. Call or email the office, 715-538-2298 or [nccba@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

### Upcoming Events

#### **AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:**

Contact your cluster leader for summer meetings. 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:

- Northampton Bible Church--Cuyahoga Falls OH YOUTH PASTOR
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Pekin IL--Two positions: WORSHIP LEADER and CHURCH PLANTER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)
- Hillcrest Baptist Church--Muscatine IA
- First Baptist Church--Bradford IL
- Keystone Baptist Church--Chicago IL
- Wildwood Baptist Church--East Moline IL
- Monona Oaks Community Church--Madison WI

### Contact Our Office

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

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