

North Central CBA

E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

June 2011

Scholarship Recipients

We of the NCCBA have the privilege of honoring High School graduates with the Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Fund. Applications are reviewed by a committee according to the criteria stated on the application. While scholastic accomplishments are important, the students are also evaluated for other activities in which they are involved at school and church, financial need, career goals, the educational institution involved and the benefit to the applicant. We rejoice that we had numerous applications submitted this year and each student who applied is commended for their Christian testimony, many achievements and diligence in the application process. Of the all the applicants, 4 were chosen and given a scholarship from the \$2,000.00 of funds set aside by the NCCBA Board. We congratulate these students as they take the next steps in their Christian walk when they begin college this fall.

Phil Butler,

Chairman, Spicer Committee 2011



Alyssa Griffith
Village Bible Church
Shabbona, Illinois
Will attend Cedarville
University majoring in
Piano Pedagogy &
Performance



Joel Park
Bethany Baptist Church
Edwards, Illinois
Will attend Moody Bible
Institute majoring in
Pastoral Studies



Chanel Madson
Storden Baptist Church
Storden, Minnesota
Will attend Northwestern College
majoring in Music Ministry/Public
Relations



Lindsey Daggett
Cavalier Baptist Church
Cavalier, North Dakota
Will attend Northwestern College
majoring in Graphic Design

A Time Priority

As I move toward retirement the question I am often asked is, what are you going to do? To be honest I am not really certain. At the moment I am initially looking forward to taking some time to decompress. Once I am refreshed I would certainly like to find a way to be involved with mentoring the next generation with time God gives to me.

Time is something that is a very valuable commodity. Once time is used you cannot retrieve it and get a second chance to use it again. In our world today in spite of all the "time saving devices" it seems that we have less. When I say we seem to have less time I am not suggesting that time is shrinking. Rather what is happening is that we try to cram more activities in the hours we have.

This is not just what seems to be happening, it is in fact a reality. Richard Swenson in his book Margin points out that the prediction of past futurists that progress would give us more leisure time has not become a reality. The fact is that even with all the time saving devices since 1967 the average American worker works more hours than the year before. The average working couple in the last two decades has increased their working hours by 700.

Swenson, a medical doctor, points out that this increase of work and filling days with activity upon activity is having a profound negative impact. One of the areas that is being dramatically impacted is that of relationships. Swenson wonders if Jesus were doing ministry today in our world would his life be dictated by a Smart Phone.

Granted I have to do some speculation, but my guess would be that Jesus would not be time oriented but rather people oriented. It is not that Jesus was not aware of time. He clearly expresses this in his references to "my time has not yet come" and when he "set his face toward Jerusalem." However it is clear that Jesus was concerned about those who were in need, and took the time to address those needs. He also took time to withdraw, either to spend time with his disciples or to spend time in prayer.

As I come to this time of my life the thing that I am going to miss is the relationships that have developed among the REDs and among many of you. I also realize that with the time we all have left the best way to reflect the presence of Christ is to show leadership in developing and deepening relationships. All of us who call ourselves

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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.

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.**

CB should aspire for relational time with our peers for encouragement, fun, learning and dreaming.

One parting bit of advice as your new Director (Pat Phinney on July 1st) is taking time to get to know you: take time to also get to know him. If you do, you will find it worth your time.

Don Shaw, Regional Director

donnccba@triwest.net

YOUTH PASTORS:

It's funny to me but this weekend there is a band named Warrant putting on a concert in my small town. They had an album called "Cherry Pie" which reached #7 on the Billboard charts back in 1990. It makes me think back to the days of my youth when my favorite music was within the genre called "heavy metal." I enjoyed listening to bands like KISS, Motley Crue and Def Leppard and as far as I was concerned, Christian music had nothing to offer a "metal-head" like me. Don't get me wrong, Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith and Sandi Patti had done some wonderful things in Christian music but for me, those artists just didn't cut it.

In the summer of 1990, I was invited by my friend Dan to attend the Sonshine Music Festival in Willmar, MN. Dan was intriguing because he listened to something called "Christian Rock" which seemed like an oxymoron to me. Regardless, I attended with an open mind. After visiting the main stage to which I wasn't real impressed, I went to a vendor selling Christian music. It was there that I told my friend Dan that if he picked out five albums that sounded like KISS, Motley Crue and Def Leppard I would buy them. At that moment, I was introduced to Bloodgood, Shout, Angelica, Bride and Guardian. At that moment, my life would never be the same again. Later that night we listened to a headlining band called Petra. They absolutely blew me away!

It didn't take me long to realize that I had inherited a gold mine in my new music. I couldn't believe that sound was actually coming through my car stereo speakers! I had finally found Christian music that I wouldn't be embarrassed to play in front of my friends. Since I could no longer use the excuse, "Christian music doesn't have anything I like" I slowly began to wean myself off secular music

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

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

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

completely. It sounds funny but Christian metal literally changed my life.

Over the last decade, I have often given a talk entitled "Rage Against the Media." It's one that addresses the dangerous and negative impact the media has on teens and society. The message is one that I take pride in more than any other because I have put my heart and soul into developing what I feel is the most impactful message that I give. I once heard a pastor say that God will take our "mess" and turn it into a "message" if we allow him to. Since I was waist deep in the music, movies and television of my era, the influences of the media became a natural platform for me to speak on and address.

I have seen statistics that say teenagers listen to 4-6 hours of music a day, play video games an average of 90 minutes a day and watch an average of 20-22 hours of television a week. This is startling considering the fact that the major themes within the media are violence, rebellion, sex, vulgarity, drugs and alcohol. Most amazing to me however, is the students who justify their habits by saying things like, 'There's worse out there,' "I just listen to the beat," and "the media doesn't have an effect on me."

The good news is that in 2011, there are amazing Christian bands of all genres and there are some amazing resources available such as www.pluggedin.com and www.cpyu.org. I mention that because I am tired of hearing from youth workers who see certain movies, watch certain TV shows and play certain computer games all in the name of "research."

My youth worker friend, be very careful what you do in the name of "research" because it may do be just another form of justification much like the forms your students use.

Go bless,

Craig Sanborn, FBC, Long Prairie, MN

PASTOR CARE:

Anger, Forgiveness and the Healing Process-Part 2

In the April 2011 Newsletter, I raised an issue about the importance of forgiveness in the process of avoiding sinful choices when we become angry. My comments were based on Ephesians 4:26-27 and

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 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

a secular mental health training seminar that Sandy and I attended with the title "Anger, Forgiveness and the Healing Process." The seminar was presented by Paula Butterfield, PhD, under the auspices of the Institute for Brain Potential. The Objectives of this 6 hour presentation were: List several health risks associated with anger; Recognize traits of people with common anger-related disorders; Discuss evidence-based approaches to anger management; Describe effective methods of facilitating forgiveness.

Dr. Butterfield helped us understand the process that takes place physiologically and emotionally when we become angry. Anger was defined as an emotion distinguished from its attitudinal and behavioral cousins. The attitudinal cousins are: "hostility, cynicism, chronic complaining and negativity, arrogance, entitlement." The behavioral ones are: "physical aggression, hurtful actions, violence." Forgiveness was defined as "the willingness to let go of resentment, anger, and other negative feelings toward someone who has unjustly hurt us...and to foster understanding, empathy, compassion, and perhaps even love toward that person." The basic thesis of the presentation was that attempting to deal with anger without exercising forgiveness was at least ineffective and probably counter-productive.

With this short introduction to the intensive focus on anger and our handling of it during this seminar, I want to turn our attention back to Ephesians 4:26-27, and its kindred Old Testament reference Psalm 4:4. As I mentioned in April, I have understood the Ephesians passage to be about dealing truthfully with our Christian brothers and sisters. When we become angry, we are to do something about it immediately, before the sun goes down, rather than allow it to fester and create more damage. I have given sermons on this passage centering on the need for open and honest acknowledgment and discussion about what took place and choices to do things differently. The expectation was that to make clear the offense would promote the choice to do better the next time. The focus was on the verbalizing of the right sorts of thoughts and feelings quickly.

However, I am not certain that I ever included in that process the idea that before I could effectively and appropriately enter that healthy process of "straightening things out" something else needed to happen. It seems to me that Dr. Butterfield may be both clinically and spiritually right on target when she concludes that forgiveness is essential to dealing with anger well. If anger is my response to

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 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

something that happens that I don't like, or more specifically that I understand or interpret as damaging and/or threatening to me and that is underserved, I am stuck with it-my anger-until I choose to do something positive and healthy with that emotion before it becomes attitude or behavior. Although not specified in Ephesians 4:26-27, I believe that choice of action is to forgive.

Forgiving means deciding that I have no right to judge, punish and hold against another human being a wrong and sinful choice they have made, when the holy and righteous God of the universe has graciously forgiven me because of Jesus' sacrifice for sin. While my participation in the forgiveness Jesus purchased on Calvary is dependent on my willingness to confess and repent based on faith in Him, there seems to be no such criterion for my forgiveness of others. My forgiveness of others is based on my understanding of God's love and grace to me in Christ Jesus, not on their understanding of either God's love and grace or my love and grace to them.

This brings me to what I believe is a very crucial connection to Psalm 4:4-5: "In your anger do not sin; when you on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. (Selah) Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord." I would like to suggest that effectively and appropriately dealing with anger requires not only forgiving others but also choosing to believe that God really is in control and that He really does love us and that we really can trust Him and rely on Him, no matter what seems to be happening that hurts or threatens us and to which we respond with anger. I encourage you to do an in-depth study of this Psalm, which ends with verse 8: "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

I hope and pray that these thoughts will stimulate you to do some careful and prayerful searching of your hearts and minds concerning anger, what part it plays in your life and ministry, and how you are choosing to deal with it. May the Sovereign God of the Universe flood your being with a profound awareness of His presence, love and grace in you, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT

Stillman Valley, Illinois

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@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.

Good Idea Section

When I was in Junior High, our church scheduled a week of meetings with an evangelist. This was in the late 1950's (which dates me considerably). We were a pretty grim, buttoned up lot. Even on Sunday nights junior high boys wore coats, white shirts and ties to church-conservative coats and ties. So the first night with this evangelist etched itself on my youthful memory.

The speaker was from the deep South. That alone was cross-cultural to us Northern Mid-Westerners. He shouted when he preached and he spoke with an accent that would do a Redneck proud. The visual impact was stunning. He came out in a white suit. I had never seen a white suit. His shirt was neon pink with ruffles at the cuffs and down the front. He said he dressed boldly and spoke loudly because he wanted people to pay attention when he preached.

During that first message he told about having murdered a man before he came to Christ. I think there was some gospel thrown in, but I mostly remember the homicide. And he wrung us out with an exhausting invitation.

The meetings ended that night. I think the pastor and church leaders uninvited him.

When I hear the words "revival," that incident from my early adolescence pops into mind. I am a self-confessed skeptic. While I have known fine revival preachers of godly integrity, I am overly cautious about inviting revival ministries to our church.

So my ears perked up when Pastor Doug Bytwerk spoke glowingly about some meetings he had with Life Action Ministry. Doug serves at First Baptist in Spring Lake and is in our Michigan Cluster. We have been good friends for the last twenty years and get together regularly to yak about life and ministry.

Doug gave Life Action great reviews. So when we considered having them come to Bethel, I called Doug with one question: "It's been

over a year since the Life Action team was there. Are you still seeing lasting fruit that is directly attributable to their ministry?" Doug assured me the results of their work were still being played out.

With some trepidation, we made the call and invited the team. We asked for an eight day Summit, Sunday to Sunday. Normally they like to come for either eleven or fourteen days. We had to push it out a couple of years, but we got them on the schedule. They would begin on Mother's Day this year.

As the time approached we challenged our people to prepare. We asked them to clear their calendars, even as we shut down everything at church for that week.

Our church family was nervous: we worried about being manipulated when they showed up. And I think we worried a bit about God actually showing up and messing with our lives.

Life Action comes with an entire team. They lead worship and provide activities for all ages. Every night the whole family was served with age appropriate ministries. The only thing we took care of was the nursery. That freed all the adults to participate in the meetings.

We had a family life speaker and the main revival speaker. During the week they never gave a come forward invitation and they never took an offering (they come on a love offering basis and the offering box is placed in the prayer room). There was no manipulation, no pressure, just an eager desire to see God work.

God met with our folks in deep, powerful ways. We're still hearing stories about what God is doing in our church family. I believe this will significantly impact our church for years to come.

There are extremes to avoid when thinking about hosting a revival team. One is to expect that revival will be the answer to everything. We can put a lot of ministry eggs in that basket. Revival is an answer to some things, but a series of meetings will not instantly glorify a church. Transformation is the work of a lifetime.

Another extreme is to be so fearful of outside influence that we never draw on the broader resources in the Body of Christ. Especially if we're afraid of being exposed, of being shown up, or of someone siphoning precious resources away from our own current needs.

But if you sense your church might be in need of freshening, for an in depth spiritual self-evaluation and encounter, or for taking some next steps with God, then you might consider the Life Action Team. They served us well. We commend them.

<http://www.lifeaction.org/>

Leo Cumings

Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson MI

CHAPLAINCY:

Road Trip Blessings

Recently I returned from a 3500 mile road trip visiting churches and chaplains. It is always exciting to visit pastors and share the stories I receive from our chaplains. I recently attended the North Central CBA Annual Meeting and the Mission Mid-Atlantic Annual Meeting. It is also a blessing to know our chaplaincy program is being prayed for by many different churches and families across this country. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

In a church in central Pennsylvania I spoke and challenged the congregation to fulfill the goal for which Christ chose us - to bear much fruit. After the service an eighty-five year old WWII veteran spoke with me and told me this story. His wife had recently passed away and to fill his time he began to go with men from church and the community to visit the local jail. On one visit he was able to lead several men to Christ. It excited him so he asked the Lord for fifteen before he died. When he reached that number he told the Lord he wasn't ready to go yet so asked for twenty-five. He reached that goal and is now at thirty-three and has asked the Lord for fifty. It was such a blessing to meet this man who still had a heart for God. What a way to finish!

I also shared in the Wednesday service at Tri-City Baptist Church in Parkersburg, WV. Pastor Joe Ward recently returned from

Afghanistan having served with his unit of the West Virginia Army National Guard. While serving there Pastor Joe had the opportunity to lead a local woman who was working with our military to Christ. He was also able to baptize her. He was home just a short time and received a phone call telling him this lady had been killed in a vehicle accident near the base where she was working. He was in the right place at the right time.

On June 15 I leave for five days in Washington DC. A group of Evangelical chaplain endorsers are gathering to work on policy to help our chaplains as they face the reversal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. We could use your prayers in the coming months as related issues arise for our chaplains. There are other important issues we will need to deal with in future meetings. Please pray for us!

If you would like to know more about the ministry of CBAmerica Chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or call his office at 218-776-2813.

Top 10 Church Documents

What you don't know can hurt you

*By Richard Hammar, **Church Law & Tax***

As a church leader, you or someone on staff should be familiar with and able to identify the following documents:

1. **Articles of incorporation.** The articles of incorporation is a short document that contains the church's name, address, period of duration, initial board of directors, and statement of purposes. The articles of incorporation is called the church's charter. The charter is the most authoritative legal document that a church has. In the event of a conflict between the charter and any other legal document, the charter will control.
2. **Corporate Annual Reports.** [click for link to entire article](#)

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

SW Minnesota/NW Iowa Cluster

July 12, 11 AM-1 PM

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

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)
- Hayden Heights Baptist Church--St. Paul MN
- 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

Thank you for your prayers! Randy Shideler is the new Youth Pastor at First Baptist Church in Colfax, Iowa.

Contact Our Office

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

North Central Conservative Baptist Association | P.O. Box 568 | Whitehall | WI | 54773

