

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

June 2012

Spicer Scholarship Report

It has been my privilege to serve this past year as the chairman of the Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Committee. As a region we have the opportunity to award financial scholarships to high school graduates based on a number of different criteria including: 1)academic performance; 2)extra-curricular activities; 3)servant leadership both in the church and in the community; 4)future academic and career pursuits, and 5)financial need.

This is my second year serving on this committee and in both years I have been impressed by the quality young men and women in our churches. There were many students who submitted applications this year, and we want to commend each student for all their accomplishments and their Christian testimony. Four students were chosen to receive a \$500 scholarship from the \$2,000 set aside by the NCCBA Board.

We congratulate all the students and pray that God will continue to direct their steps.

*Mike Wetzig
Chairman
Spicer Scholarship Committee 2012*

Spicer Scholarship Recipients



Darya Wodetzki
from Faith Fellowship Church in Cincinnati, Ohio,
will be studying Chemistry, Pre-Medical program at
Missouri State University.

Monica VanEss
from New Life Church in Wanamingo, Minnesota,
will be attending Northwestern College, with a major
in Intercultural Studies



Heidi Backstrom
from Bethany Community Church in Washington, Illinois,
is majoring in Middle Childhood Education & Missions at
Trinity International University

Elisabeth Stern (Bessa)
from Calvary Church in Muscatine, Iowa, plans
to study Early Childhood Education at Iowa
State University



From our Regional Director:
Let the Games Begin

They are finally here! Games of the XXX Olympiad will take place in London, England from July 27 to August 12, 2012. The motto is, "Inspire a Generation". The Olympic Games is the biggest sporting event on the planet. With 204 participating nations, 26 sports, 302 events, 10,500 athletes and millions of spectators, it's going to be an exciting summer. Right from the official Olympic website is this statement, "During the 16 days of fierce competition, under the aegis of strength and technique, the world's champions will be decided by their own strength, determination and skill, determining those who will take pride of place in the Olympic hall of fame."

Some will walk away from the Games this summer as "winners". It will be those who will win the race, break world records, stand on the center podium, and bend down to receive the gold medal around the neck. I read about an athlete at the U.S. Olympic trials in Portland, Oregon who said, "There is no such thing as second place!" An interesting comment and I agree. When it comes to our faith as believers, there is no room for second place and losing is not an option. There are a number of impressive characteristics about Olympic athletes:

- The first thing we can appreciate about Olympic athletes is winning is a goal. Winners have a specific purpose for which they are striving. To them, winning is the ability to embrace a worthwhile goal and then use all their powers as an athlete to achieve it. I like that. God has called us to run our lives in such a way to achieve the goal of winning. God expects each of us to compete with this specific goal in mind. Why? He has already won the ultimate race of dying on the cross for our redemption and all we have to do is just start running to compete.

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 (ESV)

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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.

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.

- Next, winning is an attitude. Muriel James in the book "Born to Win" says, "Winners may lose ground occasionally and may even fail. Yet, in spite of setbacks, winners maintain a basic self-confidence. For them achievement is not the most important thing. Authenticity is." Once a person is honest and sees their true potential as well as weaknesses, they can be freed to achieve their goals. Winners know and resolve their past, live in the present and plan for their future. The competitive race in 2012 is going to bring some very exciting changes within our region and having this kind of "winning attitude" will help us get to the finish line.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith..... Hebrews 12:1-2a (ESV)

- Finally, winning is a way of life. In the "Chariots of Fire" movie, I still remember what Abrahams' girlfriend blurted out in the stands after he lost a race. He said, "I run to win. If I don't win, I don't run." She replied back to him, "And if you don't run, you won't win." What a great response and it is something that we all need to guard against in God's church. If Christians don't run the race, how will they win? Being an athlete of old, I have discovered that winners don't watch things happen. They make things happen by being people of action. Because of what Christ has done for us on the cross, we are to be people of kingdom action.

"See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them." Deuteronomy 1:8 (ESV)

That is what God says to each of us today. "I have a plan for your life. I have potential for you to reach. I will give you good success.

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 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 you be

All you have to do is follow Me." We are winners as we trust in Christ for salvation and commit to following Him through every step of our lives in complete obedience.

Like Olympians, we are runners called to compete in the race of the Christian life. Let's start running and step up to the winner's platform to claim the prize that is already ours in Christ. Then what? The 2012 Summer Olympic motto will come true for us as well . . . "Inspire a Generation". The next generation of young Christians, leaders, and churches within the North Central region will look to us and be inspired to run the race marked out for them.

"Let the Games Begin!" and we will see you on the winner's platform.

Pat Phinney, Regional Director
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From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

Ministry provides unique challenges on a daily basis. While some of those challenges are common among all of us, there are some that are unique depending on our personal ministry context and setting. Some serve in the city, some in the suburbs, some in small towns, and others in rural America. But no matter what the setting, complacency is probably one of the challenges you have faced at one time or another. It may not have been your personal struggle, but possibly was an attitude that was present in those you have been called to lead.

Complacency can be a comfortable place because we are not allowing ourselves to be stretched or challenged. Complacency keeps us trapped because we (or those we lead) are unwilling to step out in faith and trust God in something new or different. "This is the way we've always done it" is an attitude and a phrase that can frustrate us and can handcuff the leadership of a church.

At the other end of the spectrum is the attitude of making changes simply to make changes. I am not advocating this position, but I do

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 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

believe we need to be willing to be a little introspective and be willing to evaluate our current ministries to make sure we are being as effective as possible in reaching our communities with the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

The staff at our church has been reading David T. Olson's book, *The American Church in Crisis*. No doubt, many of you have already read it, but if you have not, I would encourage you to give it a read. I am sure it will challenge you to reconsider some of those "sacred cows" and to possibly change some of the habits and priorities in your church to help you be more effective in serving your community.

Olson's statistics reveal that many churches, "...continue to operate in modes and mentalities that no longer resonate with our culture." [1] If we want to be effective, we need to have a greater cultural sensitivity and a willingness to operate more like the early New Testament church did. We need to begin to engage our community, to meet the physical and spiritual needs, we need to practice hospitality and build bridges into our communities.

Olson concludes that many churches will see the needed changes as overwhelming and will be tempted to retreat into the safe world of the past. "Unfortunately, it does not matter which world we want to live in; we can only live in the world that exists today. The word for living in a world that no longer exists is delusion. If we wish to engage our culture relevantly and meaningfully, we must accept and learn to live with joy in this present world." [2]

May God grant all of us the wisdom, courage, and sensitivity in making changes that will help us engage our culture and be as effective as possible in communicating the gospel and building the Kingdom of God.

*Pastor Mike Wetzig
Ravenna Baptist Church
Ravenna, Michigan*

[1] Olson, David T., *The American Church in Crisis* (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2008), 161.

[2] *Ibid*, 171.

Health Insurance Option

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

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR:

We prepare for many things in life. We prepare meals in our homes. We prepare for mission trips. Often, we even prepare for death. We prepare for so many things in life but rarely do we prepare for worship. How well do you prepare to worship, specifically on Sunday mornings for church? In order to get the most out of a church service we must be deliberate and intentional. In this month's article I want to share five practices on how to prepare for church or in other words - how to get the most out of your church service.

1. Know why you are going. I think that many people today wouldn't be able to come up with a good answer if asked why they go to church. But, if you don't know why you go it is so easy to become distracted. The reason for going to church will underline everything you do or fail to do while there. If a person's reasons are out of obligation, tradition, to please a spouse or because they are forced, it will be obvious in the way they participate. However, if a person comes out of a desire to sing, share, grow, encourage, pour out and be active that will also be obvious.

2. Prepare Your Heart. Get a good night's sleep. Get up early to avoid grogginess. Eat something. Turn off your cell phone. Pray.

3. Put all Your Heart into the Service. Who is the worship service for? Contrary to popular belief, it is not for us! The worship service is for God. It is for Him and Him alone! I wonder how many of us truly believe that. How many times have we said, "I didn't really care for worship today" or "I didn't get much out of church this morning?" The church service is not about serving us! It's about serving and worshipping God. We need to make up our mind that we will fully participate in every aspect of the service. The question isn't what did we get out of it but, what did we put into it?

Here are some easy ways to put all your heart into the worship service...

- Sit in the front - it is easier to engage and there are fewer

distractions.

- Respond when asked - shout AMEN! Give encouragement. Let your pastors know that you are with them! You enjoy responsiveness when you preach, don't you? Return the favor!
- Use the bathroom before the service - if the pastor or music leader can't leave the service then neither should we.

4. Take notes. When taking notes don't write down everything, just four things...

- Key points.
- Good quotes & one liners.
- Specific things that God tells you.
- ACTION Points - leave room to come back and write the things you will do because of what you have heard.

5. Be more eager to give than to receive. Acts 20:35 says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The person who comes to church and gives nothing - they are the one who truly loses. The person who comes to church and gives generously - they are the ones who receive generously.

Next week take time to prepare for the Sunday morning service. Do so by taking these five simple practices and apply them. I promise that in five weeks you will not recognize who you are today!

Go bless,
Pastor Craig Sanborn, Long Prairie, Minnesota

CHAPLAINCY:

Ride For The Troops

Northern Minnesota has a strong interest in supporting our military. June 3rd some 412 motorcycle riders gathered together for a 134 mile ride to support our troops. It began with a pancake breakfast and ended with a hotdog/brat feed. Carol and I decided

to join them this year. We have never done a ride like this before so this was a first for us. I decided to wear my military fatigue uniform (ACU). I was the only rider in uniform and it attracted a lot of attention. even an interview for the local paper. A number of riders saw the uniform and asked if we were going to pray before the ride began. I told them I had not been asked so they said pray with our group. We joined hands and let them in prayer. At each rest stop others came over with questions about the effects of recent policy changes made by our government and there affect on our military. The reason I was singled out was not because I wore a uniform. It was the cross symbol that identified me as a chaplain. This is important because present and former military people recognize the person wearing the cross symbol as a Christian Chaplain. Presently the Navy is attempting to take away the cross and other chaplain identifiers and make the chaplain symbol generic. They say people are confused with the different symbols - cross -Christian, tablets - Jewish, crescent - Muslim, wheel - Buddhist. As other chaplains representing other faith groups are added to the military they want one generic symbol for everyone. Had I worn a different symbol on my uniform that was generic no one would have known I was a chaplain. As a member of the Chaplain Alliance I am opposed to this change. Pray that the cross will remain as an identifier for our chaplains.

As we rode along the arranged route we saw hundreds of families lining the sides of the road waving American flags. It was rewarding to see the local support for our military. Some groups cheered, other honked horns and almost everyone waved. Carol had a great time returning the waves while I honked the bike horn. At the end of the day we had ridden a total of 230 miles.

All across America rides are being held. Just a week earlier some 500, 000 bikes took part in the ride in Washington DC. Pray for our troops as they serve our great nation and fight for our freedoms. Pray for those in harms way. CBAmerica had a number of chaplains in Afghanistan. Pray for them and for their families. Also many of our military chaplains are in the process of moving this summer to new assignments. Remember to pray for these families as they get moved in and begin new ministries.

If you would like more information about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or phone at 218-776-2813. By the way, we plan to ride again next year Lord willing.

Health Insurance Option

We have found a reasonable health insurance option for pastors in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Call or email Pat Phinney, our Regional Director, for more information, 952-322-7173 or patnccba@trivest.net.

There is also a [link on our website](#) for this company.

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Illinois Cluster

September 11, 11 AM, Home of Joe Stewart
Contact Mark Friday, 309-347-5965

Twin Cities-Minnesota

July 9, 10 AM, River of Life, Hastings MN
Contact Steve Schoenwald, 651-437-3965

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

IOWA CB MEETINGS

October 8 & 9, Colfax, Iowa
Contact Phil Butler, 515-674-3752

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
- First Baptist Church-Bradford IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- 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@trivest.net

