



North Central  
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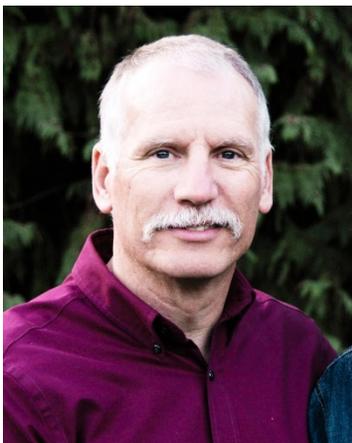
Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

March 2012

## HENRY SPICER SCHOLARSHIP **Deadline April 1**

The Henry Spicer Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors planning to attend college this fall. To qualify, an applicant must be a committed Christian AND a regular attendee of a NCCBA affiliated church. The number of scholarships varies from year to year. For information and an application go to our [website](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298.

*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](http://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 you are a first-time attender. Best value when you register for BOTH the Seminar & Retreat. **NEED A SCHOLARSHIP** to help cover the cost? Call Pat at 952-322-7173 or Jean at 715-538-2298 or email [nccba@trivest.net](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

**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](http://www.theabbeyresort.com)

**FINAL deadline to register: April 1**

**NOTE:** A limited number of **FREE ROOMS** are also available to stay at the Abbey Resort before April 30 and not on the actual nights of the Seminar or Retreat (Tuesday April 24 is OK). Call or email Jean for the details.

## **I Have a Dream**

January 15, 2012, marked the 83rd anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's birth. On April 4, we will be coming on forty-four years that Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis. Most of us remember him by his famous, "I Have a Dream!" speech made on August 28, 1963,

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from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington D.C. This civil rights leader's dream was for racial equality and a final end to discrimination. What inspires me about Martin Luther King was his ability to think and then dream outside what was normal. He believed in something that seemed impossible.

As I get into churches as the Regional Director and meet with leaders, I challenge them with this thought, "What are your dreams for the future of your church?" With few exceptions, most heads drop and the eyes of the leaders have that "deer in the headlights" look. I get that, "What are you talking about?" look. Leaders tell me they are so occupied with looking at the church and its challenges, that there is little time to dream. I am quickly realizing that the role of Director extends beyond just showing up to a church as a regional cheer leader. There has to be more than just presenting a NCCBA update, offering resources, meeting with Sunday School groups, preaching a sermon and patting the pastor on the back to say, "Good job!" A young thirty-something pastor recently asked me a question. He said, "Will CBAmerica be around in fifty years?" After fumbling through an answer, I drove back to my office with a conclusion. Unless the Director, the Regional Board, CB pastors and every significant leader in the church takes time to DREAM and develop a VISION for a new future, we will not be a viable organization in fifty years.

I don't know about you, but as a leader I do not want to be remembered for what I can accomplish; how I can organize a meeting; administrate a budget; communicate a message or inspire a group. I am called to be a faithful servant who is able to understand God's will for the region and then act in complete faith upon it. This is my first priority. Then I have the freedom to dream for what seems impossible and cast vision for a new future. Jesus acted upon God's revelation for a vision when He began His ministry,  
*"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. "I can do nothing on My own initiative . . . but the will of Him who sent Me." John 5:19-20,30 (NASB)*

Do you remember what King Solomon said in Proverbs 29:18,

Pastor

Contact Our Office

### 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.

### Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

### NCCBA

[www.nccba-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)

WEBSITE

**CHILD ABUSE**

"Where there is no vision, the people perish . . ." (KJV)?The application is clear. If you cannot see where you are going, then you are unlikely to get there. I believe a more accurate translation of the Hebrew in this single passage comes from the NIV, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint." This is significant. Vision here is not some popular idea of a leader-generated goal that we often see in the business world. It is what God reveals to us in His Word and then what always follows is a promise for something different, new and beyond our imagination. When we leaders do not seek that new revelation within God's will, then we are in danger of becoming greatly sidetracked. What's next? We fail to accomplish our God-given mission. And we all know what comes after that. Right?

I ask you the same question that was asked of me a month ago. "Will your church exist in fifty years?"

Though that is a very hard question, I think discovering the answer is healthy. My prayer is that God will give you a vision to cast and a dream to believe, but only as you seek His counsel for your church and a new future. My prayer is that you will be able to always see what others are only looking at and believe by faith what others will not and cannot believe. My prayer is that God will reveal Himself so strong to you that you will see the whole world on the map, while others are preoccupied with their little corner.



How will you generate vision for your church? Listen to these wise words given to another leader . . .

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9 (NASB)*

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

Cell: (952)500-3743

[patnccba@trivest.net](mailto:patnccba@trivest.net)

**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](http://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**

***From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS***

## **Western Wisconsin Cluster**

Since the fall of 2011, the Western Wisconsin Pastor's cluster has met twice at Perkins Restaurant in Eau Claire for planning.

We have had two meetings that ran from noon to 3 pm.

The first lunch and discussion was held at Crossroads Church in Chippewa Falls on October 13. We discussed how literally/figuratively we read and interpret the Bible, sharing our views on Genesis 1-2 and Matthew 18. The discussion was lively and challenging. We closed the meeting with plenty of time for prayer.

The second lunch with discussion was held at First Baptist Church in Whitehall on February 23. We discussed how church leaders are selected, trained, and how they serve on Boards and committees. Ideas and resources, both philosophical and practical, were shared about what was working and what was not working in our churches. We spent a good portion of time in prayer for one another.

We scheduled a 24 hour retreat in January, but an icy coating on the roads forced us to cancel.

We have one more lunch with discussion scheduled for March 22 in New Richmond, before we encourage one another to attend the Pastors' and Wives' retreat in Lake Geneva in April.

We have four goals for our cluster meetings: learning, accountability and growth, fun and joint ministry. As we meet together trust, support, and camaraderie are growing. We enjoy one another's company and we share each other's victories and defeats, joys and sorrows. Despite busy schedules and the distance between our churches, meeting with the fellows is always worth it.

God bless,  
*Wade Duroe*  
*Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls WI*

**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](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.

### **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](http://www.cbamerica.org) or toll-free 888-366-3010 in CASE LOTS ONLY

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## **YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR:**

*News from State Youth Fellowship (SYF) - Illinois [www.syfil.org](http://www.syfil.org)  
SYF's name is being updated to C2L (the student ministries of Come To Life Ministries)*

### **WINTER RETREAT REPORTS**

The year 2012 started real well - we praise the Lord for great weekends for Jr. High Blizzard (January 6-8), followed by Sr. High SnoCamp (January 13-15) at Pine Trail Camp in Saugatuck, Michigan. The primary purpose for both retreats was for spiritual growth to take place in each student's life. You'll note that we have a director AND co-director for each event.

For Jr. High Blizzard, we had 134 students & staff from 9 churches. Andy League spoke about our identity in Christ. One comment was, "good messages we all need to hear regardless of age"! Jason Wilson directed and Joan Vana co-directed - a great team! The worship band helped us connect with God well. They were from Jason's church (Harvard Ave. Ev. Free Church). The Lord gave us a wonderful weekend - even without snow!

For Sr. High SnoCamp, we had 140 students & staff from 12 churches. Mike Severe spoke about adoption "...adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ..." (Ephesians 1:5). His messages spoke to all our hearts - and he brought practical illustrations from his own life. Gary Lisle directed and Christian Constante co-directed - another great team! Dave Pikel (me) led a Concert of Prayer on Saturday Night - providing experiences to interact with the Lord individually and in groups. Resonate was our worship band, led by Nate Miller from First Baptist Church of Sycamore, excellent at getting our hearts focused on Christ! Gladly we did have snow for SnoCamp '12 - unlike Blizzard '12!

### **BREAKAWAY '12**

Our annual jr. & sr. high evangelistic outreach event called "Breakaway" is coming up March 24-25 (10:00pm - 7:00am). Joan Vana is our director this year (co-directed by Mike Locke). This event usually draws 600-700 students & staff from 20-25 churches. We usually have a good number of unbelievers (last year it was estimated we had 37% unbelieving students)!

The event starts with an evangelistic rally - followed by pizza, everyone receives a gospel tract, then going to three post rally events (see [www.syfil.org](http://www.syfil.org) for details). I still remember a past Breakaway when a freshman turned to his friend around 4:30am and asked, "Are you having fun?" His friend said, "Yes, I didn't think Christians could have so much fun!" They laughed. Then the first person said, "Great - do you have that booklet they gave out before pizza? Pull it out, I'd like to talk with you about it"!!

Pray for a great spiritual harvest - not just of salvations at the event, but solid seed plants that the Christian students can follow up on in the future - for those not yet ready to respond positively to the gospel.

*Grace n Peace 2 u,*

*Dave Pikel*

*C2L (formerly State Youth Fellowship of Illinois)*

[www.cometolifeministries.org](http://www.cometolifeministries.org)

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## CHAPLAINCY:



***Thailand: Army Guard Soldiers visit home for abandoned youth in Nakhon Ratchasima***

Army Sgt. Michael Raaf, a medical readiness noncommissioned officer, and Army Capt. Joshua Van Vlack, chaplain both with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Combat Brigade with Oregon National Guard, fix a swing set at the Ratchasima Boy's Home here Feb. 10, 2012. The Guard members are training at Camp Friendship in support of Cobra Gold 2012. Cobra Gold 2012 is the 31st iteration of the joint, multinational exercise held to enhance interoperability with participating nations and to advance security throughout the Asia-Pacific region. (Army National Guard photo by Pfc. Ryan Scott)

**NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand (2/13/12)** - Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, visited the Ratchasima Boys' Home in Nakhon Ratchasima Friday.

The "Sunset" Soldiers visited the home for abandoned boys to perform minor repair work around the playground and to spend some time playing with the nearly 150 boys who call the multistory building home.

"This was our opportunity to take a break from training, to get out into the community and to connect with the people," said Army Capt. Joshua Van Vlack, a chaplain with the 2-162. "We all connected with the boys as soon as we got there."

Soldiers interacted with the children, including playing on the swings and jungle gyms with the younger boys. The older children taught the Americans how to play Takrow, a popular Thai sport played by kicking a rattan ball back and forth over a lowered volleyball net.

Other soldiers went around the playground, tightening bolts on monkey bars and replacing chains on swing sets. One soldier replaced the wooden boards on the backboard of a basketball hoop.

"The boys think no one cares for them, but when the soldiers come and play, the boys are so happy," said Prasarn Charoensuk, a local pastor who assists the home's staff and had arranged for the soldiers to make a trip to the home. "We get to know the Soldiers," he said. "Now the Soldiers are a part of the people."

The visit was a memorable time for the Guard members and children alike. "One boy, maybe 12 years old, told me through our

translator that this was the best day of his life," Van Vlack said. "I can say without a doubt that this was the highlight of Cobra Gold for all of our soldiers as well."

The Soldiers, who are training at Camp Friendship a few miles from the boys' home, are participants in Exercise Cobra Gold 2012. Cobra Gold is in its 31st iteration, and is a joint, multinational exercise held to enhance interoperability with participating nations and to advance security throughout the Asia-Pacific region.  
Washington Army National Guard Courtesy report

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

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## **Appeals Court: No Housing Allowances for More than One Home**

New ruling reverses controversial 2010 Driscoll decision.

*By Matt Branaugh*

(article from Church Law & Tax)

In an opinion issued last week, a federal appeals court reversed a decision that allowed ministers to use their housing allowances on more than one home....

While last week's decision doesn't affect allowances for one home, it negates the ability to apply an allowance toward more than one. This may affect a number of pastors across the country who answered calls to churches in other cities or states in recent years, but couldn't sell their homes as the U.S. housing market cratered. It also affects clergy who, [click to finish article](#)

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## **Pastors Retreat Scholarship Fund**

If you would like to help a pastor attend this year's retreat, consider a donation to the NCCBA Pastors Retreat Scholarship Fund. Several of our pastors use this fund every year. To donate with a credit card, use the [donate button on our webpage](#) Checks can be made out to: North Central CBA, and mailed to PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773. Write "Retreat Scholarship Fund" in the memo line. Thank you!

## 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-gc2.com](http://www.nccba-gc2.com)*

## **AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:**

### **Wisconsin/NE MN Cluster**

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

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

### **Twin Cities Cluster**

March 19, 10 AM River of Life Church, Hastings MN

Contact Steve Schoenwald, 651-437-3965

### **SW Minnesota/N Iowa**

April 10, 11 AM

Contact Doug Noonkester, 712-754-3310, for location

### **S Illinois**

April 17, 11 AM, Living Hope Church, Bartonville IL

Contact Scott Boerckel, 309-454-3833

**The list of Pastor Cluster Leaders is on our website, click [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
- 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](mailto:nccba@trivest.net)

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