

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

November 2011

When Things Go Wrong?

I recently attended a seminar in Ames, Iowa called, "Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development". As I was looking out into the sea of unfamiliar faces, I recognized a pastor I knew from our region. Oh joy, somebody to talk to that I knew. Within moments, the pastor introduced me to the chairman of his Deacon Board. It wasn't long and this astute lay leader asked how I handled the many conflicts that I encounter. We kind of laughed nervously, made some assuring comments that God is always in control and parted ways for the next session. I kept thinking about his comment. It hit me like a brick to the head. Many of the people I encounter seem to gravitate to the topic of "How do we identify, manage, and resolve problems that come into the church." Immediately I thought of a T-shirt that a friend once gave me that said, "Let me drop everything and work on your problem." We kind of laugh at this statement, but as leaders it comes too close to home because we are often inundated with problems.

Let's face it. Everybody has times when things go wrong. When troubles come, it's not what happens, but how we react that counts. Troubles destroy some people, but others they make strong. As I look back, the only times I have truly grown have been during those times of adversity-when the pressure is on. Who wants to change when everything is going well? While I don't believe in quick fixes or simplistic solutions to life's

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complexities, I know that God teaches us many lessons in our challenging times-if we let Him.

Do you remember what I said earlier? The difference between troubles building or destroying God's people, lies in how we respond and how we go about resolving our problems. Allow me to make some comments that could help us deal with such things as leaders.

ATTITUDE. If we respond to our difficulties positively, determined with God's help to overcome, then we will. If we react in a negative fashion and with a defeated attitude, we will be beaten no matter how brilliant we are. As Zig Ziglar says in his book, "See You at the Top," "Attitude is much more important than aptitude." A study by Harvard University revealed that 85 percent of the reasons for success were because of attitude and only 15 percent because of our technical expertise. Are you ready for your own "attitude check" when it comes to evaluating your response to trouble? John states that we are "overcomers" in 1 John 5:4. The author of Hebrews in 12:2 tells us where to look when times are tough-UP. In James 1:2-4 the writer emphasizes that a joyful perspective makes a difference in facing your difficulties.

BEING REALISTIC. Being realistic is simply knowing and doing what is best in the situation. Because we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God's will is best for us, we must seek His will above ours when it comes to understanding what we are up against. Our selfish way is to determine in our own mindset what we should do. God's way is to direct man's heart. Proverbs 16:9 says, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." And then in Proverbs 21:1, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases." If we are unrealistic in our expectations for what we want when hard times hit, then most likely we miss God's will.

ACCEPTANCE. This is the big one! A person may respond naturally to difficulty in their lives with a troubled or wounded spirit. Their mind may be filled with worry, doubt, indecision and unbalanced emotions. Isn't God's ultimate desire to bring us to a point of accepting His best in the midst of trouble? Peter wrote, "And the God of all grace . . . after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (1 Peter 5:10) Restore speaks of "completion" in Christ. When that occurs, we become spiritually mature. Accepting God's outcome is to experience joy and peace in the suffering. Peter wrote, "Do

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

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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

not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed." (1 Peter 4:12,13) The moment you accept your difficulties as opportunities to grow and ask God to show you what you can learn, you will be greatly enriched.

Every one of us is fighting hard to build unity in our churches. One of the enemies at the gate to destroy that is allowing unresolved conflicts to paralyze or debilitate our people. It has been my experience over the years that sometimes unresolved conflicts occur because leadership is chicken and doesn't want to deal with all the drama. BUT AS LEADERS WE MUST. I believe God is true to that infamous T-shirt quote . . . "Let me drop everything and work on your problem." AND HE WILL.



Pat Phinney, Regional Director

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From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

The Word of God: What Its Absence Means to Culture

A recent survey of 230 young American adults reveals why the teaching of the Word of God is critical to the survival of our culture. The interviewers, led by Christian Smith at the University of Notre Dame, asked these 18-23 year olds open-ended questions about right and wrong, moral dilemmas, and the meaning of life.[i] What is remarkable is that these young adults simply do not have a vocabulary to say anything on moral issues. They actually have no moral categories. For example, when asked to describe a moral dilemma that they had faced, two-thirds of the young people either could not answer the question, or they described problems that are

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

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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

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not moral at all. They mentioned things like whether they could afford to rent a certain apartment or had enough quarters to feed the meter at a parking spot as moral dilemmas. Smith and his co-authors write, "Not many of them have previously given much or any thought to many of the kinds of questions about morality that we asked." They could generally agree that rape and murder were wrong, but aside from those extreme cases, moral judgments just are not made. "I don't really deal with right and wrong that often," is how one interviewee put it.

The clear consensus was that moral choices are simply a matter of taste. "It's personal." Or, "Who am I to say?" Or, "It's up to the individual." These were typical responses to the great question of how we decide morality. While many were quick to talk about their moral feelings, they were hesitant to link these feelings into any broader framework of moral absolutes or obligation. As one put it, "I mean, I guess what makes something right is how I feel about it. But different people feel different ways, so I couldn't speak on behalf of anyone else as to what's right and wrong."

To go one step further, for many of these young people the only truly immoral act is to attempt to assert any moral absolutism. As one respondent put it, "you know, some of these people are so firm in their beliefs, I find that that's contributed to a lot of problems that we see today, and maybe on not such a miniscule scale. So maybe, [my view] is just a commitment to not imposing your beliefs, or trying to dominate other people, or trying to control people. You know, that's very sick to me." [ii] In other words, the mere expression of a moral view is to this respondent tantamount to dominating and controlling others, a violation of other people's dignity and even human rights.

Now, as Smith rightly points out, it has always been the peculiar reaction of older adults to younger ones either to grow too alarmist or too complacent. So, I do not want to be too alarmist nor complacent about these young adults. However, when I consider that this generation will be my doctors, nurses, caregivers, first responders, and business and political leaders in my old age, it is difficult not to be alarmed. Simply out of personal interest, I would like to know that the people in charge of my medical care have some moral scruples! I would like to know that my banker has some moral scruples. I would like to know that my president or senator or governor has some kind of moral compass. I would like to know that the police officer has some moral framework for law enforcement.

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When I consider that this is the generation that will interpret and enforce our laws, I wonder how long it will be before the simple act of explaining the Gospel will be considered a violation of human rights. It is right to be alarmed. It would be wrong complacently to believe that somehow these precious young people will develop a moral compass on their own.

But there is something far more important than my own self-interest in the matter. This present generation is being ruined and harmed by its lack of moral philosophy. Rather than be concerned about how this will affect my life, I am more deeply troubled by the hurt that I see in these young lives. So early in adulthood, their lack of ability to make moral judgments will destroy their souls. Absent a moral compass, and with adult physical maturity and strength, these young lives can be ruined so quickly by a weight of immoral behavior which is engaged with thoughtless regard for consequences. Instead of cursing this darkness, surely neighborly compassion for this young generation leads me to resolve to do what I can to proclaim the Word of God to them, kindly, gently, and with respect (see 2 Timothy 2:24-25). The eternal destiny and present joy of this generation of young adults are at risk. That ought to matter more to me than my potential personal sufferings.

It is just into this moral vacuum that we renew our mission as CB church leaders to proclaim the Word of God. It is the Word of God which brings light to our path (Psalm 119:105). It is the Word of God that discerns our deepest motivations and places us humbly before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account (Hebrews 4:12). It is the Word of God which enables a young man to keep his way pure (Psalm 119:9-11). It is the Word of God which makes us competent for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17). It is the Word of God which enlightens the eyes, makes the simple wise, and warns us when we are getting into trouble (Psalm 19:7-11). It is the Word of God which enables us to experience eternal life as first we hear it and then believe it (Romans 10:17). One of the statements on the dedication plaque outside our church building is so relevant to these matters: "May the Word of God be proclaimed here, and may men, women, boys, and girls be led to a knowledge of God's love and salvation." Preach the Word!

Pastor Scott Boercke, Illinois Cluster Group

[i] I am indebted to David Brooks' recent article in the New York Times for calling attention

to Smith's research. I have used much of Brooks' summary. Brooks' article can be accessed at: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/13/opinion/if-it-feels-right.html?_r=2&src=recg&pagewanted=print

Smith's research has been published in *Lost in Transition: The Dark Side of Emerging Adulthood* by Christian Smith with Kari Kristofferson, Hilary Davidson, and Patricia Snell Herzog (New York: Oxford University Press) 2011.

[ii] Smith, et.al., pp. 23-24.

YOUTH PASTORS: What Senior Pastors Appreciate (or should appreciate) About Youth Pastors

The typical local church will have a senior pastor on staff. But a blessed local church will have a youth pastor on staff as well. In many of these churches there is occasionally an unspoken and subtle friction that these co-leaders in ministry have between each other. We have all experienced it or at least have heard the stories of this friction between ministry partners. I don't need to recreate those fine moments of church history here but instead, speaking as a senior pastor, I want to mention a few things that remind me to appreciate the youth pastors in my life.

#1 They Are Intensely Creative In Their Ministry - You have to be when dealing with fickle high schoolers or low-attention-span middle schoolers. In the back of every youth pastors mind is "How do I make this lesson interesting for more than 3 minutes?" and it's a challenge to make that happen every week. You have to be creative to be effective in student ministry. Not to mention the (ahem) generous youth budget we give them to minister with which to work. Thank God for thrift stores and cheap rubber balls.

#2 They Actually Want To Be In An Enclosed Space With Teenagers - Can you believe it? Youth pastors come into a church building, walk into a room of said church, invite teenagers (some who may be total strangers) to come into the same room, and close the door behind them with no plan of escape. Oh youth pastor, we look upon thee with awe and wonder.

#3 They Don't Mind Staying Up All Night With Energetic Youths - Not only is it the act of staying up all night, but youth pastors actually have to keep these people entertained for hours on end lest damage of some kind befall the church in the form of a bored teen

eyeing a box of fluorescent light bulbs. The youth pastor must also plan this multi-hour adventure beforehand and stock it with fun and food (lots of food). This usually means no pre-event catnap. Hardcore.

#4 They Get Away With Things I Secretly Wish I Could - When the youth pastor says "Sin Sucks" from the pulpit during a Youth Sunday Service and makes the church ladies blanch, I admire the prophetic audacity of such an act. When they show up to leaders meetings in a pair of skinny jeans, hole-y jeans, or an ironic flannel, I am moved to give them a gift card to Express or Goodwill.

#5 They Don't Mind The Smaller Office - Heck, sometimes it's a closet in the steeple. Just as long as it has an electrical outlet for their compact fridge they kept from college that's full of Mountain Dew Code Red, it's all good.

#6 Their Ministry Brings In Adults To The Church - Let's admit it. A good youth ministry has a great chance in bringing interested parents into the church to see why their teenager is not the hellion they once were. As senior pastors see these amazed adults become a part of the church they know it's not awesome sermons that keep them coming back. It's the fact that someone has invested in the most valuable commodity they have in their lives. And that "someone" is the youth pastor.

#7 Lastly, Youth Pastors Know That Children & Students Are Not Only The Future Of The Church. They Are The Present As Well - Senior pastors love to let the youth know that they are the future hope of the church. Yet they should listen to the youth pastors as they live out the fact that students are a powerful tool God uses now to change society, to minister to adults in understanding child-like faith and ever-present hope, to truly do the work of the ministry (especially stuff adults don't want to do), and to challenge our staid forms of worship. If senior pastors would proclaim these facts from the pulpit the Church could see a wave of empowered youth rise up from within.

Mike Klamecki ministers with his wife Carol at New Hope Community Church in Villa Park, IL. They had been youth pastors for a total of 14 years before Mike made the switch to senior pastor 10 years ago. He does miss (somewhat) working with students but does not miss lock-ins. He also has the great pleasure of working alongside an awesome

youth pastor. Dialog with him at KlamMan1@mac.com

Chaplaincy:

I am writing this article from State College, PA. A major school scandal at Penn State University has taken over the news. A leading presidential hopeful has been answering charges of accused wrongful behavior. It is a reminder to us that we live in a fallen world and need to be reminded daily "we are to be holy as He is holy."

Our chaplains are close to walking on egg shells with the repeal of the "Don't Ask Don't Tell." We are told there will be no change in our preaching or ministry but there are many out to silence our witness. Pray for the salvation of Mickey Weinstein, a leader in the Freedom From Religion organization. They don't want us to be able to share our faith with service members. With the help of Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty we are able to provide assistance to our chaplains as they minister. At this time we are able to pray in Jesus name, preach the gospel and lead people to Christ. We hold our CBAmerica chaplains accountable to make sure they are not forced to compromise their faith in any way. Pray for all our chaplains in every avenue of ministry.

All of our chaplains in Iraq should be home by the end of the year. We still have a number in Afghanistan in harms way. Pray for their ministries, safety and families back in the States. We continue to get new applicants for active duty for all branches and for the Guard and Reserves. We have applicants for the Federal Prison system, hospital and specialized ministries.

We continue to need financial support for our chaplaincy ministry. If you or your church would like to partner with us we thank you in advance. Our chaplains provide some 75% of our support so we need others to help make up the difference.

We are available to share about chaplaincy in our churches. If you would like a visit contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or by phone at 218-776-2813. Happy Thanksgiving!

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

A reminder that we have the laws, state by state, of who is a mandatory reporter of child abuse on [our website](#) under Resources.

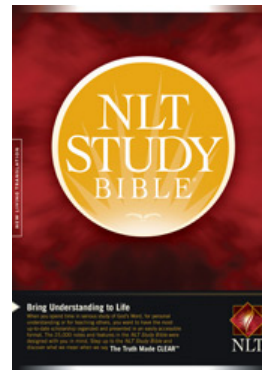
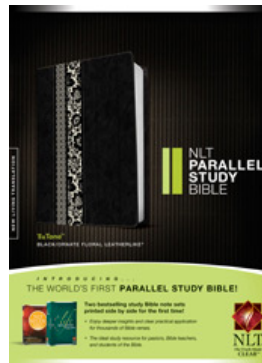
Bibles At Case Lot Prices

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.

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Available by filling out the order form on the CBAmerica website www.cbamerica.org or toll-free 888-366-3010 in CASE LOTS ONLY



Apple iPad 2

If you are in the market for an iPad, give Pat or Jean a call to check with our wholesale distributor for prices. Pat: 952-322-7173, Jean: 715-538-2298.

REMEMBERING OUR PASTORS:

Homegoing

We would like to announce the homegoing of a NCCBA retired pastor. Charles Nethercott of Detroit Lake, MN went home to be with the Lord on November 8, 2011 at the age of 90 years. He served as the pastor at First Baptist Church in Detroit Lakes from 1980-1985 and as their visitation pastor from 1993-2001. He has faithfully served in the North Central CBA family for many years and he will be missed.

Health Concerns

Please pray for our Region's pastors with health concerns. The financial, emotional, as well as physical circumstances all take their toll as pastors continue to serve their churches.

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

SW Minnesota/N Iowa

December 13, 11 AM

Contact Steve Dekok, 507-847-2369 or Doug Noonkester, 712-754-3310

Wisconsin/NE Minnesota

November 17, noon at Perkins, Eau Claire WI

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

Michigan Cluster

November 28, 10 AM, Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson MI

Contact Mike Wetzig, 231-853-6021

Illinois Cluster-Retreat

January 17-18, 2012

Contact Scott Boerkel, 309-454-3833

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:

- Cornerstone Community Church--Manchester IA SENIOR PASTOR
- Hillcrest Baptist Church--Muscatine IA SENIOR PASTOR
- Wildwood Baptist Church--East Moline IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Pekin IL--Two positions: WORSHIP LEADER & CHURCH PLANTER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)

Thank you for your prayers!

Greg Pratt is the new Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Collinsville, Illinois.

Contact Our Office

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

