



North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

October 2011

Who's Watching the "BODY" Language?

People often use words to disguise their thoughts about others, but their non-verbal actions or "body language" always give them away. We have all seen it! I recently read where a family therapist at Brigham Young University investigated how the physical stance reflects the psychological distance between people. I was quite intrigued by this, so I decided to give this theory a good test. I was talking to someone at a church one Sunday morning when I purposefully stood in his personal space. Within a few moments, he backed up. I tried it the second time and once again he backed up as if to say, "Keep your distance!" The Brigham Young family therapist also studied 108 married couples, asking partners to walk toward one another stopping when they got to a comfortable conversational distance. The happy couples stood an average of 11.4 inches apart and the unhappy ones stood 14.8 inches apart.

Ok, so here's my point. As I get into our NCCBA churches, I continue to emphasize the need to see people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; to build God's people into Christ like maturity; to equip each believer with the skills to serve Him for the kingdom; to recruit, develop, and multiply godly leaders; and finally empower people at church by sending them out to make a difference in the world. In order to do this, we need to

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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

take the risk of getting into each other's space. A couple weeks ago the chairman of our Regional Board asked me a question as we were attending a leadership conference. "Have you encountered any surprises as you have been visiting our churches?" Immediately I answered "Yes!" I have been pleasantly surprised by the strength of the church as a COMMUNITY. I love surprises! J

Earlier I said that "body language" is a form of communication that is almost always non-verbal. I wondered what kind of "BODY" language are we sending to those whom God has given for us to care. I have spoken with numerous individuals that attend our CB churches and they say things like, "We can't believe how friendly this church is. It is like a little community that really cares for each other. We simply love it!"

I like the "BODY" language that I am seeing. Is it perfect? No! Is there community? Yes! Paul beautifully said in I Corinthians 12:12, "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ." Here is the encouraging "BODY" language that I see. There is a real maturing love for Christ and His church. There is an abiding respect for God's Word. There is a strong sense of family in the very center of relationships. There is an honest desire to change even when it is a little painful. There is commitment to bring harmony in the church, even if it is hard. There is a genuine warmth and friendliness toward new people who visit the church. There is real love, care, and acceptance taking place, especially in time of need or crisis.

As I stand in that "happy" conversational space of 11.4 inches, I genuinely see people who are looking for a community to be a part of. I remember a couple saying to me, "We just want to be in a place where we can be cared for and where we can make a difference." Friends, this is real "BODY" language. Paul continues on in I Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." This says to me that a healthy church encourages believers to grow in their walks with God and with one another in the context of a safe, affirming environment. This type of "body language" brings each of us into a covenantal relationship where we are able to make an unusual commitment to one another. Robert Fulghum says it beautifully in his book, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten, "When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together." Let's walk through the maze of life together, growing as a community.

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

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

I want to say one last thing please. As I travel around our region, do you know who I am most thankful for and honor the most in our CB community? It is our pastors. I am not saying that because it is "Pastor Appreciation Month". These are not just individuals who are hired into the position of "pastor", but are real men who have a deep heart for God and an intense love for the church. I see pastors on all levels of church staff that are making tremendous sacrifices and they have wives and children that are making similar sacrifices because of their call to serve. Pastors, thank you so much for all you do. Honestly, you are the one who first steps into that intimate Body language conversational space of 11.4 inches. We honor you and your families for the love you give each other and to your church. We are blessed!



Pat Phinney, Regional Director

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GOOD IDEA from a CLUSTER LEADER

In the Good Idea section of the [May newsletter](#), Mike Wetzig, Senior Pastor at Ravenna Baptist Church in Ravenna MI, outlined a challenge he gave to his congregation to be completed over the summer months.

Here is his report on the results of that challenge:

Mission from God Report

"We're on a Mission from God." This was the challenge I gave to my congregation back at the end of April at the conclusion of a sermon on the Parable of the Talents. As a practical application I asked for 15-20 volunteers to come to the front of the church, and before I knew it, I had 23 people step forward to accept their "mission."

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 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@triwest.net

Software Discounts

BIG savings on software!

Each individual was equipped with a \$100 "talent" and given the challenge to invest it in some way for the Kingdom of God. Each individual was also required to "give an account" of how they invested God's money. We set aside the last three Sundays in September for each "missionary" to share a little bit of the journey, what God taught them, and how their talent was used.

This Mission had a powerful impact not only on the lives of the 23 participants, but on our entire congregation. There are far too many stories to share, but I want to highlight a few that were especially meaningful.

Matt, who is in sales, was off making sales calls the day after he accepted this mission. He had placed a sticky note on his \$100 bill and simply written "God's Money" on the note. As he continued throughout the day, the Holy Spirit convicted him that he was no better than the third servant in the parable who went and buried his master's talent. You see, Matt had left that \$100 bill on his dresser that morning and as he was praying throughout the day that God would direct him to just the right mission, the Holy Spirit challenged him that there might have been a mission that very day and Matt was unprepared because he had "buried" his talent on his dresser. Matt's money was eventually doubled as a co-worker gave him an additional \$100 which was used several weeks later as Matt stopped to help a complete stranger whose car was broken down on the side of the road.

Janice and her husband have a love and passion for sports. All three of their children play sports in high school and college. As a family they invested their \$100 talent along with some of their own money and put on a week-long summer basketball camp for 3rd - 6th grade students here in our small community. Each participant received a free t-shirt and a free basketball. They named the camp "F3", which stood for Faith, Fun, and Fundamentals. During this free basketball camp, they took time each day to not only work on basketball fundamentals, but also to share the love of Jesus and a challenge from God's Word with all of the kids. The family plans to host another camp next summer.

Denise coaches a local "Girls on the Run" team and got all her girls and their moms involved in her "mission". Denise has a heart for inner-city kids and so she chose to invest her money in a privately funded program that provides free sack lunches for under-privileged

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.

kids in Grand Rapids to bring home after school. Denise, with the help of her team, ultimately saw her \$100 multiply 11 times to support this much needed program.

Tom, one of our college students, took his money and he and his roommate made up "Care Packages" for the homeless. He then spent an evening handing out these care packages to the needy in downtown Grand Rapids. Tom has since presented his idea to one of his Spiritual Formations professors at college and is looking to make this an ongoing ministry where students can donate their extra change which would go toward the purchase of more items for the homeless and then each month the students would visit downtown Grand Rapids to distribute the items to those in need.

Three of our high school students combined their money and purchased Bibles for the local rescue mission in Muskegon. They also scheduled a time to personally deliver the Bibles and to speak at one of the evening services at the mission in order to share their testimonies with the men there.

As Stacy prayed about what to do with her \$100 talent, God impressed on her the idea of using the money for plants and seeds for a garden. She initially was thinking she might be able to can the food and make jelly and other items to sell and give the money to a worthwhile ministry. But in her words, God never gave her a peace about this part of the mission. She continued to pray and ask the Lord what she should do with the produce, and eventually sensed the Lord saying, "Give it away!!" So Stacy opened a "Free Farmer's Market" at our church every Sunday morning. She invited others to bring items from their gardens and combined with what she brought, she gave away produce every Sunday in July, August, and September. She was able to get free advertising in our local newspaper and many people from the community were able to come and be blessed by the bounty that God supplied.

Sherrie leads the Sacred Dance team at our church, so she decided to include all these girls and their moms in her mission. Sherrie used the money to make "Gifts in a Jar". These gifts were things like soup mixes, cookie ingredients, and brownie mixes that were all placed in canning jars and uniquely decorated. The girls then took orders and sold these gifts in a jar. They also put together and sold cook books that were filled with recipes that came from the Sacred Dance team members. Ultimately Sherrie's \$100 talent turned into almost \$1000.

Sherrie took the girls shopping for items for "Every Women's Place" which is a local outreach for abused and battered women. The girls were able to fill four shopping carts with items that the center needed which they then delivered.

Three Mission from God participants with musical talent combined their resources to put on an outdoor concert in one of our local parks. They utilized musicians from several local churches, provided a free meal, and had the opportunity to share the gospel to over 300 community members through song, testimony, and a brief challenge from God's Word. They are already making plans for another concert next summer.

That is just a brief snapshot of some of the ways God led people to invest in His Kingdom. Each participant expressed the excitement of praying for God's leading, discerning His direction, and courageously obeying His call. I am excited to see where God continues to take us as a congregation. He has given us a far greater awareness that we need to be intentional because ultimately, we're all on a "Mission from God".

*Mike Wetzig
Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna MI*

YOUTH PASTORS: Power

*A modified blog post by Craig from the recently launched <http://youthministrymeanderings.blogspot.com/>
Come and join this discussion!*

The need to have an overreaching power in your ministry is apparent. We need to have power in ministry that proclaims that this is a life-transforming place to be. However, the fact is most of the "power" (read: publicity) in youth ministry seems to come from the "program". Is that good or bad? The answer: yes.

The truth is, the essence of power in youth ministry should come from God & His Word. He should infiltrate every area of the youth ministry-including your programming-and be the one who is in control of everything.

So, if your ministry is controlled by God-- and the programs you are using are based on God's direction for your ministry-- then the visible power of your programs is a good thing. The programs get the tangible attention that God is working in your ministry.

If, however, the power of the programs is in their flashiness or that they are innovative simply for innovation's sake, you have a problem. In that case, your power is no longer God-founded but instead is a temple of worship to the ministry or to you.

If God is in control of your ministry, his power will permeate every area of that ministry. If you have great God-inspired programs, it gives you the opportunity to brag on how great God is. If, instead, the only power is in the flashiness of your programs, you need to work to re-center the focus on Christ and how he wants to send his power through you and your ministry.

Go for God-inspired, Scripture-based programs. And when people talk about their effectiveness, tell stories about and give praise to the God who is working through those programs.

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twitter.com/CraigMorris (Follow me, please!)
<http://youthministrymeanderings.blogspot.com/>

Pastor Care:

Sealed Orders

It seems like an old familiar pattern. As many of you know, my family and I served for 20 years on active duty in the Army. During that time where I was or went at any given time was due to orders from someone "higher up" somewhere. The receipt of orders always meant the closing out of whatever you were currently doing and the

preparations for what was coming next. There always was something comforting, and relaxing, and exciting, and anxiety-producing about that ending of one assignment and beginning of a new one. It seems as though we are at that place again.

Usually when I received orders from the Army, they included all the basic information: what unit, what location, what position, what reporting date, and all the authorizations needed to accomplish the transition, etc. Occasionally, someone would receive incomplete or even "sealed orders." Incomplete orders meant there would be more decisions made and information provided in the future. "Sealed orders" meant all the information was there, but you were not allowed to open the seal until some future time and/or place.

It seems as though I am in that sort of situation now. For over five years, I have served as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist for Lutheran Child and Family Services. I believe that my "assignment" there is nearly complete. I have resigned, effective no later than December 31, 2011. It has been a joy and privilege to work with esteemed colleagues and many hurting individuals and families to bring God's healing and transforming truth to fruit in the lives of others as well as my own.

Since March of 1997, I also have had the privilege of being part of NCCBA. As a local church pastor, as a member of an area Pastor's Fellowship, as a Camp Lebanon Board member, and as a NCCBA Board member, I had the joy and privilege of serving in the Lord's army among you. For six of those years, I have had the opportunity to share ideas and encouragement through the pages of our monthly Newsletter. When we moved to our current location in 2004, we knew that there were few opportunities to continue connection with my Conservative Baptist roots. I believe that this assignment has also been completed. This will be the last article that I will submit to the Newsletter.

As these chapters in the book of life end, orders for the future are, I believe, already in hand. I just have not been allowed to see yet what they contain. Please pray for us.

As it was with colleagues in the Army, when reassignment disrupted the co-location relationships, efforts will be made to renew them through letters, especially at Christmas time. I hope that we can remain "in touch" and certainly available to assist in any way possible.

Sandy and I will continue to pray for you all, your families, your ministries, your communities, and the impact of NCCBA on the lives of many unknown people. I leave you with our usual farewell statement to military Christian friends upon reassignment: We will see you here, there, or in the air. May God keep and bless you richly in His love and grace, through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

*Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT
Stillman Valley, Illinois*

Chaplaincy: The Chaplain Alliance For Religious Liberty

The Director of CBAmerica Chaplaincy (Al Russell) has joined with seven other faith group chaplain leaders and legal counsel to establish an

organization comprised of veteran service members, primarily chaplains. Our purpose is to defend and maintain religious liberty, and freedom of expression and conscience that the Constitution guarantees our chaplains and those whom they serve.



The recent repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," coupled with the lack of clearly established boundaries regarding religious liberty protections, are leading to confusion and forced censorship. In fact, some chaplains have already personally experienced the punitive atmosphere this repeal has generated.

Our vision is a nation where all chaplains and those whom they serve freely exercise their God-given and constitutionally protected religious liberties without fear of reprisal.

Purpose: The Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty exists to ensure that chaplains can defend and provide for the freedom of religion and

conscience that the Constitution guarantees all chaplains and those whom they serve.

Pray for us as we now represent some 2,000 military chaplains as other faith groups join forces with us. This ministry will cover all our chaplains not just those in the military. We have partnered with the Alliance Defense Fund for legal protection for our chaplains.

Once this repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" is able to succeed in the military and government setting it will affect our churches and pastors. We are doing all we can to get this movement stopped and laws put in place to protect chaplains and those they serve.

If you want to check out the web site go to www.chaplainalliance.org and look under Partners to see those standing with us and what we have already done. Under Speak Up go to the bottom of the page and click on more info. Pray for us as we move ahead to provide religious liberty for our chaplains and eventually our pastors and churches.

If you have questions about this or any other issue about chaplaincy please feel free to contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or by e-mail at chapruss@cbamerica.org. Thanks for your prayers.

Legal or Illegal Software?

By Richard Hammar, Church Law & Tax

"A church purchases several software programs for use by its employees. The employees make copies of some of these programs to use on each other's office computers. They also make copies of some programs for use on their home computers. Church leaders learn of these activities, and are concerned about possible legal risk to the church. Should they be concerned?

Our lesson this week [Click here to finish this article](#) "

Did you know NCCBA offers software at wholesale prices?



Example: Microsoft's Office Pro Plus 2010 is \$499 retail price. We offer the charity licenses for the same product for \$175! Most Microsoft and Adobe products are available. Keep your church legal by purchasing one license for each user. Call or email Jean at 715-538-2298 or nccba@triwet.net The software order form is also [on our website](#) under Resources.

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

NW Minnesota/North Dakota

October 25, 9:30 AM, Faith Baptist Church, Park Rapids, MN

Contact Steve Daggett, 701-520-5399

SW Minnesota/N Iowa

November 8, 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

Twin Cities Cluster Group

November 21, 10 AM, River of Life Church, Hastings MN

Contact Steve Schoenwald, 651-437-3965

Michigan Cluster

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

Contact Mike Wetzig, 231-853-6021

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
- First Baptist Church--Collinsville IL 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!

Tom Doyle is the new Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Bradford, Illinois.

Kevin Phillips is the new Senior Pastor at Monona Oaks Community Church in Madison, Wisconsin.

Contact Our Office

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

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