



CB North Central E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

October 2012

We are **CB North Central**. If you missed Pat's article last month introducing our new name, [click here](#).

From our Regional Director:

To Change, or Not to Change: That is the Question

The church was desperate. Years of decline had taken a painful toll. "What we need," they said, "is a dynamic new pastor." A blue-ribbon search committee did everything right to find the perfect leader. He was young but experienced, serious but witty, articulate but not intimidating, spiritual but worldly-wise. If anyone could turn this problem-ridden congregation around, he was the man. When the pastoral candidate first addressed the congregation, he gave an inspiring description of his qualifications, experience, vision, and plans. His final line summed up his stirring presentation: "With God's help, I intend to lead this church forward into the twentieth century!" Surprised and embarrassed by the candidate's apparent mistake, the chairman of the search committee whispered loudly, "You mean 'the twenty-first

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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

century!" To which the candidate replied, "We're going to take this one century at a time!"

If you know my heart and the love I have for the church, you realize I mean no disrespect whatsoever. This story clearly reflects the challenges I face as the CBNC Regional Director. I have been in over thirty churches since my tenure began and what a great journey it has been. As I meet regularly with pastors, leaders and members of our regional churches, I hear a recurring theme, "How are we going to reach the new generation of people that are in our communities?" My answer is quite simple, but complex in nature. Change! I was privileged to recently meet with a leader of a fifty-year old para-church organization. He could not understand why the organization was in decline and stagnating. I quickly assessed that he was holding on to the nostalgic hope that tomorrow will be like yesterday. My friend was trying to predict the future of his organization by looking at the glory days of the past. Sure he wanted to catch up with the current times and meet the challenges of the present generation, but he did not know how. Change!

Do you remember the old General Motors advertising jingle, "This is not your father's Oldsmobile."? It was their attempt to attract younger buyers for the troubled organization. This did not happen until the management made change. But where does such change begin? Evaluation! Really? Aristotle started with "Why?" and that is where anyone contemplating change should start. I attempt to encourage our pastors and leaders that in order for the church to grow, it must want to grow and be willing to pay the price. Likewise, in order to change, a church must choose to change and be willing to pay the price. Going after evaluation and asking the "Why?" strikes at the heart of our mission statement. It forces us to address the question, "What is the purpose of our existence?"

Over a year ago a young thirty-something pastor asked me a question that I will not soon forget. He said, "Pat, will the CBA be around in fifty years?" After resisting the temptation to get defensive, I answered, "Of course!" and then told him why. Weeks after that God-ordained encounter, I came to the conclusion that my answer was not sufficient for this young pastor. It is not enough to say, "Well of course!" How do I know that CBNC will be around in fifty years? I don't. So what's next? I need to practice

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 CBNC 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

Your Church and the Sex Offender

Free website links to [National Sex Offenders website](#)

Call Pat at 952-322-7173 for a power point presentation.

New Staff Background

what I preach and that means evaluation. And what almost always comes after you ask the "Why?" in evaluation? Change.

I have boldly initiated the process of our CBNC evaluation with the Regional Board. With the assistance of our CBAmerica Facilitator and the other Regional Executive Directors, the mapping process has begun for our region. We are currently assembling ten years of historical data from within our region in order to assess our health and need for change. We are examining decision-making trends that apply to our staff, doctrine, polity, philosophy, finances, mission/vision statements, values, programs, board actions, church affiliations, church planting and closures, pastor turn-over rates, placements, and more.

What is driving this mapping process? Crisis? No! Plateau? No! Next Stage? Yes! Change? Yes! When the ten year historical data is gathered and decision-making trends are identified, an online survey will be created for every church to complete. We want to honestly hear what you think of us and how we are doing in our efforts to serve you. Afterwards, a report will be made that describes who we are as a region and then a prescription of where we need to grow.

In his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, President John Kennedy said, "All of this will not be finished in the first one hundred days. Nor will it be finished in the first one thousand days, not in the life of this administration, not even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin."



The actual choice to change as a region is not the change itself that I am concerned about. It is the process of God's timing that may take more than a life time. But let us begin.

Pat Phinney, Regional Director
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Checks

CBNC 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 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?

From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

Occasionally my wife heats up leftovers for dinner. I can't stand leftovers!! I think my aversion to leftovers stems from having to eat them so much growing up. We would always have a huge Sunday dinner, and if my memory serves me correct (probably not), it always seemed like we would eat leftovers from Sunday's dinner for the rest of the week. Apparently, I am permanently scarred from the trauma of eating leftovers as a child.

God displays His disgust with the leftovers He was served by the priests of Israel in Malachi 1:6b-8 which says,
"It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. But you ask, How have we shown contempt for your name? You place defiled food on my altar. But you ask, How have we defiled you? By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you? says the Lord Almighty."

Malachi records the word of the Lord challenging the priests - the spiritual leaders of Israel. It makes me wonder what God might think of my "sacrifices"? Am I keeping the best in my life for myself like the Old Testament priests were? Am I satisfied with giving God only the blind, crippled, and diseased parts of my life? I wonder if my family might think the same thing - that they only get my leftovers? It is a question that I was confronted with last weekend as I helped my oldest son tie a double windsor knot on his tie as he headed out for his first high school homecoming dance. He is 14 and a freshman this year, but I know it was only yesterday that I carried him out of the hospital in his car seat as a newborn. At least it seems like it was just yesterday. Where has the time gone? Would my son say that he has received more than just leftovers from his dad? Does my wife feel like she is just getting the leftovers of my time, energy, and attention? What about my other kids?

I have less than four years before my oldest heads off to college or wherever God might call him after high school. Have I used the

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 8 Professional, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Acrobat and other Microsoft and Adobe products are available for lease to member churches. [Click here](#) for an order form.

Bibles

CBAmerica is again offering Bibles at greatly reduced rates when ordered by the case.

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

Health Insurance Option

We have found a good option for pastors 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.

last 14 years wisely? Have I taken advantage of the opportunities to love him, to speak truth into his life, to model what it means to be a godly man, a godly husband, and a godly father? Or has he simply gotten the leftovers?

Colossians 4:5b challenges us to, "...make the most of every opportunity." There is a sense of urgency in that verse - an urgency to reach others for Christ. But I also wonder if I have that same urgency to connect with my family and my Savior? Have I made the most of every opportunity? Have I done this with my family? Have I done this in my church? With my neighbors? With those I rub shoulders with? Or have I missed opportunities? "God, forgive me for the times I have only given you the leftovers of my life. Forgive me for the times when my family has only gotten the leftovers because I have been consumed with other things that I thought were more urgent or more important. God, give me a renewed passion to make the most of every opportunity!!"

*Mike Wetzig
Ravenna, Michigan*

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR

So what are we seeing that is going right in youth ministry?

Longevity of leaders

We can't tell you how many youth pastors and workers are in this full time for the long haul. And many others would be full time, given the opportunity. We know of many who have been in their current youth ministry position for 7 years or more. Youth ministry is no longer a stepping stone for most, and consistency is great for students.

Variety of opportunities

Many churches are doing more than just a Wednesday night program and one big, fun event per month. With churches taking on student ministry as "real" ministry, the opportunities for students are increasing. And that is good (within reason). Simply put, the more opportunities students have, the more likely students will get involved in something spiritual.

Depth of theology

Because many Bible & Theology trained leaders are heading things up, the depth the ministries are able to go keeps growing deeper and deeper.

Ignorance is being destroyed

Through social media and blogging, there aren't many "hidden" problems in youth ministry anymore. Exposing negatives is one of the best ways to start fixing them. If there is an issue in youth ministry, most certainly someone has already blogged or written an article about it. In addition, if we can continue healthy discussion, ignorance will continue to die and effectiveness increase.

Lives are still being changed

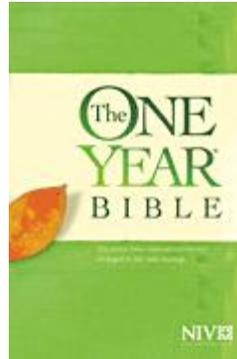
That's the heart of it all, right? That's why we do youth ministry. So that somehow, God takes incapable, struggling humans and uses us to be a change agent in the lives of students. We're still blown away by the fact that we can do anything for God, especially impacting someone else's life.

So what did we miss? What are you seeing that is "all right"? Where is the tide turning from negative to positive? And how do we keep momentum going in the right direction?

*Adam Zappetta & Craig Morris
New Richmond, WI
Aitkin, MN*

Bibles at Significant Savings for CBA Churches!

Tyndale House Publishers is offering a spectacular deal (including free shipping!) through **CBAmerica** for churches on Bibles and other Tyndale materials including:



The One Year Bible

Available in NLT, NIV, KJV & NKJV

The best-selling One Year Bible, which helps you read the entire Bible in as little as 15 minutes a day, has been updated in a new look and comes in both portable compact size and full size. ***The One Year Bible*** divides God's Word into daily readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs, creating an achievable, unforgettable devotional experience.

[Click here](#) for information on how to order.

Retail Price: \$18.99 softcover
Price through CBAmerica: \$9.50 softcover
(NLT & NKJV only available in case lots of 20)
(NIV & KJV only available in case lots of 24)

Many other Tyndale Bibles available, including The Spanish OneYear Bible, Life Application Study Bible, Life Recovery Bible, and the One Year Chronological Bible. Go to the CBAmerica [website](#) to order any of these materials.

Are Your Payroll Records Accurate?

Question. *I am a new bookkeeper at my church, and I am responsible for making sure that our church complies with federal and state laws in how we handle our employees. When we hire a new employee, what legal forms should we be using?"*

Answer. There are four principal forms under federal law that you should be using....[Click here to finish this article](#) by Richard Hammar of Church Law & Tax.

For a free pdf of *Preventable Payroll Mistakes*, from Church Law & Tax [click here](#).

Jean attended the webinar referenced in the handout above, and would be happy to discuss the content with you. Call her at the CBNC office, 715-538-2298.

Upcoming Events

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Wisconsin/NE MN

November 27, Noon to 3 PM
Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls
Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

SW MN

2nd Tuesday of each month, 11 am
Contact Doug Noonkester, 712-754-3310

For a Pastor Cluster Leader in your area, click [here](#)

CBNC 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
- New Providence Baptist Church--Greencastle IN SENIOR PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Streator IL SENIOR PASTOR

- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH WORSHIP LEADER
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson MI DIRECTOR of FAMILY MINISTRIES
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)

THANK YOU for your prayers. **Patrick Kelly** is the new Director of Worship Arts at Bethel Baptist Church in Jackson MI.

Contact Our Office

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

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