



September 2013



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel

E-Central E-Mail

URGENT PRAYER NEEDED

The national CBAmerica office is in Longmont, Colorado, where flooding is severe.

Follow [this link](#) for local news from a Longmont area newspaper describing the conditions. Please keep the residents of Colorado in prayer.



CBNC Office Moving October 7 to Blaine, Minnesota

From the Regional Director

CB North Central is on the Move - The Sequel

T-minus 21 days and counting. We have all been there when it comes to a move, right? Boxes everywhere. Files to clean out. Furniture to move. Rooms to paint. Address changes. New phone numbers. Vehicles to load. Where did I put my "To Do" list anyway?

The "To Do" list was found and nearly all items are checked off in preparation for the interstate move of the CB North Central regional office. On October 7, we will be packing our last load from Whitehall, WI and heading to our new home at Oak Park Community Church in Blaine, MN.

The move comes with mixed emotions for all of us on the regional level. We are saying good bye to Jean Wright, who has faithfully served the region and two Directors for eight years. On the other hand, we are excited to welcome the region's new Admin Assistant Wendy Jonasen from Wyoming, MN. Allow me to introduce this new team member. Wendy's experience prior to CBNC has been in church ministry as an Administrative Assistant in a couple different settings with varied responsibilities. She has also held other office positions primarily in the health field. A great deal of her work experience has been serving the public in some capacity.

Wendy was born and raised near Mora, MN. She and her husband Fred make their home in Wyoming, MN, where she enjoys spending time with family and friends. They have two adult children. Tiffany lives and works in Duluth, MN. Matt, with his wife Amy, live and work in the Twin Cities area and have a new baby girl, Maizy. This is Wendy and Fred's first grandchild.



When not at work, Wendy enjoys gardening (or dirt therapy as she refers to it), home projects and quilting. Quilting is an activity that she has been involved in for some time. She enjoys creating quilts for herself, family and friends. Previously Wendy headed up a quilt group for a number of years and currently helps to instruct at Camp Lebanon in Burtrum, MN during quilting retreats. Instructing as well as relaxing and having

fun with friends at this Christian camp is a special treat. Her favorite life verse is Psalm 71:23, "I will shout for joy and sing your praises, for you have redeemed me."

Please pray for Jean as she continues to work through her transition and the impact she desires to have for Christ at her new place of work. Pray also for Wendy as she prepares for her day of training with Jean on September 30 in Whitehall, as there is much to absorb. I am confident that God will continue to bless both of these wonderful ladies as they obey Him for the new direction in their lives.

Here is the new office information you will need to continue your connection with us at CB North Central. We will not be changing our email addresses or the web site name until after we are settled. Stay tuned for that information and by the way, see you in Blaine, MN.

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

Home Office: (952) 322-7173

Cell: (952) 500-3743

patnccba@trivest.net

Effective
OCTOBER 7,
2013
CB North
Central
New Address
and Phone

PO Box 490441
Blaine MN 55449
New Office Phone: 763-205-9330

Pat's office phone is the same:
952-322-7173
Emails and website remain the
same: Office: nccba@trivest.net
Pat: patnccba@trivest.net
Website: www.nccba-gc2.com

Thoughts from a Cluster Leader

*By Doug Noonkester
First Baptist Church, Sibley Iowa*

A couple of weeks ago I was staring at 18 wide eyed 3rd and 4th graders. Football practice had begun. For many of them this was their first time being out there on the field. They were surrounded by 5th and 6th graders that had been playing for a couple years now. The 5th and 6th graders knew what to expect, they knew the drills, they knew the terminology. These 3rd and 4th graders who I was coaching did not.

We were shouting out things like bear crawl, karaoke, shuffle, go on the count, go on the ball, high knees, keep low, keep your head up, I right, Pro left, Wing T Right, On two, were going to run and block to the 3 hole and the list goes on and on. Those first three practices it seemed as if the kid's heads were just spinning. Many got frustrated, many did it slower, and many said I just don't get it and needed a lot of encouragement to try to do it.

As coaches how did we respond? We spent extra time with them, showed extra patience, we demonstrated several additional times how to do a certain drill before we had them do it. We lowered our expectations, didn't expect them to practice like the Michigan Wolverines yet(Go Blue). We were okay with Iowa Hawkeye standards of practice. (Insert my smiling, joking face right now). We explained the terminology and what it meant for them. We gave them extra praise and extra encouragement when they tried hard and did it. You know what happened? None quit. Not one.

Also after that first week they were getting faster and they were getting better. They were gaining confidence. We could say I right 35 dive on one and they would break the huddle and line up and run a play together. It has been an amazing thing to see in just a few weeks a group of overwhelmed kids become, well a football team. This made me think about the church and people.

I think sometimes when people come to this new faith in Christ they may be like those 3rd and 4th graders. Wide eyed, thinking I don't get it, I don't get what is happening in my life but something is different and things are changing and I can't really explain it. They know something is going on but they aren't all the way sure what it is. Like those football players they begin to hear what seems

like a foreign language. People start saying stuff like you been sanctified, it's time to get working on your edification, don't worry God promised the perseverance of the saints, I am praying a hedge of protection for you, how do you like be saved, are any of your other family saved, you have been regenerated now, it's time you get tithing, do not forsake the fellowship of the saints and this list can go on and on. Like those players this experience of new birth and Christ like living can be quite over whelming for many at first. I think the way we respond is very important to the success of their growth.

Many times people get saved and our expectations are that they be like a second coming of Jesus overnight. Our expectations are that they ought to know the lingo, know the traditions, and know all they are supposed to do and be and be magically changed overnight into this polished, mature Christian. In this process they (may) become so overwhelmed and frustrated that they get so disenchanted with the church and give up. Have ever heard someone say I like Jesus but this church thing isn't what I thought it would be? Some of that is an excuse but I think some of that is because of the way we have made church what it isn't instead of what it is.

We need to take a step back and like we did with those 3rd and 4th graders, slow it down a little, demonstrate it for them many times, show extra patience, explain the terms that they don't get, and give much praise when we see good Godly character and practices coming from them. We ought to have great rejoicing when those first fruits come forth from their salvation. When we do this I think we sow in them the attitude of not wanting to quit or give up thinking it is too hard. And best yet when we do this something wonderful happens, Christians that are maturing who also love the church of Christ.

Are you a Mandatory Reporter of Child Abuse in Your State?



Check our [laws by State](#) to see what must be reported and by whom. To help protect our children be sure to conduct background checks on volunteers and staff. Check references thoroughly. For other tips on background screening call Pat at 952-322-7173 at his home office.

New Provider for Background Checks

CBNC is recommending the following organization for our churches to perform background checks for volunteers and potential staff members: Click on this link, [Shepherd's Watch](#), for information and inexpensive sign-up.

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR

*By Pastor Brian Little
New Hope Community Church
Villa Park, IL*

I'm reading a book called *Managing God's Money* by Randy Alcorn. It's a great read, although I concede its not a traditional youth ministry book. In his book, Alcorn explains that while investing may (or may not) be a good idea for you, his intention isn't to guide you towards funds in which you can invest your money. Rather, Alcorn's goal is encouraging every believer to consider how he can best use his money to honor God.

As I read through the book, I am repeatedly convicted about ways that I squander God's wealth. While my family is pretty good at giving away 10% of our income, I've come to realize that I have a long way to go in terms of being a good steward in many other aspects of my life. I've also realized that failing to appropriately manage the resources that God has given my family demonstrates that I don't value those resources.

Seeing this lack of stewardship in myself, I started to look discerningly at my church. I began asking the elders and myself; in what ways are we failing to make good use of the resources that God has given our faith community? To my disappointment, it didn't take much digging before we found a variety of ways

that our church was failing in stewardship. Our propensity to start Sunday services late says to our congregation, "We don't value your time." Having poorly staffed events says to our community, "We don't value our events." When maintenance isn't promptly addressed on the church building or the parsonage our church owns, it says to our neighbors, "We don't value these grounds."

I want to be someone who is marked by a life lived wholly for God, and wisely managing the resources God has given me is a major part of that challenge. I desire to be someone who delights in giving freely to my community, my church, my youth group, my family from what God has first given me. However, if I don't correctly value the resources I have been given, it is easy to squander or simply neglect them. I agree with Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor, who said, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, but indifference between life and death." God clearly calls us to love others, care for the widows and orphans, and be a light to the world. I've come to the conclusion that these things are more than just giving 10% to the church. They demand careful stewardship in every part of our lives.

CHAPLAINCY:

God Does Answer Prayer

"God answers prayer in the morning, God answered prayer at noon, God answered prayer in the evening, so keep your heart in tune." This was a little chorus we often would sing in church and Sunday School or in our home as I grew up. It has been exciting over the years to watch God answer prayers for your chaplains and their families. Here are several examples.

Warren and Sandra Haggray joined our chaplaincy ranks in the summer of 1998. Warren is an Army chaplain presently serving in a war zone. Sandra sang at the annual CBAmerica meeting in Phoenix that summer. She has a beautiful voice. Over the next few years she developed a serious lung infection that continued to worsen. Sandra was placed on oxygen for a number of years until things got to the point doctors told them she would need a double lung transplant. Many of you prayed for this family over the years. The surgery was successful and Sandra

is now doing well. She still takes medication to keep her body from rejecting the new lungs. The exciting news is that Sandra is back singing again. She is a part of a choral group in their city. Praise the Lord. Continue to pray for them during their family separation and for Warren's safety while he is deployed.

We have also asked you to pray for the safety of our deployed chaplains. Three just returned states' side safely. One reported there were no losses in his unit during their year deployment. We still have four chaplains deployed in harm's way. Pray for them and their families and the soldiers they minister to.

Things are changing very rapidly in the military since the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Same-sex partners are now getting all the same benefits as married couples. One of the areas now affecting our chaplains is in the area of Strong Bonds training. When deployed soldiers return home the military they are provided weekend retreats for the family. Chaplains lead these retreats and share many principles on how to strengthen the marriage and develop better relationships. These retreats are now open to same-sex couples. What advice does a Christian chaplain have to give to these couples? Pressure is being placed on chaplains to continue to lead these retreats even when same-sex couples are involved. Many of our evangelical groups are telling our chaplains not to lead when this is the case. So far they are able to refuse and find someone else to do the instruction. Pray that our chaplains will not be punished or miss promotions because of their godly stand.

If you want to know more about CBAmerica Chaplaincy please contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or by phone at 320-492-8619.

To read Richard Hammer's analysis, from Church Law & Tax, on the same sex marriage ruling by the Supreme Court, [click here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PASTOR CLUSTER MEETINGS

Michigan

September 16, 10 AM

Rockford Baptist, Rockford MI

Contact Mike Wetzig, 231-853-6021

N Minnesota/North Dakota

September 19, 10:30 AM Skype meeting

Contact Steve Daggett, 701-265-8989

or Andrew Brown, 320-732-2179

Western Wisconsin, East MN

September 23 at 8 a.m. @ 29 Pines

Contact Wade Duroe, 715-723-1054

Twin Cities

October 14

River of Life, Hastings MN

Contact Steve Schoenwald, 651-437-3965

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

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Mason Township Baptist Church--Cassopolis MI SENIOR PASTOR
 - First Baptist Church--Plainwell MI SENIOR PASTOR
 - First Baptist Church-Bradford IL SENIOR PASTOR
 - First Baptist Church--Streator IL SENIOR PASTOR
 - Delavan Baptist Church--Delavan IL SENIOR PASTOR
 - First Baptist Church--Elmhurst IL SENIOR PASTOR
 - Calvary Church at Village Green--Moorhead MN SENIOR PASTOR
 - First Baptist Church--Whitehall WI SENIOR PASTOR
-
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson MI DIRECTOR of FAMILY MINISTRIES
 - First Baptist Church--Spring Lake MI ASSOCIATE PASTOR
 - Oak Grove Church-Golden Valley MN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

WELCOME to Bucky (Harry) Buckwalter who is the new pastor at Eureka Baptist Church, St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.



PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773 · 715-538-2298
Regional Director: 952-322-7173

Stay Connected

website: www.nccba-qc2.com

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