



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel



September 2015

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

"We are an organization of churches that is committed to the mission of Christ to multiply disciple-making churches through evangelism, leadership training, and connection with other like-minded churches."

From the Director

"It Starts With You"



D.L. Moody once remarked, "I believe Satan exists for two reasons: first, the Bible says so, and second, I've done business with him." Whether we know it or not, we have all done business with Satan. In light of our present world and society a more penetrating question might be, "Have you ever done business for Satan?"

In the past week, I have done business with Satan. That is correct! In a small and fragile window of seven days, I was mediating no less than five church conflicts. I was able to clearly identify a common thread or stronghold in each conflict. I will tell you later what it is.

Terrorist leader, Osama bin Laden, was killed in his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan on Sunday evening, May 1, 2011. The Navy SEAL team that killed him was made of the best-trained troops in the world known as the SEAL Team Six. They are known as the "Naval Special Warfare Development Group" and they specialize in under-cover operations. Their primary goal is to attack the enemy and remain undetected. For a few minutes, I am going to talk about a different kind of enemy and warfare. I am doing so because I clearly see his under-cover operation and undetected attacks in the church.

What is the main arena for such spiritual warfare? We know for a fact that Satan attacks through circumstances. Right? He comes to assault our homes, our jobs, our businesses, our schools, our health and even our personal problems in order to tempt, discourage and endanger us. While these covert tactics are true to his nature as our spiritual enemy, I don't believe they are his primary assaults.

Now back to the five simultaneous church conflicts. As church leaders, when we do business with Satan we soon discover that his best and most effective covert attack is present. Here goes. He attacks the church through relationships. In marriage, the husband and wife can be the primary tool of Satan against each other. With children, Satan can use the parents or vice versa. In friendships, he will use us to attack those who are close. In these five church conflicts, Satan's primary weapon against the church is through other believers. What? Not each other? How lame is that?

The relational conflicts in scripture are too many to mention, but take for example Judas and Jesus. "Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father . . . During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him" (Jn 13:1-2). When Satan wanted to strike out at Christ, he didn't use the great Roman army. He used a relationship. The Apostle Paul invited Barnabas to join him on a tour to the cities where he preached the Gospel. In turn, Barnabas asked John Mark to join their trip. Due to a previous incident, Paul had lost confidence in John Mark and Acts 15:39 states the problem, "And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him . . .". What was Satan's favorite tactic here? It wasn't a difference of doctrine or even philosophy that separated two brothers, but a relationship.

The tactical trend continues. Satan's primary arena in warfare is relationships right in the church. He is using lust, immorality, slander, gossip, bitterness, anger and much more to tear down those precious relationships between our brothers and sisters. My challenge to us all is that we would simply BE ON THE ALERT. Too many of us in the church have been wounded by friendly fire. We need to stand up to our enemy and claim all our victories in Christ. "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor 15:57) Working together as a community of believers is no easy task. Being a part of a loving community means that we all take the effort to build a culture of peace right in the church. Why? It is because the culture of the world is at war with a culture of peace that God wants.

We are to have peace with GOD in a relationship of salvation (Col 1:19-20). We are to have peace with OTHERS in perfect unity (Eph 2:11-18). We are to have peace within YOURSELF as we live for Him daily (1 Jn 3:21-24). This kind of peace with God, others and yourself will happen when Christ remains central in our lives; when God's Word remains authoritative; and when the church takes responsibility for its actions.

Because we are a family of believers, conflicts will naturally come. When they arrive, we are encouraged to resolve them immediately (Matt 18:15-17). As the church engages in a ministry of reconciliation, it builds a culture of peace that protects the church against the enemy. You already know this. The witness of God's presence and the love for your own community depends on how you live in unity as a church.

Reconciliation means to replace hostility, anger and separation with God's peace and friendship for the entire church. What about forgiveness? It means to release someone from the liability to suffer punishment or penalty. It comes from the Greek word to let go, release or remit. As God opens our eyes to see how we have sinned against others, He offers a way to find freedom from wrongs.

Here are some Biblical principles of forgiveness to consider:

- 1) Address everyone involved. Ps 32:5; 41:4
- 2) Avoid using the words if, but, maybe to minimize or excuse guilt.
- 3) Admit specific details. Luke 15:21
- 4) Acknowledge the sorrow or hurt you have caused someone.
- 5) Accept the consequences of your actions. Luke 15:19
- 6) Ask for forgiveness like this, "Will you forgive me?" Please don't say, "Sorry!"
Col 3:13
- 7) Alter your behavior in the future.

It starts with you! That's right. All it takes is one person in the church who hears the call to reconcile, forgive and offer peace to his brother and sister. It starts with you! Ask God to give you a longing to see a culture of peace in your church that reflects the heart of the Gospel. Jesus said in Matthew 5:9 that a great blessing is in store, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God".



Pat Phinney

CBNC Regional Director

Pastor's Wives . . . Just for You ***"Enjoying the Season"***

There is something so satisfying about seeing shelves lined with canning jars full of a variety of fruits and vegetables. A freezer filled with containers of frozen produce is also a wonderful sight. It's like having a treasure! They are such clear pictures of how God always provides for us. I love the fact that His provisions come in so many colors. What beauty there is in bright red tomatoes, the deep purple of beets, green beans and the list goes on and on. It would be much less fun if all of our foods were the same color.

As I was canning tomatoes this morning, I was reminded of Matthew 6:19-20. Stay with me here. As I was washing and cutting the tomatoes, I was careful to make sure all the garden dirt was washed off. When it came time to put the cooked tomatoes in the jars, I was equally as careful that all the



jars had been thoroughly washed in water that was really, really hot! Why go through all that preparation? Because in a couple of months when the snow is falling and I'm going to make a pot of chili, I don't want to open a jar and find spoiled tomatoes. The final product is greatly influenced by the preparation.

It's the same way in our lives. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6 to "...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy ...". Just as I was careful with the tomatoes and the jars, I need to be even more careful with what goes into my mind and heart. My treasure cannot be stored up in this world. My treasure needs to be stored up in heaven! I can't help but wonder how satisfying it is to God when He sees His children storing up uncontaminated produce. What a beautiful sight that must be to the Father's heart!

I believe as wives one of the ways we can exhibit beauty in our lives is in our relationship with our husbands. This month I want us to pray more for us then for them (although they will benefit from our prayers). Here are some verses to get us started as we pray for our relationship with the men God has entrusted to us to love.

"I pray, Jesus, that my husband and I will follow Your commandment that we love one another as You have loved us."

John 15:12

"I pray that my husband and I may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:6

"I pray, Lord, that my husband and I will love one another, for love is of You; and everyone who loves is born of You and knows You. But if we do not love we do not know You, for You are love."

1 John 4:7-8

"I pray that my husband I will always understand the significance of the question, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"

Amos 3:3

I recently read an article that reminded me of how many ways I can either help or hurt Pat's ministry. I thought I would share it with you. ["10 Gifts Only a Preacher's Wife Can Give" - by Joe Mckeever, Churchleaders.com](#)

Anyone who knows me very well, knows that I love caramel! So when I came across this recipe I had to give it a try, it just seemed too good to be true. I'm not sure I can even legitimately call it a recipe - it's more like a trick. You know that caramel sauce you can buy for dipping apples - well now you can make your own. I will say the consistency is a little different, but it doesn't get any easier than this.

Slow Cooker Apple Dip



Pour sweetened condensed milk into a 4 oz. canning jar. Each can of milk will fill 3 jars. Put the lids on and place in your slow cooker. Pour water into your slow cooker to 1 inch over the lids. Cook on low for 10 hours. That's it! When the time is done, carefully remove the jars. They will seal. It's almost like

magic. It goes in creamy white and comes out caramel. [click here to print](#)
How much fun is it that every person can have their own little jar!



*Karen Phinney
Wife of Regional Director*

Upcoming "Developing Healthy Congregations" Seminar

Is it your desire to have a spiritually healthy church that is able to make committed disciples of Jesus Christ? Do you desire to have a church that is able to experience a level of reproduction that will impact your community for Jesus Christ? Come to a "Developing Healthy Congregations" seminar in your area. Here is your opportunity to take the first step to developing spiritual health in your own church. For more details and how to register [click here](#).



What is Really Urgent and Important?
"Developing Healthy Congregations"

Grace Baptist Church, Des Moines, IA
Saturday, October 17, 9am-2pm

Presented by CBNC Regional Director Pat Phinney

Thoughts From a Cluster Leader

"Good God!"

"Everything is just so sad!" My wife said this after hearing another report of difficulty from another person whom we know. We had just returned from a couple of weeks on the West Coast. We spent most of our time with our daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, and we got to see some good friends too. As we all do when we haven't been together in a long time, we inquired about other mutual friends and acquaintances. We were surprised by how many of them were struggling through difficult and trying times in their lives... the death of a loved one, a problem child, a financial downturn... Some of them were experiencing a deep crisis of faith as a result. Everybody it seemed, had something hard going on in their lives. Maybe it has something to do with our age and time in life, but we all have things going on that challenge us to our core... don't we?

"Everything is just so sad!" Our daughter passed away this summer at the age of 33. We hoped and prayed that she would get better. We did everything possible to get her the help that she needed. We prayed for healing, but instead God chose to take her. We are only beginning to grieve. Within a week of her funeral three of those who participated or attended her service experienced a



death themselves in their family or close circle of friends. Upon our return from vacation, we learned of the imminent "home going" of a dear member of our congregation. His cancer is everywhere now. Two others in our church are not far behind and now a young Downs Syndrome friend of ours passed away the other day. We're tired of death! "Everything is just so sad!"

Good things are happening to people we know too... restored relationships... a new job... a new baby... a wonderful new opportunity. That's great, and naturally when those kinds of things happen our hearts well up with praise and thanks. After all, the Scriptures do encourage us to "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." (Psalm 107:1) It's funny though, isn't it that whenever pleasant things like these happen we praise God by saying, "God is so good!", (and we should) but we don't hear that same praise as often in those other times... those sad times, do we? Is this because God has somehow forgotten to be good in the sad times, or are we having a hard time remembering who God is?

To quote a great theologian of our day (my wife), in a recent post on Facebook, "God isn't good because something 'good' happens to us! He is good because He is God! God's timing isn't perfect because we finally get an answer to prayer the way we wanted it. His timing is perfect in the midst of great pain and sorrow! Praise the Lord for the joy of the cross and the hope that the resurrection provided for us in heaven."

God IS good. He is what good is. We only know "good" because God exists. But he defines "good" too. We tend to think of "good" only in terms of pleasant things and we struggle to see it in unpleasant times. But unpleasant times don't change who God is... or what God is able to do through them. Our limited understanding of "good" doesn't limit God's capacity for it. He will do it because "good" is in His nature.

I admit it. I am struggling to detect the good in my daughter's death. I can't see it clearly... but God can. He who sees the end from the beginning has promised to put his nature into action to bring "good" even out of this (Romans 8:28). So Terri and I are trusting Him for that even though "Everything is just so sad!"

Stephen Schoenwald
Twin Cities Cluster
Pastor - River of Life Church (Hastings, MN)

#ShareTheStories

"How CB North Central Has Helped Us"

New Life Church of Wanamingo, Minnesota, was launched in 1999. Faith Community Church of West Concord (then called First Baptist Church) partnered with CB North Central (then called North Central CBA) to plant a church in the nearby town of Wanamingo. Faith Community's pastor, Pat Phinney, became the church planter and led a

nucleus of people from West Concord as they established our church. CB North Central played a big role in helping the church launch. CBNC provided training and encouragement for the church planting endeavor, as well as funding. New



Life owes its existence to folks within CBNC who had a vision for planting new churches.

Another point at which CB North Central provided important help to our church was 10 years ago when we needed a new pastor. Don Shaw, then the regional director, offered helpful counsel for the search committee, and provided us with the resumes of several well-suited potential candidates.

CB North Central has given us a sense of connection to other churches in the region. The regional director, Pat Phinney, has been available to provide training and challenge. The men suggested by CBNC for pulpit supply have been a blessing to our congregation. In addition, Brad Little, Pastor of Oak Grove Church in Golden Valley, has met with our elder board several times, bringing a fresh perspective to our ministry.

We also appreciate the opportunities CB North Central has provided for our pastor. The monthly pastors' cluster and the annual pastors' conference at Moody are examples.

We are blessed to be part of CB North Central, and say a big "thank you" to all who made it possible for our church to start and all who have encouraged us along the way.

Pastor Pat McBride
New Life Church, Wanamingo, MN

-CBAmerica Chaplaincy

"Instant In Season and Out of Season"



. . . Put yourself in their shoes; as husband, dad, pastor leaving your church and family...and not for a week or two, but over a year. How would you want others to pray for you? [Read More](#)

Andy Meverden
Director of Chaplaincy, CBAmerica



"Act Like a Leader"

"At times in my coaching of pastors and CEO's of Christian organizations, my heart goes out to the person I'm coaching. People are attacking their leadership. That's so common I consider it little more than "white noise". But what breaks my heart is when pastors and other leaders believe the criticism." -by *Bill Hoyt*,

Regional Consultant and Coach, Growing Healthy Churches [Read More](#)

"Seven Reasons Why We Should Not Abandon the Term "Church Member""

Trends, tips, ideas, and stats to help church leaders manage well this week.

-by *Thom S. Rainer*, Sept. 2, 2015 [Read More](#)

"Their Marriage Was a Train Wreck"

Roger and Tonya Haskin had no clue about marriage. As Roger says, "The mortgage broker proposed for both of us." - by *Mary May Larmoyeux*,

FAMILYLIFE

[Read More](#)

"How to Become a More Relational Leader: 8 Simple Ways"

- by Alan Danielson, Senior Pastor, New Life Bible Church, Norman, OK,

Churchleaders.com [Read More](#)



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Please Pray for the Following Churches in Transition:

Senior Pastor

Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL
First Baptist Church - Lake Crystal, MN
First Baptist Church - Pekin, IL
First Baptist Church - Parkers Prairie, MN
First Baptist Church - Detroit Lakes, MN
Oak Park Community - Blaine, MN
First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI
Squaw Creek Baptist Church - Marion, IA
Bazetta Baptist Church - Warren, OH
First Baptist Church - Bradford, IL

CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups

Central Minnesota

Monday, September 14th, 10am
Meeting at River of Life Church, Hastings, MN
Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN
651-437-3965

Wisconsin

Friday - Sunday, October 9-11, 2015
Men's "Go MAD" (Make A Difference) Retreat, Arrowhead Bible Camp.
For all the men at First Baptist Whitehall, First Baptist New Richmond, Eureka Baptist St. Croix Falls, Crossroads Chippewa Falls, Calvary Eau Claire, Bloomer Baptist Bloomer, Palisade Baptist Silver Bay, First Baptist Taylors Falls and Valleybrook Eau Claire. Cost is \$89. We are hoping at least 5 men can come from each church. Brochures will be out by the first week of September. A head-count from each church is needed by Monday, October 5.

Illinois - Chicago Area

To Be Decided

*Leonard Harris, Grove Heights Baptist Church,
Chicago, IL*

773-731-8094 lendar@ameritech.net



Michigan

Thursday, October 15, 9am

*Leo Cumings, Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson, MI
517-416-1247*

For more information on a Cluster Group in your area please contact the CBNC office.



CB North Central

PO Box 490441

Blaine, MN

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

patp@cbnorthcentral.org

Pat's Home Office: 952-322-7173

Pat's Cell: 952-500-3743

CBNC Office

Email: wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org

Wendy Jonasen, Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 8am - 1pm

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Website: www.cbnorthcentral.org



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