



The Best Part of Expanding NCCC



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LPCC, Executive Director

We are expanding! Tuesday, September 4, Northland Christian Counseling Center opened an additional suite of offices at Grand Cities Mall. The entrance to the new offices is located on the north side of the mall facing 17 th Avenue South. Look for the Northland Christian Counseling Center sign!

Over the decades as we have grown, we have had a dream to have a presence in local churches all over the region. We have hoped and prayed that we would be able to, at some point, mix our services with those of local churches. 1 Corinthians 12:4- 31 includes this thought: 'There are many parts to the body but we are to function as one body.'

We believe that those who serve at NCCC fit in the body in such a way that the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health of those that walk in and out of our doors fall within the domain of the church. Paul encourages humility within the body as we are functioning together. Restoration is the church's

heritage as it is ours. The humility to affirm the church and the church to affirm our ministry only blesses the community and culture of an entire region. This is part of the "best parts" of expansion.

The other best part is to see example after example of God making it possible to expand. Person after person who has been working on the expansion has commented "wow, there is something supernatural about how this is going." I agree. It seems that every area we have been involved in has had a sense of favor present in it. Contractors, finances, clinician availability, building costs and on and on have had the flavor of favor.

These two things, working as part of the church and God's visible favor, have been just wonderful. But visible favor although wonderful, can't be used as the ultimate indication that heaven is pleased. The most profound act of favor happened at the cross. No one would have construed that as God's favor at the time.

To wish that I am becoming what He purposes for me and that purpose is a first thing in my life. Regardless of what circumstances are, that would be the best thing.

In Him,
Stephen Seay





But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

What comes to mind when you think of counseling? What produces the best results? Some believe effective counseling is dependent on the strength of the counselor. Results come from what they know and the sage advice they give. Or it is in the strength of the counselor’s ability to get a person to open up and share their feelings and problems. **The truth is, effective counseling is not about the strength of the counselor.** It is about a heart change and a reliance on Him who can change the heart. All the counselor can truly share is their own weakness and dependency on Him.

Trying to change oneself without reliance on God is exhausting and temporary. I have seen this in my own life. It feels like driving with white knuckles in a blizzard. If I try to change myself without a reliance on God, then no real lasting change is possible. It is in that mindset that I believe true counseling can begin. It is an acceptance of one’s weakness and a reliance upon Jesus Christ. A good question to ask oneself is this; what is getting in the way of my reliance on Him?

As a counselor, this is true for me as well. I can only be effective if I have a reliance upon Jesus, and not in my own strength. I must admit though, as I meet with various clients, sometimes my own flesh will rise up. I may get triggered to show how smart I am, or try to impress with thoughtful insights. I need to be aware of this and release the pride that may well up inside of me. I must offer them Jesus instead of me. If I step aside in those moments and reflect back to them what I see is getting in the way of them walking with Jesus, that is what true counseling is. **It is helping a person see Jesus.**

There are times clients are caught in painful addictions or destructive life choices. I may be tempted to try to rescue them. However, this would be ineffective. Rather, I must show them what healing looks like through walking with Jesus and not in serving themselves. Being an effective counselor is about walking alongside someone, helping them see, meet and experience Jesus.

Some people come in with a lot of pain and suffering, and it is usually needed to enter the pain to find healing. I may be tempted to try to alleviate the pain. However, this is short-sighted. Rather, my role is to walk along side and speak truth in love, allowing them to see what walking through the pain with Jesus looks like.

It reminds me of 2 Corinthians 1:4 “Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” I am amazed and humbled when Jesus uses my past pains or sufferings to comfort someone in the midst of theirs. It is so meaningful to share my grace experiences, helping someone see Jesus’ work, and how He is the source of healing.

That is what we get to do at Northland Christian Counseling Center. We come along side people who are suffering and allow them to feel the love, compassion and healing grace that comes in knowing Jesus. **He is the source of power, healing and peace everyone needs.**