



To Every Season



The song goes like this, "To every season, turn, turn, turn..." Some of you know the song I am referring to. I grew up listening to classic rock music. I am not sure why, but I always felt like an old soul when it came to music. The song titled "Turn! Turn! Turn!" was made famous by The Byrds and went all the way to #1 on the Billboard top 100 in December of 1965.

I didn't know it at the time, but as I grew in faith I found out that this song is almost a direct quote from the Bible:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 - "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what was planted. "

As I sit here writing this letter, the words of King Solomon written in Ecclesiastes are etched in my thoughts and heart. Summer has turned to fall; I have moved from Wisconsin to North Dakota; Northland has moved from one executive director to another; yet, God is the same today as yesterday.

Life is ever-changing seasons, and our pursuit of anything outside of God's kingdom is like trying to catch smoke in our hands. And this is what King Solomon is trying to convey to us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As life changes, and seasons pass, pursuit of the Maker is all that matters. Pursuing wealth, or leisure, or even something as good as relationship with others will all come to the same fruitless pursuit. What really matters is leaning into the Creator as the seasons of life continue to change.

Maybe I could sum this up by looking at another song from the past written and sung by Bob Dylan, "The Times They Are A-Changin'."

As our times continue to change, I am more grateful than ever for the Rock of Ages who was, and is, and is to come; the Faithful One who gives meaning to life, and brings us through those changes for His glory.

So, as your life is undoubtedly changing like mine, it is my prayer that these changes bring you closer to God and His Son, the author and sustainer of our ever changing lives.

*Love God, love others,
Jason Wood, NCCC Executive Director*

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It's unbelievable to me that at the end of 2021, when my time with NCCC is over, I will have been serving with the counseling center for 5 years. When I retired from my full-time job in June of 2018, I immediately left for a three month mission in Malawi, Africa. While there, I was praying about where the Lord could use my time when I returned home. Stephen was totally unaware of any of this but, providentially 3 days after I returned home, I received one of his infamous calls asking me to meet with him at Perkins.

Stephen was starting to plan for his retirement and wanted assistance in defining the operations of NCCC. Discovering how an organization functions is a passion of mine. It has been a privilege to come alongside Stephen, the clinicians, and the administrative staff to review policies, processes, work distribution and everything else involved in the behind the scenes work to support the mission of Northland. Everyone involved in NCCC

has such a heart for each other and for the clients. Coming from a secular work environment, **I was amazed to see how God worked out difficult situations through open communication and prayer.**

To have had a small part in this wonderful place of restoration has been a little bit of heaven for me. I often share with others that for me, spending time with Stephen is a taste of what I believe time with Jesus will be like. NCCC has made Psalm 100:2 very easy for me...Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before Him with joyful singing.

**Roxanne Fiala,
NCCC Operations Director**

*To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of
peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 KJV

A recent letter of thanks from a former client reads, "I don't know if I ever adequately thanked you for allowing God to use you to guide me through one of the darkest times of my life. Although a hard, dark time for me, I have been forever grateful for that time, for what I learned, for sewing my marriage and for teaching me to live closer to God than I ever had before. It's in the valleys you learn to really trust."

We, at Northland, are privileged to walk with you through life's seasons.

Our prayer is for your restoration to our great God.

Please continue to pray for clinicians, staff and clients dealing with the affects of Covid-19.

Please pray that God's name be glorified in all that we do here at Northland Christian Counseling Center.