



### Stephen's Farewell

Today, as I sit down to write, is a day that has come with a surreal sense, "Is this really the last newsletter article I will ever write as Director of NCCC?" The answer is, yes.

"Where has all the time gone?" My mother, who passed away almost 15 years ago made this comment when she was visiting the big yellow farm house for the last time (a home she grew up in and lived in for the majority of her 89 years). We were both sitting silently, alone together in the front room, when she offered this comment, "It seems like a dream." Today seems like a dream. Twenty-five years at NCCC have come and gone in a flash. Sometimes moments have been agonizingly long, but the years have been short. Two particular memories, of my deepest heart-felt desires, come to mind today. First, we go back about 42 years to a memory of a contract, written and signed by me with God. The contract, not my own idea but modeled by a mentor, was written out on a simple, white sheet of lined paper giving ownership of my life to the Trinity. Second, the memory of a prayer bubbling up in my deepest parts of my soul about how I wanted my life to turn out. The second memory about a particular passage, Isaiah 43:4-7, and my prayer that followed was, "Oh God, this is what I want for the time you give me here on Earth." God accepted the contract and that heart-felt prayer. My life has been His. However, the totally unexpected shaping of my life that followed was an utter surprise; even though Scripture clearly predicted what it would mean, only time and the experience of life would deepen the truths predicted.

The poem that follows has some of the most accurate words to my experience that shaped the last 42 years.

*I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;  
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health, that I might do greater things;  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am among all men most richly blessed.*

*(prayer of an unknown soldier)*

The end of a season has arrived, I will no longer be the Executive Director of NCCC, but I count it a great, great gift to continue to work for NCCC as a clinician. I will slow some, but the contract and verses from so long ago still entice and beckon me to move toward their call. So, with gratefulness, I close.

*Yours,  
Stephen Seay*

Please consider going paperless. Email [lanifayb@northlandccc.com](mailto:lanifayb@northlandccc.com) to be added to the electronic newsletter list.

## Giving God Thanks—for Blessings and Provision

Northland Christian Counseling Center (NCCC) was officially formed in 1992 following years of passionate development under the guidance of the Greater Grand Forks Evangelical Pastors Fellowship (EPF). The EPF identified the need in the community for biblically-based, professional counseling services as a ministry of, and to, the area churches.

Several years later, with God's grace and leading, NCCC sought a fulltime Executive Director that could provide counseling services and lead the organization. At this same time Stephen Seay was completing his credentialing as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, while also working with Campus Crusade for Christ (now CRU) at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Stephen, originally from Newtown, ND had recently finished his Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling from Colorado Christian University in 1991-1992, had been on Campus Crusade for Christ staff for 16 years in various capacities and had a bachelor of science degree in Animal Science from North Dakota State University in 1979. Stephen started in early 1996 as a part time Executive Director/Counselor and it soon grew into a full-time position in June 1996 where he has faithfully served in that position ever since.

Stephen's leadership, influence and ministry have defined NCCC over the past 25 years. This is reflected in his heart to love and understand people wherever they are, his desire to share and lead people to God's Good News (The Gospel) wherever they are, and his humility of position and power to be able to boldly engage with people wherever they are.

His heart to love, desire to share, and humility to engage others wherever they have left an indelible mark on the ministry of NCCC. These character qualities have led to 25 years of faithful ministry at NCCC, which in recent years has been summarized as a ministry of "Restoration". The vision of "Restoration" is a ministry of coming along side, guiding, encouraging, and leading people (who are all created in God's image) to be a part of God's restoring journey here on this earth and ultimately to an eternity of full Restoration.

The NCCC Board has been encouraged and blessed by Stephen's friendship, leadership, example, teaching and service. We are forever grateful of God's provision and blessing to have Stephen serve as our Executive Director/Counselor. Thankfully Stephen will continue to serve as a Counselor at NCCC after his retirement as Executive Director.

**We invite you to a celebration on Saturday, October 9, 2021, in Grand Forks where we will honor Stephen's years of ministry.** Please save this date on your calendar and more details will soon follow.

We are also grateful and excited about God's provision and blessing as we introduce Jason Wood as our new Executive Director/Counselor as of July 1, 2021. The accompanying article will help you begin the process of getting to know Jason, his family and his heart for ministry.

Our prayer and desire continues to be that NCCC will be a ministry of restoration. This endeavor includes counseling and educational services based on the Word of God. NCCC believes that God, through the Lord Jesus Christ, has all power to guide and carry people through the hurt, uncertainty, and pain of their lives. In the process of counseling and within the context of a caring community of believers, each individual client is offered healing, restoration, strength, love and comfort.

Tracy LeDuc (NCCC Board Co-Chair)  
Luther Kvernen (NCCC Board Co-Chair)



## Meet Our New Executive Director



We have very exciting news here at NCCC... we have a new Executive Director, Jason Wood, D.Min, M.Div, M.A., LPC Let's get to know him...

**Jason, Where are you from?** I hail from Grand Forks, ND. Go Hawks!

**What do all those letters after your name mean?** They mean that I am both a counselor and a pastor. NCCC is the perfect melding of my two natural areas of gifting: leading a ministry and caring for people.

**What is your work history?** I have been in the Army National Guard and Reserve for almost 20 years. I have been a counselor for almost the same amount of time in GF, Minot, Devils Lake and Wisconsin. I have been a pastor for 15 years working in many areas: teaching, leadership development, counseling, worship, youth and more.

**What do you enjoy doing when you aren't working?** I enjoy spending time with my wife Trista, and my 4 children, JJ (14), Judah (11), Joanna (8) and Jael (2). As for hobbies, I love to road bike, run, hike, hunt and golf. My favorite thing to do is spend a day on the boat with my family tubing and swimming. I guess you could say, I pretty much enjoy anything outside in God's creation!

**What is something you'd like us to know about you?** When it comes to ministry and life, I am most fulfilled when I am in deep relationships with others learning how to better use my gifts, and helping others better understand how God made them to fit His body. I look forward to getting the opportunity to care for pastors, churches, counselors, and clients. I consider it a privilege and honor to serve in a place that fits my personality and skills perfectly.

**Love God, love others,  
Jason**



Here at Northland, we are in a very exciting time of change. We are so grateful and blessed by Stephen's many years of service as Executive Director and we are pleased that he will be staying on as a clinician. We are also thankful to Jean Gullicks, who retired during the pandemic, for her time at NCCC when she blessed so many. And, congratulations to Corinne Seay, former receptionist, who had her second child and has left us to be a full-time stay-at-home mother.

**God is good and His plans are good!**

"Northland has been such a wonderful place to work at, I will truly miss working here. While working as a receptionist I got to witness first hand the need of a counseling center and the hurt in this world. I loved being a part of a counseling center that is centered around Christ and bringing the Hope of Jesus to the hurting individual. It was a privilege to get to know the clients



as they came through the doors and be a friendly face for them on this vulnerable journey of counseling. I am thankful to the staff for always making me feel cared for and known and I pray that NCCC will just continue to grow and be a light in this community."

**- Corinne**

# Our Growth

**Then: 1996**

**1** clinician/administrator

**10** clients per week

**1** individual office

**1** location

**Now: 2021**

**15** clinicians and administrators

**112** clients per week

**10** individual offices

**2** locations

**5834**

counseling hours last year

**426**

new clients last year

**1**

new clinicians in 2020

Any family, that meets the criteria, is granted **up to \$620 per family per year** from the client assistance fund (CAF).

There is a saying that one of our past Board members would say, "**It seems like we are living in a miracle**" and that statement is as true today as it was at Northland Christian Counseling Center in 1996.

In 1996 Stephen Seay was our only clinician. We were struggling financially to even pay our bills and we were housed in a very small office. That first year we moved to a local church office and paid no rent (we probably couldn't have afforded it). Stephen saw 8-10 clients a week and on a suggested donation basis of \$50/ hr. Fast forward to 2021 and we now have eight clinicians practicing in-person and telehealth.

Our administrative staff to support the ministry is outstanding! There are now seven people laboring together with the clinicians to do the ministry at Northland Christian Counseling Center. Some are the receptionists that meet the public in ways that are as valuable as anything our clinicians do.

Our dream is to keep moving in the same directions we have always moved: opening up new locations as the need dictates; adding new clinicians; reaching out into the city, region and beyond with educational programs including guest speakers, therapeutic services that could someday include a lay counseling ministry that addresses "first year of marriage" problems, and possibly a recovery program.

**The need for what we do is great.** We want to continue to fit into what the church was envisioned to be in the new testament. We are part of what the Spirit has created to meet the needs of a lost and broken world. **We are grateful to be a part of conveying the gospel message.** We are deeply grateful to be a part of this ongoing miracle at Northland Christian Counseling Center.



Northland Christian  
Counseling Center

[www.northlandccc.com](http://www.northlandccc.com)  
Questions? Call 701-795-8550