

# EIBCC Monthly Meeting

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Kava House in Swisher, Iowa

May 19, 2016

## Present:

Buffalo Prairie: Marc Shefelton

Elaine Brown

Grace: Jason Blackley, Dave Kirk, Aimee Marino

Maranatha: Thad Joyce

New Covenant: Laura Pelechek

Prairie Flower: David Cotner, Jon Rocha

Stonebridge: Robin Werling, Trisha Young, Jason Poling

Veritas: Bart Woods

Wildwood: Ron May

## I. Ministry Updates and Prayer:

Stonebridge: prayer for Robin's wife Jeanette, prayer to continue on the path that the Lord would have for the biblical counseling ministry

Maranatha: encouraged by the hope of the Word, need wisdom to tease apart the use of a physical disease model for mental/spiritual illness

Wildwood: leadership transition, and discouragement in the process; Ron has experienced healing, insight, and steps to change through the pastor's retreat center

Elaine: still in church transition, is experiencing healing in her relationship with her daughter

Veritas: excited about discipling, reading *Discipleshift* as a leadership team

Grace: focusing on prayer, and seeing God answer. Pray for wisdom for current domestic abuse cases. Excited to bring Chris Moles and Stuart Scott to the counseling conference in the fall.

Prairie Flower Baptist Church: thankful for biblical counseling as ministry core, and is seeing an explosion of counseling, including prison counseling, and drawing people into church

New Covenant (Laura): navigating being a licensed marriage therapist and using this as a ministry as a sanctification coach, and is seeking His Will for her model of care.

Buffalo Prairie Presbyterian Church: experiencing spiritual warfare within the congregation, and the church and Marc are growing as they seek biblical truth and guidance. Prayer for wisdom and strength as the general assembly meets to finalize a position paper on human sexuality.

EIBCC updates: Eastern Wisconsin and Alabama interested in creating their own biblical counseling coalitions, and we're in contact to help them with

- II. Training lay leaders for counseling
  - a. Starts with **vision** and **strategy**.
    - i. "Where there is no vision, people perish." Proverbs 29:18?
    - ii. Grace's story : using biblical counseling to teach everyone in the congregation how to minister to one another
  - b. Start **small**.
    - i. Comprehensive discipleship for the whole church is a huge undertaking, and it starts with small steps. This may look like pouring into one other person, introducing other leadership to biblical counseling, encouraging leadership to be trained through a soul care class or the Biblical Counseling Training Conference.
  - c. Stay **focused** and **consistent**.
    - i. Often, this means saying no to good things to say yes to the best, most effective things. Do the small things over and over, and don't do them alone.
  - d. Practical suggestions for equipping:
    - i. Classes/Conferences
      - 1. Biblical Counseling Training Conference in the fall
      - 2. National Biblical Counseling Training Conference in Lafayette, Indiana
      - 3. Adult Bible study for your leaders and/or congregation
        - a. *Biblical Soul Care* with Garrett Higbee, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* by Paul Tripp, *Uncommon Community* with Garrett Higbee, *Redemption*- book by Mike Wilkerson
    - ii. Reading Plans: use this as a spiritual growth plan for yourself and your leaders
    - iii. Training Track- attached. Grace uses this as a 2 year spiritual growth plan.
    - iv. Advocacy: counseling in community by encouraging folks to bring someone from their small group to walk alongside them in counseling and everyday life
    - v. Small Groups
    - vi. Short Term Mission Trips: using a medical mission trip to also provide soul care
    - vii. Monthly or Quarterly Meetings : keeping folks in the congregation up to date on what the Lord is up to in discipleship in the church
    - viii. Accountability groups: use the "CARE" Model in small accountability groups.
    - ix. Observation: invite others to watch you counsel. This helps spread the vision.
    - x. Share stories of success: invite others to see and celebrate the work of God, and invite them to be a part of it
  - e. Make connections to the **Mission** in everything you do
    - i. Making disciples who make disciples
- III. Q & A
  - a. CARE Model: **Connect** with compassion, **Assess** the heart (with how and why questions. In this we're identifying the "WILL": Worship, Identity, Love, Lifestyle), **Respond** with truth and grace, **Encourage** and Equip

- b. Is this putting people's problems at the center of the church? Yes and no: it is encouraging and equipping folks to connect Scripture in their lives in a real and practical way that makes our intellectual theology our practical theology.
  - c. In small groups, problems will come out that the house church and leaders can bring the truth of the word into. If it is
  - d. Reading a book together as a leadership team with the goal to pass it on to someone else to encourage learning together
- IV. Other resources mentioned in the meeting today
- a. *Discipleshift* by Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington
  - b. *I am a Church Member* by Thom R. Rainer
  - c. *Visual Theology* by Josh Byers and Tim Challies

***Mark your calendars for our next EIBCC meeting, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am at Kava House!***