

# EIBCC Monthly Meeting

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Kava House in Swisher, IA

**Present:** *Prairie Flower Baptist:* David Cotner, Jonathan Rocha

*Wildwood Church:* Gary and Elaine Davisson, Ron May

*Mt Vernon:* Jim Sabin

*First Baptist Church:* Sydney Millage

*Stonebridge:* Jason Poling

*Harvest Bible Chapel:* Kip Hamby, Paul and Janet Chovan

*Grace Community Church:* Dave Kirk, Aimee Marino

## I. Welcome and Prayer

## II. Introductions and Ministry Updates

### 1. Prairie Flower Baptist

- a. David went through ordination, but the real challenge is a “reset” of his church
  - i. Pleas for honesty within the congregation, for relational peace between brothers and sisters in the faith, working through how to encourage men to be godly leaders in their homes and lives.
- b. Thankful for co-leadership within a challenging season of building the congregation,
- c. Pray for:
  - i. Against burnout for Jon and Dave, faithfulness to have hard conversations a la Matthew 18.

### 2. Wildwood:

- a. Having monthly meetings with counselors to keep the vision and training in front of them, and encouraging discussion and collaboration between counselors
- b. As a church, making changes in the right direction, has brought on a transition person to help guide the staff and congregation through a time of change
- c. Pray for:

- i. the counselors to stay motivated and sharp in counseling, and logistically that the counselors are able to make the meetings
- 3. Mt. Vernon
  - a. Meeting with six men for counseling and discipleship at the prison
  - b. No counseling ministry through the church yet, but three women within the church are working on ACBC test
  - c. Is personally working on a Masters in Biblical Counseling through Lafayette
  - d. Pray for:
    - i. Availability to counsel, finances to line up to be able to invest in counseling, wisdom for Jim and his wife about where to invest in ministry
- 4. First Baptist in Iowa City
  - a. No counseling ministry, but another lady within the congregation is heavily involved in bringing the ACBC to Brazil
  - b. Sydney finished her certification test, and was encouraged by her pastor to continue with his support
  - c. Pray for:
    - i. Continued support of Sydney's pastor, growth of interests in the church body
- 5. Stonebridge:
  - a. Over the past few years, it has been a blessing and a big deal to see the church accept the biblical counseling vision
  - b. Wednesday night trainings; working through how to encourage them without overwhelming them
  - c. Pray for:
    - i. Robin's wife, Jeanette, is battling cancer, and doing well. Pray for healing, strength, and for God's name to be made great
    - ii. Jason and his family are currently displaced, a recent land/home purchase is currently unlivable, and has brought significant financial challenges. Jason and his family are currently living with different families from the church, and have moved three times recently. Pray for wisdom and provision.
- 6. Harvest Bible Chapel
  - a. Working on developing their grief counseling ministry, having trouble getting folks connected
  - b. Launching "Hope for the Holidays:" an event for folks who have lost someone recently, to help them know how to navigate the holidays

- c. Crisis Response Team: what it looks like to respond to crisis with the church, focusing on God's promises.
- d. Question: How to involve a pastor from another church in a counseling case?
  - i. If the counselee is from another church: inform pastor about what's going on, ask to be advocate, and/or give pastor homework to help the situation (ex: help counselee get involved in community)
  - ii. If counselee is not from another church, but reconciliation is needed: gently remind the shepherd of his responsibility, and empower him with Scripture to fulfill that role. Pastors are teachers, yes, but also shepherds and counselors.
- e. Pray for:
  - i. Staff alignment retreat in early November focusing on core values, where the staff will focus on simplifying and working in unity.

#### 7. Grace:

- a. Working through 501c3 legal process
- b. Walk in counseling is a-go at the downtown counseling center
- c. Grace has biblical counseling brochures in the Dean's office and the Office of Student Counseling Services
- d. Old head of Counseling Services at the University of Iowa was a man of peace. The new head of Counseling Services has demonstrated a worldview that is opposed to the bible. Jason Blackley is meeting with this man soon to build a bridge of relationship, and let him know Grace is there to help in any way they can
- e. Pray for:
  - i. A good relationship to be built with the new head of counseling services
  - ii. Wisdom in how to train counselors to address gender issues publicly, Reparative therapy vs. redemption.
  - iii. Please pray for wisdom in how to train people well for the things they will encounter on their respective campuses.

### III. Biblical Counseling Conference Questions and Topics

- 1. Ron was struck by the addiction series by Mark Shaw in Track 2, as well as a session on infertility by Doctor Wickert
  - a. Addiction:
    - i. Focus on replacement (set aside the addiction, replace with God's word, prayer, community)

- b. Infertility and Miscarriage
  - i. Rise in women being open with miscarriages and infertility within the Wildwood church body
  - ii. Decisions being made in the congregation about how to get pregnant
  - iii. Importance of having medical doctors on board with the biblical counseling vision
- 2. Kip was encouraged by the fact that Dr. Wickert encouraged the Track 2 folks to think critically about medication. Kip noted the healthy tension within this conversation, and encouragement to take each case individually with biblical wisdom.

#### IV. Discussion and Questions

- 1. Garrett Higbee's "Uncommon Community" is an excellent resource for training the congregation in biblical counseling and soul care
- 2. Hot button questions in counseling from congregations
  - a. Gary: counselees are leaving after two or so sessions
    - i. If they feel like they've got their questions answered, they split.
    - ii. If it's true that they needed wisdom counseling, and they take this direction, and apply to their life, then this is healthy, and not a sign of poor process.
    - iii. If counselee is not interested in progressing further, and is not humble to continue and receive further counsel, they are no longer a counselee and can't be bound to the counseling process. We can, in love, invite them to pray, and come back later if anything else comes up
    - iv. Counselees sometimes want the burden of responsibility to be on the counselor, in a "tell me what to do," fashion, without seeking the wisdom of the Word for themselves. Having received this, they split.
    - v. First few sessions should focus on data gathering, and building relationship, with the gospel, and largely without direct teaching.
    - vi. In Lafayette, Higbee spends a three hour session just asking questions. This builds trust, and is an efficient way to gather concentrated data. Keep digging!
    - vii. When the first session is over, and the counselee has spent the whole time talking about what is wrong, they MUST leave with hope. Give them the gospel. Give them Scripture. Give them the hope that is theirs in Christ

- viii. It is so challenging to not jump on issues right as they come up, but it is often more effective to allow the Word to reveal it to them on their own.
- b. Any resources on panic attacks?
  - i. Jay Adams pamphlet on fear
  - ii. Dave will dig up an excellent resource he has found, and post it on the EIBCC website (eibcc.org)
- 3. Future Topics and Trainings:
  - a. How do you make biblical counseling a part of the DNA of the church?
  - b. How do we counsel unbelievers, specifically how to counsel a marriage in which one spouse is a believer and the other is not?
  - c. How do we approach gender issues
  - d. How do we self-counsel with Scripture and care for our own hearts with Scripture?
  - e. How do we counsel abuse in the church? How do we counsel domestic abuse, sexual abuse, etc?
  - f. Crisis counseling from Harvest
  - g. How to work with the governing authorities to seek the welfare of the city?
  - h. Homosexuality specifically.
  - i. How to welcome and work with sexual offenders in the church
  - j. Biblical Counseling and the world of psychology/integrationism: what can we learn, and what do we reject?

#### V. Closing Prayer

***Next Meeting: November 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 at Kava House.***