



NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

To know Christ and make Him known

Summer 2008

Journey of Faith

Dick and Vera Bruner are proud parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who currently live out their life of faith in Norfolk, Nebraska. During a recent visit with Dick and Vera, nuggets of wisdom were mined from their life of service and devotion to God.

We began talking about times in life when their faith was stretched. Vera remembered “when President Harold

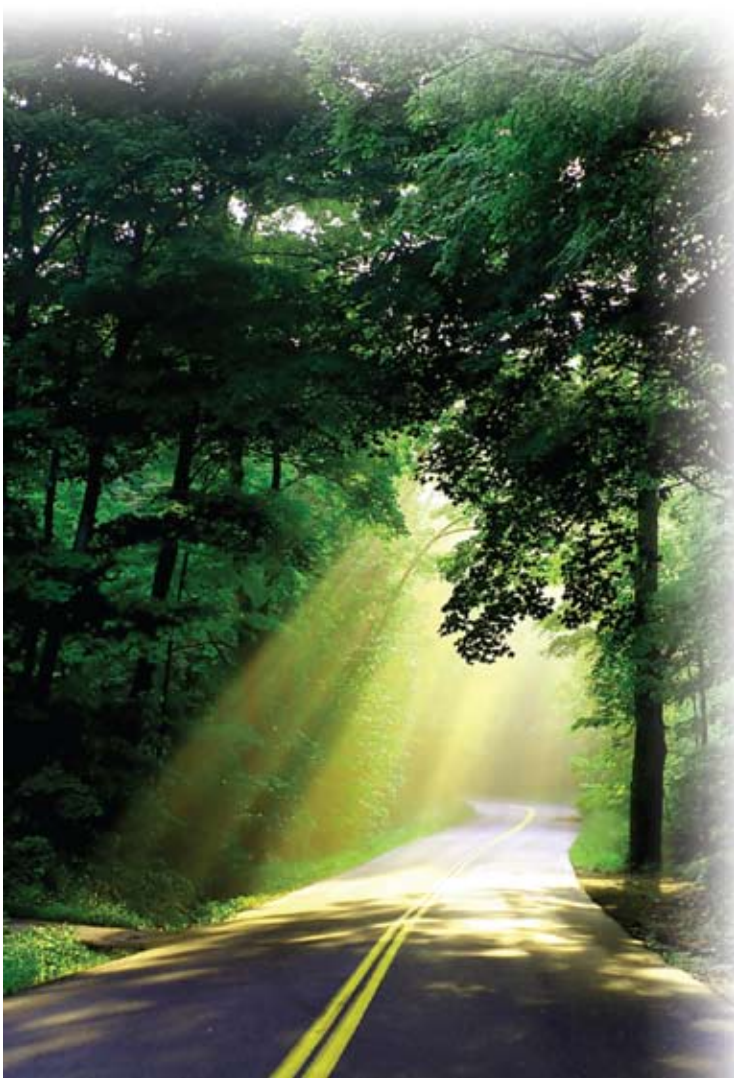
Milliken first mentioned to Dick the idea of going to Bible College ... it scared me and brought turmoil to my soul. I had to examine myself to see if I would be the kind of preacher’s wife I should be.”

It was several years before Dick would attend Nebraska Christian College. But when Dick and Vera decided to go for it on faith, God threw open the doors. Dick was able to sell two apartment buildings and a business within weeks – and they weren’t even advertised. They moved to Norfolk in 1962, and Dick graduated in 1966. He served in churches in Sioux City, IA; Unionville, MO; and Columbia, MO. After Columbia he became the Development Director at NCC. “Now that I am in business again, my life has taken a complete circle and I have loved every part of it!” Dick stated.

“My greatest joy has been serving the Lord by serving people,” remarked Vera. “Early in my life I would say ‘I can’t do that God’, but it has been a God thing to walk through life learning how to teach others, give devotions and even lead ministries. He directed my every step. There are a lot of joys when you are doing the Lord’s work.”

Vera further reflected, “There was a minister by the name of Albert Delbridge who taught us early in our marriage to be faithful in giving. He simply asked ‘has anyone ever taught you about the blessings of giving?’ To this day we still re-evaluate our giving every year. We talk about stretching ourselves. We don’t concern ourselves with how much we make but rather how much we

cont. on page 2



IN THIS ISSUE

MAGNIFI-SENT 3
President Milliken addresses faithfulness

SOMEWHERE ALONG
THE WAY - David Haynes reflects on
God’s faithfulness 4

JACK COTTRELL TO SPEAK 5

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 6

Journey of Faith – cont. from front

can give. All in all it has just been fun to see how God will bless us more than we could ever expect.”

Dick said, “Our desire is to continue to bless others with the resources God has given us even after we die. That is one reason why we believe so much in estate planning. We have really appreciated the heart and ministry of Financial Planning Ministries. The living trust we put together has cost us nothing and will enable us to avoid paying high estate taxes and therefore give more to our family, our church, Nebraska Christian College and other ministries.”

Realizing that a strong work ethic has driven them to use the gifts and abilities God has given them to serve others; I asked, “How do you keep your faith growing?”

Vera quickly responded, “I teach women on Tuesday mornings. When I started with this group, I didn’t know if it was going to work because they didn’t really know much about the Bible, but what a joy it has been to see their growth.”



“The key to growing in your faith is to get involved with your church,” Dick said. “That helped us more than anything. If you don’t get involved, you are just a spectator your whole life.”

“Life is a progression, and I wish I had the same stamina I had when I was younger,” Vera remarked.

“I used to say yes to 100 things at once, but now I

have to say no and I don’t really like that. God is teaching me something, but I am not sure if I have learned it yet!”

As we wrapped up, I wanted know if they had any advice for those who are retired. “Keep going!” Dick said. “Ministry is different each year, but it never stops. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Rev. 2:10)

I had the sense that I was hearing God whisper a bit of ageless wisdom in my ear. The Christian life is not a sprint but a marathon. We don’t strive for perfection and hope to attain it in this life. We abandon ourselves to God and seek progress in humility, service, surrender and of course, faith.

- article by Jon Hanson

Avoid probate
Maximum privacy
Reduce estate taxes
Difficult to contest
Name guardians
Peace of mind

Living Trust

Financial Planning Ministry

Nebraska Christian College is pleased to be a partner with Financial Planning Ministry (FPM), an organization that has done hundreds of seminars on estate planning in our churches and helped thousands of families avoid the difficulties and unpleasantness of probate. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about how to better invest and protect your money, join NCC for one of the following seminars.

September 18th @ 10:00 a.m.

Area Minister’s Meeting

Third City Christian Church, Grand Island, NE

September 18th @ 7:00 p.m.

McCook Christian Church, McCook, NE

September 20th @ 7:00 p.m.

Christian Church, Blair, NE

September 21st @ 10:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

First Christian Church, Norfolk, NE

Magnifi-SENT

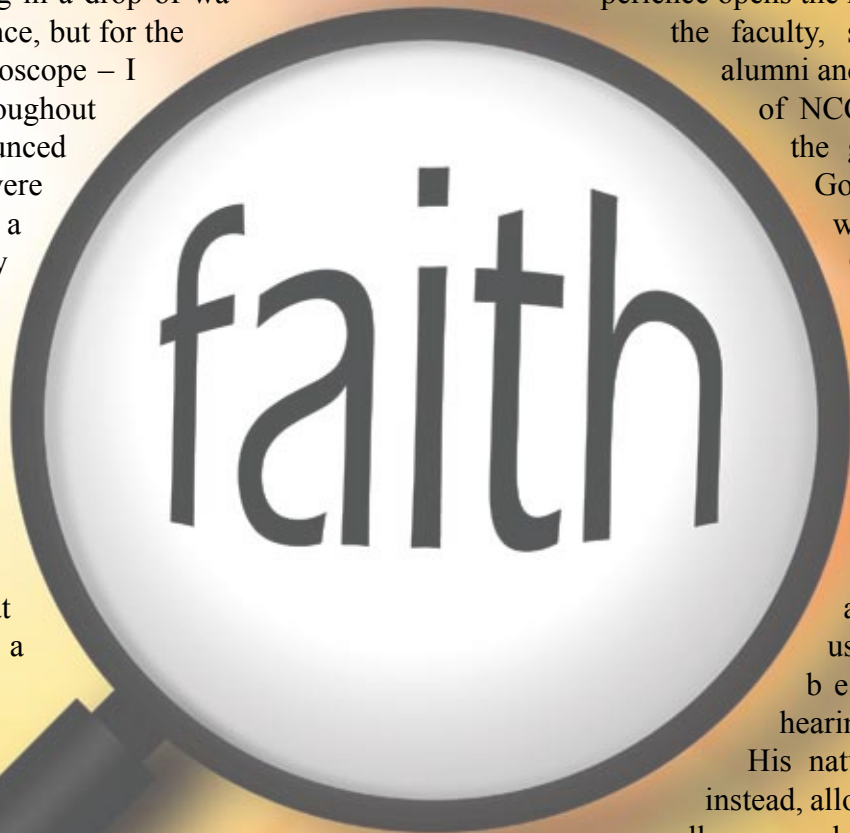
I remember my first glimpse through an elementary school microscope – the instrument revealed hundreds of small creatures swimming in a drop of water! I had heard about their existence, but for the first time – with the aid of a microscope – I saw them with my own eyes. Throughout the classroom, exclamations announced that other members of my class were also witnessing this new world. As a result of science class that day, my mind began to marvel at a world that I never knew existed.

I invite you to embark on a similar journey. With the aid of God's word and the testimony of God's people, the NCC family is commencing on a journey to MAGNIFY the character, the nature, and the work of God. What would happen if our hearts caught a glimpse of His glory, faithfulness, love, righteousness, truth, grace, compassion, judgment, sacrifice and power? Will it be possible for us to remain the same? No!

Since I believe that

“God rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6), I boldly pray that a similar “Aha!” experience opens the minds of

the faculty, students, alumni and friends of NCC to see the glory of God in His word, His Church, and His Mission.



If magnifying God allows us to go beyond hearing of His nature, and instead, allows us to really see and know it

for ourselves (Job. 42:5), then the world could not hold back our courageous testimony of His glory.

I have coined a phrase that describes the action of those who have beheld God's glory and now are compelled to reflect His glory to others. The word is “Magnifi-sent”. Does this term describe you? I pray that this issue of the NCC News will prompt you to be FAITHFUL in helping NCC prepare this generation of students to seek and share the majesty of God.

O Magnify the Lord with me! Ps. 34:3

- article by Richard D. Milliken, Col. 1:28, 29

Somewhere...

Along the Way

If you know much about my life growing up - my background, my broken family- you would not have given me much of a chance. For reasons known only to God, He put His hand on my life. Throughout my 67 years of life and 47 years of ministry, God has been so faithful to me.

Years ago, I listened to a message and was taken with its theme. The sermon's big idea was that our God has a way of supplying the power we need somewhere along the way. We start off in obedience and He, somewhere between where we are and where we need to be, supplies everything we need. As I reflected on the message, I realized I had been living that way for a long time.

Remember when the Israelites were trapped between the Red Sea and the angry Egyptian army? What did God tell His people to do? "Stand still and move toward the Sea!" And what happened when they did? God supplied His power! Later the Israelites would need to cross the flood-swollen Jordan. What would they do? The priests were told by God to take the Ark of the Covenant and hit the water. And what happened when they did? God supplied His power! Look at the miracle of Jesus in changing water to wine. The steward was told, "Fill the jar with water and take it to the master of the feast." And what happened when he did? God supplied His power! When did the change occur? Somewhere along the way!

I have experienced the same reality. God has supplied his power through 45 years of marriage, being the first minister of three new congregations, and now teaching at NCC. I have learned the benefit of total dependency and trust in a faithful God. I always walked from the pew to the pulpit because I believed God would give me what I needed somewhere in those few steps. I walk from my office now to stand before the next generation of servant leaders for the church because I'm still trusting God to be faithful to supply His power somewhere along the way!

My father left when I was five years old. When I became a Christian I began to reach out to him. After 20 years of praying, I went to his home after he had been diagnosed with a brain tumor. The next morning we were to go to the hospital for surgery. As he sat in his favorite chair, I took my Bible, knelt beside him and began to talk



about the claims of Christ on his eternal soul. The next 45 minutes were some of the most wonderful of my whole life. I taught, my father listened. I asked him if he would like to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. He said that he was not quite ready. I thanked him for the marvelous privilege of sharing with him the most important things in my life. He thanked me, we said good night and went to bed.

I was awakened the next morning by my sobbing father. He was not scared about what the morning might bring at the hospital. He told me he wanted to accept Jesus as his Savior, and he wanted to be baptized! Somewhere between the shore of the Red Sea and the Jordan River... somewhere between the jars of water and the wine taster... somewhere between a very dependant minister and a lost father... God supplies His power along the way! He always has and He always will!

- article by David Haynes

Jack Cottrell to Speak at Dunning Lectures

Nebraska Christian College is pleased to announce Dr. Jack W. Cottrell will speak at the annual Guy B. Dunning Lectures October 1 - 3, 2008.

The public is invited to hear Dr. Cottrell on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. at Calvary Christian Church in Bellevue and also three sessions on Friday, Oct. 3 from 8:15 - 11:45 a.m. at Wildewood Christian Church in Papillion. Each session will include lecture, with a time at the end for questions and answers.

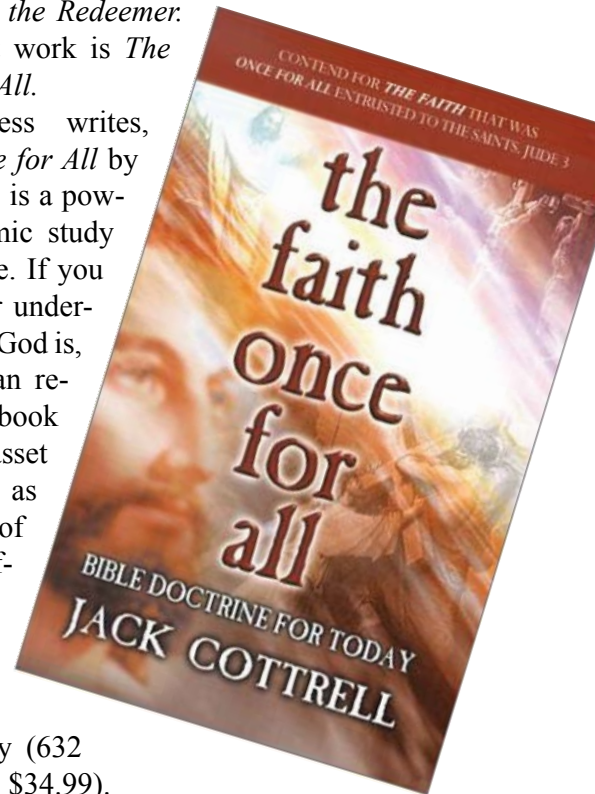
Dr. Cottrell has been a professor of theology at Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary since 1967. He earned his bachelor of arts and bachelor of theology degrees from Cincinnati, a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Cincinnati, his master of divinity degree from Westminster Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary.

He is a renowned scholar who has published many notable works, including *Romans in the College Press NIV Commentary Series*, *Baptism: A Biblical Study*, and *Faith's Fundamentals: Seven Essentials of Christian*

Belief. Another significant academic contribution is his What the Bible Says series, which includes *What the Bible Says about God the Ruler*, *What the Bible Says about God the Creator*, and *What the Bible Says about God the Redeemer*. His most recent work is *The Faith Once For All*.

College Press writes, "The Faith Once for All by Dr. Jack Cottrell is a powerful and dynamic study of Bible doctrine. If you long for a better understanding of who God is, and how you can relate to Him, this book is a valuable asset that will serve as the cornerstone of your biblical reference library."

It is available from College Press Publishing Company (632 pages, hardback, \$34.99).



THIRST

Turning Point 2008
November 14 - 15
9th - 12 Graders



Dave Erickson - Senior Pastor at First Christian Church in Council Bluffs, IA, and adjunct professor at NCC. Dave will challenge you to go deeper in your walk with God and quench your thirst for meaning through His Word.



New to Turning Point, **Team WordPlay** is a Christ centered comedy team coming from Los Angeles, CA, entertaining us with their humor and challenging us by their message.

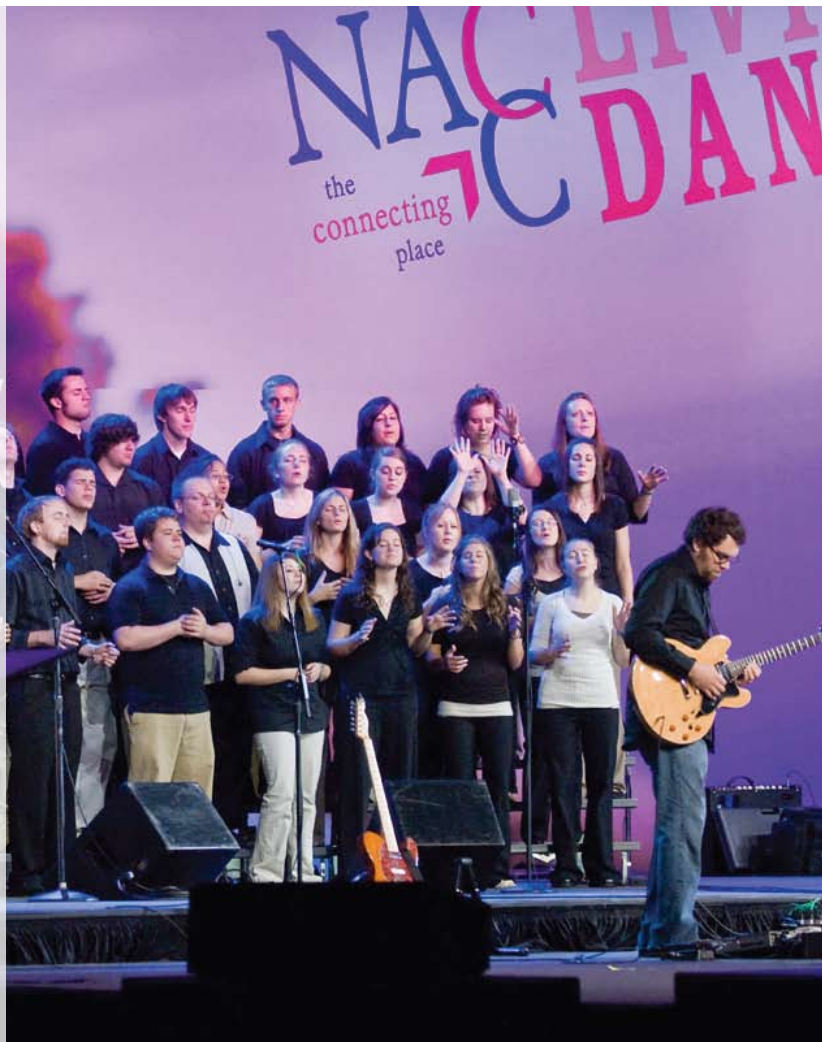


Nebraska Christian College was all the buzz at this year's North American Christian Convention!

NCC's Choir blew people away with the quality and intensity of their music. The Choir sang people into each main session, and shared the worship leading responsibilities in Friday's main session with the NACC worship team, which received rave reviews.

In the exhibit area, kids stood in line to try and pull themselves up our 30 foot climbing wall, while the less adventuresome rested on our couches and downed an ice-cold NCC bottled water. Seventy-five alumni and friends attended the NCC reception and were updated on the college's progress.

Nebraska Christian College is making a splash, making friends and making a difference wherever we go. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.



NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
PRESENTS

Colors of Christmas

Featuring Grammy and Dove Award Winning: *Take 6* and the NCC Gospel Choir

December 5 & 6, 2008
Omaha Music Hall

www.ticketmaster.com

NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
HOMECOMING
connection • reflection • revelation

October 10-11, 2008
More information at nechristian.edu



SAVE THE DATE



- September 6** - President's Circle Breakfast
- September 22-26** - Mission Emphasis Week
- October 1-3** - Dunning Lectures with Dr. Jack Cottrell
- October 10-11** - Homecoming for all NCC Alumni
- October 13-17** - Intensive Modular Classes
- October 18** - Small Church Conference
- November 14-15** - Turning Point
- November 20-23** - National Missionary Convention
Tulsa, OK
- December 5-6** - Colors of Christmas
Take 6 and NCC Gospel Choir
- December 8-12** - Final exams/semester ends
- January 9** - Spring Semester Student Registration
- January 12** - Spring Semester Begins
- January 30-31** - GORF w/Iowa-Nebraska Convention

NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE 2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Clark Bates
McCook, Nebraska

Mrs. Susan Brown
Lincoln, Nebraska

Mrs. Jennifer Carlson
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Mrs. Christine Clausen
Carson, Iowa

Mr. Ken Cooper
Westminster, Colorado

Mrs. Mary Beth Fast
Elliott, Iowa

Mr. Roger Fletcher
Lincoln, Nebraska

Mr. Ed Hackel
Ord, Nebraska

Mr. Kerry Jech
Marshalltown, Iowa

Mr. Virg Marshall
Wymore, Nebraska

Mr. Ralph Mehrens
Bellevue, Nebraska

Mr. Wayne Moorhead
Edgar, Nebraska

Mr. Steve Smith
Norfolk, Nebraska

Mr. Lyle Von Spreckelsen
Clay Center, Nebraska

Mr. Paul Wickenkamp
Holyoke, Colorado

Mr. John Woodward
Ames, Iowa

NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

The mission of Nebraska Christian College is to bring glory to God through the ministry of educating people at the undergraduate level for His work. The school seeks to prepare workers who will know the Christ revealed in the Bible and be able to present Him to their contemporaries. For more information about NCC, please call 402-935-9400 or visit our website at www.nechristian.edu.



To know Christ and make Him known



NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

12550 South 114th Street
Papillion, NE 68046
402.935.9400
www.nechristian.edu

To know Christ and make Him known



YOUR MINISTRY MATTERS

2008 CONFERENCE

NCC is hosting the *Your Ministry Matters* conference designed to help energize the small church. Join us for a day that truly matters!

October 18, 2008
Wildewood Christian Church



www.esccnetwork.org

For more information or to register online, go to www.nechristian.edu under the events calendar.