



NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

To know Christ and make Him known

Summer 2009

IMPACT

Nebraska Christian College seeks to equip

students to impact the world

by being able to think biblically,

communicate clearly,

lead courageously

and love compassionately.

Measuring the Impact

The reality of today's economic climate is forcing everyone to ask strategic questions about how to maximize resources in an effort to produce the highest possible impact. It is what my parent's generation called "getting a good bang for your buck." Today we may be more familiar with the acronym ROI – Return On Investment. (If you have opened up your 401-K statement lately, chances are you are less than satisfied with your ROI.)

Whatever term we may prefer, we often examine a variety of aspects of life through the lens of impact. We want to be satisfied that the investment we are making (be it financial, relational, spiritual, emotional, etc.) results in the positive impact we desire. If a particular strategy produces positive impact we continue (and often increase) the investment. If it fails to produce a positive impact we change our investment strategy.

Your receipt of this newsletter demonstrates that you have made some type of investment in the mission of Nebraska Christian College. As a member of the college community and a stakeholder in the college mission you are probably wondering, "is my investment producing a measurable impact?"

There are many different formulas that can be used for measuring impact. One ingredient that is essential to any good formula is the right set of key indicators. Key indicators are those things used to measure effectiveness or success. Early in 2008 the college leadership began the process of refining our strategy in order to produce the highest possible impact. The result was a new set of key indicators used to measure how effective and successful we are at living out our mission. We believe we are succeeding in our mission when we produce graduates who:

- Think Biblically
- Communicate Clearly
- Lead Courageously
- Love Compassionately

The purpose of this newsletter is to report to you, our stakeholders, the findings we have gathered. Told to you through the stories, testimonies, and pictures of our current students, most recent graduates, and faithful alumni, we hope this report helps you see the positive impact Nebraska Christian College is having around the globe for the cause of Christ.

The current promotional campaign for FOX news is, "we report, you decide." Well, here is our report on the impact your investment is making. Our hope is that this snapshot of biblically thinking, courageous leaders whose compassionate love enables them to clearly communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ helps you decide that the strategy is effective, we are succeeding in our mission, and there is no more important investment you can make.



~ David Huskey, Chief Student Officer and Director of Admissions

We believe we are succeeding in our mission when we produce graduates who:

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current impact

As a result of Nebraska Christian College's move to Omaha, NCC students have a greater opportunity to be involved in various community ministries year-round. Ministries that students are involved with include the Open Door Mission, Prison Ministry, and the Hope Center.

NCC students lead the chapel service at the Open Door Rescue Mission monthly. The prison ministry team leads Bible studies and worship services monthly at two local facilities: the maximum security prison for 15 to 18 year-old males, and the Omaha Correctional Center. This past January, a group of students became involved at the Hope Center, located in North Omaha, which provides an afterschool program for low-income children. Groups of students also minister in other areas, such as afterschool programs in area churches, and a ministry with the homeless in downtown Omaha. NCC students have the opportunity to share Christ and develop relationships in each of these ministry opportunities.

~ Dr. Dan Cravatt, Director of Mentored Ministry and Athletics

The students' ministry to the homeless in downtown Omaha really picked up this past semester. It went from a group of two or three individuals to a group which averaged eight. This group has meant a lot to me and to the other individuals in it. For me personally it has been one of the best things that I could have done. I was at a point of "spiritual laziness." I thought that going to Bible College was enough. But when I stepped back and took a look at my life, I realized that I wasn't doing anything that I did not have to do. Being a part of this ministry every week had a snowball effect on me. Once the ball got rolling, I just ran with it and began to do other volunteer work.

The homeless ministry at first was very hard for me. Engaging these individuals in conversation was extremely difficult. We got discouraged because we never saw any immediate results. We quickly learned that we just needed to give it up to God, and just let Him move us and talk through us. In fact, a lot of times there were no words spoken, just actions.

Participating in the homeless ministry has greatly influenced me and

made me have a servant's heart. I was reluctant to go with this group at first. When I finally went along, I was hooked. Whenever we can get a group together this summer

we go downtown, and I know this is something that will continue through next school year as well. I'm excited to see what God does through the actions of this group of young men, and I'm also excited to see this group of young men mature in Christ.

~ Tye Dabney, Student

I'm a woman. So how can I make a difference in a man's life?" I posed this question as my initial response to Prison Ministry. I could not comprehend how I, a young woman, could help encourage men in prison in their walk with Christ. Wouldn't I be seen as more of a stumbling block?

In my sophomore year I decided I wouldn't let the world hold me back from ministry. I joined the prison ministry team and later experienced my first worship service with the guys on Monday night. As I exited the Omaha Correctional Facility doors that night, I left a

changed woman. In fact, every night I walk out of those doors I feel changed: each time I am rejuvenated and filled with a new hope.

Worshiping with the men at OCC has demonstrated to me God's true grace and mercy. A few of the men at OCC are some of the godliest people I have ever met. They have respected me and loved me as a sister in Christ, and look after me when other non-Christian inmates are around.

In the end, I have been blessed abundantly by their love for God and their passion to learn more about Him. These men live in a harsh environment where to live as Christ is a battle on the frontlines each day. Some will never see life again outside those barbwire-fenced walls, yet they still decide to live as salt and light. I count myself blessed to be able to know and worship the Lord with these men. They truly know the cost of sacrifice.

~ Lauren Barr, Student



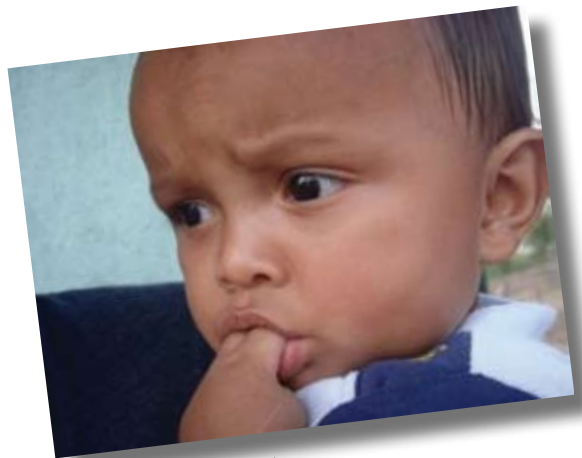
Impact Our World

w e e k o f m i n i s t r y

While in Honduras, I was able to see God's love make transformations in young and old hearts. There was a precious little boy named Ezekiel whose eyes seemed filled with sorrow. In the time he spent with us, I was determined to see a smile illuminate his precious little face and see the stars dance in his deep brown eyes. I do not speak much Spanish, which is okay because neither did he. He was only about 18 months old. Without words, I showed him God's love, and on Sunday a smile did light up his face, and I saw God's love shining from him.

At our Women's retreat, we were able to minister to cold and distant hearts. These women work hard, and they do not get much respect from others. One woman shared how she knew her husband was with other women while she was away, and you could feel the hurt she was experiencing. As she talked about the love of our Redeemer, she spoke of hope and love that God had given. What faith, what great love we are given. If you are not currently passionately pursuing the Lover of your soul, start now. He doesn't just shine His love in Honduras, He is shining it everywhere. All we are required to do is receive it and reveal it to others.

- Suzanna Schweitzer, Honduras group



Our Week of Ministry trip to Salt Lake City, Utah was one of those trips that is almost difficult to describe with words. It was a humbling experience to serve those in the city who needed help. It was a challenging intellectual experience when we spoke with members of the Latter Day Saint Church, and it was most definitely a spiritual awakening when we were forced to confront the reason for our faith as Christians.

The week in Salt Lake taught me, in a very real and upfront way, how much more we must rely upon God and His strength to get us through every moment of our lives, not just the difficult times. I learned that love is much more than a word, but it should be an every day attitude that manifests itself into an all-encompassing lifestyle, and I learned that without love, nothing is possible. I was profoundly impacted and changed by the experiences we had on our Week of Ministry trip, and I know that God will continue to do amazing things in the city of Salt Lake and the state of Utah!

- Nicole Ricley, Salt Lake City group



Where does one turn when all hope is gone? I believe God answered this question during Week of Ministry this year.

My WOM group stayed in the Omaha area to help one family in need. This family consisted of a mom, a dad, and eleven children, six of whom were adopted when their mother passed away. Overwhelmed with clothes and toys, due to the addition of six children to the house, the family lived in desperate need of help with organization. Of course, in that instance thirty-some college students come in handy.

Over the week our WOM group cleaned out and organized the entire house, garage, and basement. One group hung out and loved on the eleven children, ranging from ages two to twelve. Other groups put up a fence, did landscaping, and remodeled the two children's rooms.

Through all of the stress, bad weather, and long days, God was able to answer this family's prayer. He gave them hope for a better future when all hope was lost. He also blessed NCC with a new, treasured relationship. A relationship with a family that we hope lasts for a very long time.

- Lauren Barr, Omaha group



Lasting IMPACT

Alumni share how NCC equipped them to impact their world.

When I was studying Pastoral Ministries at NCC I had little idea that I would end up in a doctoral program in Southwest Ohio. Ten years after graduating from NCC, with a career focused in Christian higher education and church ministry, it is evident that my time at NCC was preparing me for this from the start. I credit professors like Mark Huddleston and Chuck McCoy for introducing me to serious Christian thought and academics in the classroom, but also for mentoring me through the many extra-curricular activities that they were involved in.



NCC not only provided formal classes in theology and ministry training for me, but it transformed the entire Mid-western United States into a ministry training class. I have had firsthand experience with other Christian schools with more students and greater financial resources but have still never encountered a school that empowers students to do ministry from the beginning like Nebraska Christian College. By allowing me to be involved in music groups, camp teams and events on campus NCC exposed me to a variety of ministry areas and leadership opportunities. By the time I graduated I had the experience and confidence to pursue ministry in the 'real world.'

~ Donovan Weber

PhD Candidate in Educational Leadership at Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Nebraska Christian College has been the catalyst of our lives together. We met and fell in love there over 27 years ago! Duane was a senior and head of the Spiritual Life Committee when I met him. Although a pastoral ministries major, his passion was for missions... something his professor, Sandy Sandell instilled in him. He couldn't wait to graduate NCC and fly off to Alaska to work with Natives. I (Susie) wanted to show young people the love and acceptance of Christ. The classes I took under Mrs. Swedburg have helped me to work with children and youth for the past 23 years.



The one message NCC taught us that we will never forget is to be a light to a darkened world. Today we work with Native Americans on the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Our ministry is modeled after Jesus himself...to meet the physical as well as spiritual needs of the Apache people. We are trying to be all things to all people so that by all means we might win some to Christ. Everything we learned at NCC is constantly put into practice in very real ways! We feel so fortunate to have attended a Christian college, something most Native young people will never know. Thank you Nebraska Christian College for helping to mold us into the Christ followers we are today!

~ Duane and Susie (Bruckner) Syx
First Nations Ministries

By far, one of the strongest movements of God in my life was when He directed me to move from California to Norfolk, NE in 1984, to attend Nebraska Christian College. I didn't know it then, but I can see now that was the turning point of my life.

My experiences at NCC were vast and memorable. Meeting some great friends in the student body as well as the faculty has had a huge influence on my life and the decisions I've made. To this day, I keep in touch with a few guys that have impacted my life and are still such a source of encouragement to me! I also appreciated the quality of education I received and the experiences in music and sports.

Attending NCC helped me get a new start on my life as God gently moved me towards a life focused on spiritual maturity and full-time ministry. I'm so grateful to NCC that I had a safe place to grow in my independence. Today, it still brings me joy to see young people being equipped through their time at NCC.

~ Tommy and Jen (Haynes) White
Salt Lake City Team Leaders,
Impact Ministries, International



I think it's fair to say that when I arrived on the campus of NCC in the fall of 1977 (plaid bellbottoms and all), I was acutely aware that I was probably the most ignorant Bible student on the property! I suppose there was some modest advantage in knowing that, since it was fused to a great hunger to understand the Lord's heart. I had only fellowshipped with a Bible-teaching church for a short time before high school graduation, so NCC satisfied that hunger in a manner that perseveres to this day, even though I do not serve in full-time ministry. If you were raised in a family/church family that taught the scripture, you probably can't appreciate the shock and awe of being gently shown how to read God's mind for the first time!



Once my eyes were opened, there was no turning back. The Lord has used that nurturing to fuel joyful work in His Kingdom ever since. After serving the Wymore and Wayne churches, I returned to Iowa State University to pursue an Engineering degree in Aerospace (yeah, you always knew there was something seriously wrong with me). I accepted a job offer from Cessna Aircraft in Wichita, KS in 1992, and have spent the last 17

years designing and developing business jets as an Aerodynamicist. Rhonda and I have a strong relationship with Westlink Christian Church in missions, high school youth, music, teaching, pre-school, newcomer evangelism, and eldership. We're not always the last ones out the door after worship, but suffice it to say that God has given us experiences that have pushed us out of our safety zones.

~ Kenton Cleveland
Aerodynamicist, Cessna Aircraft

When I think about my time at NCC, first as a full time student from 1990-1992, then as a part-time student and full time staff member from 1992-1996, a lot of things come to mind and I can't help but smile. I think about classes like 'The Life of Christ' or 'Church History' with Chuck McCoy and how difficult they were, yet how frequently I have referred to them through the years. I think about the years I worked on campus, first for Pat Schrant as a work-study student, then full time in both the Music and Business offices from 1992 – 1996. I think about the many friendships created during that time, relationships that are still very much intact today.

Today, I live in St. Joseph, IL and work as a Business Manager at the Illinois Natural History Survey on the campus of the University of Illinois. I'm married to Adam and we have one son, Kabriel, who is eight-years-old. We are actively involved at First Christian Church, Champaign, IL. We are part of a small group, where Adam is a co-leader. I volunteer in the children's department working with sound, and we both assist with VBS.

My time at NCC was fun and exciting and brought about some great memories, but more importantly, it was a time that gave me the foundation needed to ground my faith in Christ. Because I understand His life and His history, it helps me to understand His grace and that makes a difference in my life every day.

~ Jen (Salts) Schuster
Business Manager, Illinois Natural History Survey



One of the basic longings of the human heart is to make a difference. Perhaps, one of the best ways that we can see the difference we are making is in the lives of people. When I was a student at NCC from 1987-1991 the community of NCC made a difference in my life. I learned how to study God's Word. I saw modeled to a greater



degree the value of graciousness and generosity. I was challenged in how to keep the message we preach and teach relevant. I saw the importance of learning outside the classroom, not just sitting at a desk. In the end, the difference that NCC made in my life was the people who invested in me and mentored me.

Now, in my role as VP for Academic Affairs at Mid-Atlantic Christian University, I try to practice the same as I invest in my current community. My passion is that students walk away with a greater capacity to study God's Word. I hope students and colleagues see in me someone who bestows grace and is abundantly generous.

I'm reminded of Paul's words to Timothy, "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (2 Tim 1:5). NCC made a difference in me; I'm making a difference in others (hopefully); and they in turn will continue the legacy.

~ Kevin W. Larsen, Ph.D.
VP for Academic Affairs
Professor of New Testament
Mid-Atlantic Christian University

I am proud to say that my life journey on the road to my calling included a very valuable stint at Nebraska Christian College from 1986 to 1991. The experiences and the professors at NCC taught me to think critically, and challenged me to see everything in a biblical perspective. Those things are crucial in developing and applying a Christian worldview to everyday life. Of all of the things I have learned in my life, two of the most valuable nuggets of truth I learned from professors at NCC. One nugget occurred in one of Dr. Cravatt's Christian education classes. Dr. Cravatt made the simple and yet meaningful statement one day that "Christian education has not occurred until there is a change in the behavior the learner. Other knowledge that a person learns does not always require a change. Christian education is different in this regard." This statement has helped shape not only my approach and philosophy about Christian education, but also about education in general – a field to which God has called me to contribute to vocationally. The other nugget occurred in one of Mr. Donley's theology classes. Again, it was a simple statement, yet made an indelible impression on my young mind. Mr. Donley said that God's word was more than a book to be learned. Rather, it contained the recipe – if studied, absorbed, and consistently applied – for



a life well-lived. It is the road map to successful living in accordance with God's plan.

Both of these nuggets, and countless others, helped shape me as a person and more importantly helped shape my worldview through which I see everything else around me. God used my experiences at NCC to prepare me for His purpose in education, both at a public school and at a higher education level. Currently, I serve as an assistant superintendent for a 21,000 student school district in the Kansas City suburbs, and also am an adjunct faculty at a major research university in the School of Education. I come into contact each and everyday with issues, problems and opportunities that cry out for answers and directions with a biblical worldview.

C.S. Lewis wrote that "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." When I look back on my experiences at 1800 Syracuse Avenue, I see Lewis' statement come to life. At NCC, I came, I learned and I grew. And it is because of what I learned at NCC that I am better able to see reality through a Christian worldview.

~ Dr. Mike Slagle
Assistant Superintendent; Kansas City school district
Adjunct Faculty; University of Kansas

NCC is the sole reason for where I am today. I arrived in Norfolk an undisciplined, immature teen and graduated a focused, passionate youth minister and Christian leader. The faculty and staff taught me the Scriptures and ministry skills, but more than anything revealed to me the eternal value of community, compassion and commitment to the Kingdom. They modeled love, patience and, for me, lots of grace!

Of course, NCC also introduced me to Patti (my wife), countless lifetime friends,



books, Nebraska football, Valentino's pizza, HyVee groceries, humidity and a continual thirst to learn. It was a great choice for which I'm forever grateful.

~ Dr. Rick Chromey
Professional Speaker; Writer; Ministry/Leadership Consultant and Online Professor

Earlier this summer I was reminded of how much impact NCC has had on my life and how much it has helped me impact my world. I was reunited with four former alumni of NCC - Tami Jeffrey, Cathi Wood and Tim and Susan Snyder. Twenty years ago we went to Africa to live with Bill and Verna Weber as summer interns from NCC.

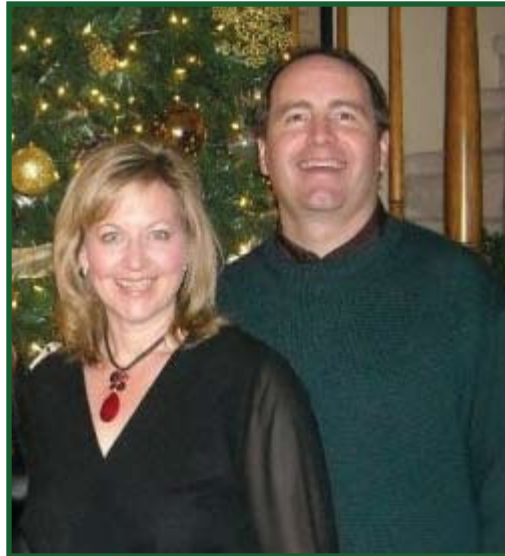
I reflected back on all the people and lives we were a part of just in those ten weeks overseas. I can see just in our families and what we are doing in our lives that NCC provided so much and we are just grasping the full impact of it all.

I can't go without thanking God for the friends, staff, and all the wonderful times I had at NCC.

~ Lavaaron Davis
Supervisor for a nonprofit organization;
Youth Specialist at children's emergency shelter



NCC gave me the confidence to be myself and encouraged me to find my God-given gifts. Bryan and I often talk about how it wasn't just the classes and all the studying that helped prepare us for ministry. It was also the many ways we were able to serve and minister through music, travel and teaching at camps and churches as representatives of the college on music teams, summer camp teams and weekend ministries. Mr. Burkum spent so much time training and teaching leadership and ministry through life experiences...and we thought we were just blessed to have fun singing, traveling and meeting new people. Thanks Mr. B!



NCC also provided an atmosphere of family. We developed so many great friendships. The kind where when we bump into each other it takes you right back to college days where we felt so comfortable around each other. Ministry for Bryan and I has been an adventure and every place we have served has both encouraged and challenged us. God's people are great! NCC gave us a positive beginning to experience Kingdom work.

~ Diane (Henden) Myers
Para-educator

I am so grateful for the experience I had at Nebraska Christian College. God used the college to help prepare me spiritually and educationally for the work of the ministry. I attended NCC from 1980 to 1984 and when my wife Diane and I think about our time at Nebraska Christian College it brings back some of the best memories of our lives. The friendships we made have lasted a lifetime. The education we received has equipped us for service and ministry in the Kingdom. The experiences we enjoyed helped to shape our lives so that the church has always been something we have been blessed to be a part of. We are currently serving at Academy Christian Church in Colorado Springs.

For our 20+ years of ministry to date, some of which have been in small rural communities and others in larger urban cities, NCC was able to equip us to serve God wherever He sent us. The smaller student body allowed us to get to know the professors personally and their experience and expertise gave us the skills we have needed to not only survive but thrive in the churches we have been blessed to lead. That's why when I was asked to serve as a college trustee I gladly accepted the opportunity to be a part of this next chapter in the life of Nebraska Christian College. I believe there is no greater responsibility for the future of the Kingdom than to prepare the next generation of leaders to know Christ and make Him known.

~ Bryan Myers
Minister, Academy Christian Church, Colorado Springs

A few months ago I had to teach the famous Frost poem about the two roads ("I picked the road less travelled on, and that has made all the difference") to some ninth graders in India. To help them understand and apply the message of the poem to their lives I gave them some examples of big decisions that have made all the difference in my own life. Choosing NCC was the first of those decisions - and one I'm so glad I made.

I went to NCC and Wayne State from 1987-1993. I started out in the co-op program- Biblical Studies and Special Education, but during my first semester I began to feel a pull toward missions and added that as a second major. I'm so thankful for the faculty and staff of NCC who influenced me not only with their teaching, but with the character they modeled and the love they shared with all of us in the time of life when we were trying to figure out who we were and what God had in mind for our lives. The informal mentoring and discipleship I received during those years was probably the most valuable part of my education.

After graduation I taught missionary kids in Kenya for a couple of years and then went to a country in Southeast Asia, which became my home, from 1997 to 2007. There I taught English in a Christian school and ministered to an unreached neighborhood mainly through lessons and Bible stories in my home. I became part of a great church family there and that congregation sent me on to Bihar, India, where I have been working with an Indian mission, teaching in one of their schools and helping in a children's hostel. I have felt lead to Nepal, and plan, Lord willing, to move to Kathmandu next year. My experience teaching in developing countries has given me an ever-deepening passion for three things: (1) The Gospel of Jesus, which is truly the power of salvation - how I love to see someone's eyes light up when they hear and believe! (2) Justice in Education- all children deserve the right to a quality education that will empower them to use the minds God gave them for all He intended them to be, do and give. (3) Prayer - nothing happens without it and anything can happen with it!

I visited the new NCC campus when I was last in the US two years ago, and it was so exciting to listen to the students talk about the call on their lives, and to see how the faculty and staff - the few who have been around since my time and the many new - are still modeling Christ-like character and sharing His love in a way that I know is impacting these young people for life. As I keep in touch with friends I went to college with, I've noticed that in all the different directions our lives have taken since those days, we all have made the mission of the college our life mission - To know Christ and to make Him known. That's still what it's all about! May the next generation continue to do so with even greater passion as the time of His appearing draws near!



~ Michele Zintz
Missionary, India

Impact the Future



2009



Our 2009 graduates are getting ready to make an impact on the world! The investment impact that Nebraska Christian College has made on these 32 students will continue to grow in them as they step into new leadership roles. The ministry opportunities and Bible knowledge they've received while at our institution will carry them through many challenging but worthwhile experiences. The graduates are each pursuing a variety of ministry opportunities in a variety of places. Here is a glimpse at the ways they are seeking to impact others:

- 10 of our graduates are pursuing ministries and careers in which they will directly impact children in either a church or school setting.
- 9 graduating students are continuing to pursue further education in a variety of areas, in an effort to be better equipped to serve the Lord.
- 3 of our graduates are planning to travel overseas in the near future to make an impact for the Lord in foreign lands.
- 7 graduating students have been called into youth and student ministry positions in the local church.
- 3 of our graduates have been called into preaching and adult ministries in the local church.
- 5 graduating students are pursuing careers and ministry in the counseling field.
- Every student is preparing to use the gifts and tools God has given them to make an impact on those around them.

We are excited at the possibilities awaiting our graduates as they continue to grow and use their experiences and knowledge gained at NCC for Kingdom work! We know that they will seek to impact others just as they've been impacted. It's amazing to see how God has equipped each one for His purpose. Be in prayer with us for these graduates as they spread out to make an impact.

- Cari Christian, Student Services



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

To know Christ and make Him known

turning point 09

THE CALL



november 6-7
stonebridge christian church
www.nechristian.edu

Dunning Lectures

Dr. Robert Kurka, Professor of Theology and Church in Culture from Lincoln Christian Seminary will be speaking on Biblical Worldview. He will be speaking in classes on October 8. On Friday morning, October 9, the lectures will be held at Wildewood Christian Church. Friends and alumni of the college are invited. He will be speaking at

8:15, 9:30 and
10:45 in the areas of theology and culture, understood through biblical worldview thinking.

