



NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

To know Christ and make Him known

Spring 2009

The Next Chapter

As in any great book, you can hardly wait to turn the next page ... to see what happens next to the characters to realize the next adventure.

So it is with Nebraska Christian College.

NCC is entering its Next Chapter with great momentum and anticipation. With the successful relocation to the Omaha metro area, God is blessing NCC's courageous vision. The excitement can be felt on campus. There are new and exciting programs, classes and plans as we look to the future for this school and the Christian leaders being trained.

Let the following pages serve as the beginning to this great novel, the story God is writing about Nebraska Christian College. Not only will you understand the current excitement and anticipation, but you will feel the need to continue the work that God has begun here.

It truly is a great story, the story of Nebraska Christian College. And the Next Chapter has only just begun!



chapter one

A Proud History

Nebraska Christian College has carried out its unique biblical and educational mandate for 64 years. The school has employed different faculties and ever-improving facilities but with one constant mission: to train a consecrated and qualified ministry to the churches.

Let's look back on the story.

In the 1930's Guy and Anna Dunning moved to Nebraska with their young family to build up the churches. After settling in the Elkhorn Valley they soon became concerned about the many churches that had no pastor, as well as the many communities with no Restoration Movement congregation. Guy and Anna worked to resolve this by using revivals and multiple ministries to build the church across the Cornhusker state.

In 1944 Guy and fifteen other concerned Christian leaders met in Wymore, Nebraska to deal with the critical shortage of Christian ministers for the Nebraska and Iowa churches. They moved by faith to establish Nebraska Christian College for "the teaching and training of gospel preachers who will be true to Christ and the Bible" and to equip "other young people who desire . . . to be better Christians, and to . . . render more and better service to Christ and their church."

In 1945 the college board elected Guy B. Dunning as the school's first president, and that fall classes began in a converted apartment house with 26 students and four faculty members. That one building housed offices, chapel, and classrooms! A large remodeled home across the corner of 10th Street and Park Avenue provided dormitory space for women and a cafeteria.

By 1957 the student enrollment had swelled to 80, taxing the limits of the 909 Park Avenue building. A capital funds campaign began that year which resulted in a new facility across the street at 910 Park Avenue in 1959. The six classrooms, library, cafeteria, and administrative offices provided the school much needed room to grow. Though the student body had shrunk to 58 by this time, the new facilities soon attracted an influx of new students.



Bob Milliken



Students at NCC have learned to spread the word and work of God to the world since 1945.

Further growth necessitated the visionary purchase of 85 acres of agricultural land at the northwest edge of the city. Students moved into the 106-student capacity dormitory at 1800 Syracuse in the fall of 1969 while taking a bus to the downtown classroom building. Classrooms, a gymnasium and music center, and administrative

Nebraska Christian College's one constant mission: to train a consecrated and qualified ministry to the churches

buildings filled out the Syracuse campus over the next few years as enrollment swelled to an average of 160-180.

With the Norfolk campus aging and in need of repair, the need to move closer to the growing churches in the Omaha and Lincoln vicinity, and the opportunity to serve nearly four times as many smaller churches in the Nebraska-Iowa region, the NCC board made a strategic move. In 2006 the school moved to its present 80-acre-location southwest of Papillion. The move brings NCC closer to more of its constituent churches and allows it to develop ministry and internship opportunities not available at the Norfolk location.

~ article by Bob Milliken, Associate Professor of Christian Thought & Humanities

Laverne Marshall~ A Living History

Laverne Marshall is 98 years old and still lives in Wymore, Nebraska. Much of the initial planning for Nebraska Christian College took place in 1944 in her husband's office and in their home in Wymore. We are grateful to Laverne for sharing some of her memories of NCC's First Chapter

The men (Guy B. Dunning, Virgil Marshall Sr., Harland Taylor and Joe Contois) gathered at Virgil's office and did their planning. The ladies came to our house and visited while the children played. Since there was no place in Wymore to eat, I fixed lunch at our house, which suited my husband just fine. I don't know why they always wanted to meet at our place, but I'm glad they did. We enjoyed each other and got together a lot of times through the years; usually on holidays.

There was a lot of excitement. It seemed like every time those men got together the topic of starting a Bible college would come up. It was usually Guy Dunning who would first mention it, but then they would all get to talking.

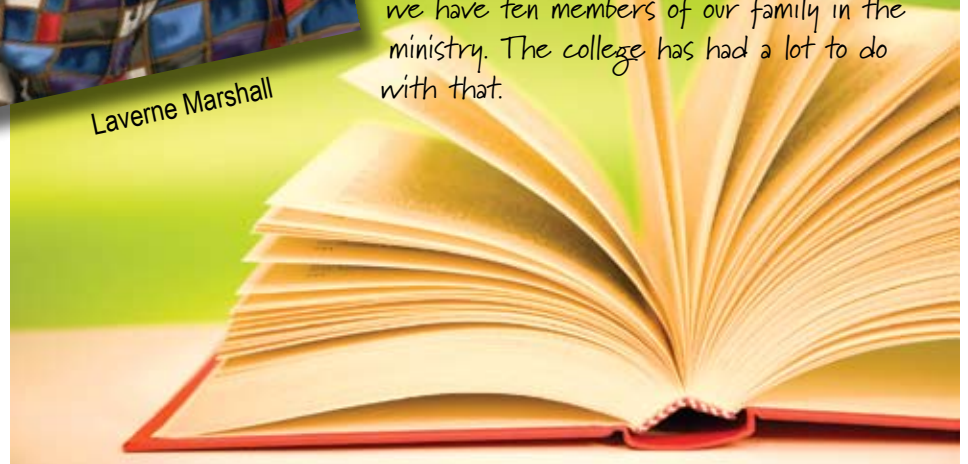
Those men were real planners. Even before they had a building to meet in they had picked a president and a chairman of the board. I don't know how they got the money for that big house in Norfolk (the first campus), but they did. I'm sure Virgil had something to do with it.

Our church in Wymore has had so many young people go there to school. And we've had several college students come here to help.

I haven't counted for awhile, but I think we have ten members of our family in the ministry. The college has had a lot to do with that.



Laverne Marshall



What's Old is New Again

The old and the new - that's always been the case. The new don't always remember the old, and the old don't always remember the new. The NCC concert choir rehearsed just before lunch or just after lunch. But they were never scheduled in place of lunch. That would have been a new thing.

Chapel time was either mid-morning or just before lunch time. But chapel was never scheduled just after lunch. That wouldn't work, for good and old reasons.

Vans were non-existent once, tours were done by using professors' cars. The size of a gospel group was limited. When vans showed up they were new, then became old. Vans took gasoline, some heartily. Older prices for gas were better than newer prices.

New Way Singers began in 1972. The year 1972 is old now. "New Way Singers"

keeps on going, always new. Old New Way Singers are not new now, and new New Way Singers are not old now. Sponsors are always older.

Flags on campus inside and out carry a lot of meaning. New flags are better. Old flags become ugly, but not if they have good messages. Some of the old ones should not be replaced, and none of the new should ever be misplaced.

What's new? - that's a question that will never be asked in heaven. With us, Jesus lets the old go "as far as the east is from the west" Ps.103:12. He let scars touch his hands so that he can touch you with his love and with his joy. To his Father he prays, "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them" John 17:13. This is always new, praise Jesus. It's never old, never!

~ article by former professor
Bill Miller



New Way Singers perform across the Midwest during the Summer each year.



Bill Miller

Remembering the Early Years



Lois Childs with her late husband, James Childs.

"I was baptized when I was 9 years old. My home church did a good job of teaching me the Bible. In 1945 I enrolled at Nebraska Christian College. There weren't any computers, or movies in the classroom; we had blackboards, lectures and our Bibles. We wrote a lot of notes in our Bibles when Mr. Dunning was teaching. It was nice to be part of the beginning of it all."

Lois J. Childs (class of 1945)

chapter two

A Successful Relocation

There have been many milestone moments in God's story at Nebraska Christian College. "Let me tell you the wonderful things that God has done."

Many firsts mark NCC's early years. The first classes in the first buildings created great anticipation for those early students who became the first graduates. Robert Smith was the first NCC graduate to enter missionary work. In 1949 he and his wife and two children traveled to Brazil in South America to evangelize and plant churches.

Increasing enrollments and new campus construction marked the college's first 15 years as a dynamic and growing ministry. Nebraska Christian College hosted the National Missionary Convention in Norfolk, Nebraska in 1956. Missionaries and Christian leaders converged on Norfolk for three days of inspiration and challenge to take the gospel to the whole world.

In the 1960s, NCC developed a premier Christian Education program led by Melva Swedburg. Mrs. Swedburg hosted Daily Vacation Bible School seminars, and teams of students traveled during the summers conducting DVBS programs across the Midwest. Preachers who graduated in those years saw Christian Education as vital to a healthy church's ministry in its community.

In the 1970's as the college reached its 25th year, NCC was being recognized for excellence in preaching and music. Lowell Burkum began the New Way Singers program and then teamed with his son Dave to write and compose "Let The Son Shine", a musical presentation of the gospel.

During those same years, a graduate student at Fuller Seminary evaluated the success of Christian Church Colleges and discovered that NCC had the highest percentage of graduates who entered vocational ministry and stayed in the ministry. God's work and NCC's faithful ministry was being noticed. In the fall of 1981, NCC enrolled a record 208 students.

Many more highlights could focus on mission work, preachers, church

growth, youth ministry, and campus ministry. NCC graduates have planted and grown churches, started missions, led revivals, and challenged others to give themselves to Great Commission Ministry. Every milestone bore the fingerprint of God's blessing.

Relocation Vision

As Nebraska Christian College approached the beginning of the 21st century, God again created the makings of another milestone moment- the relocation of NCC's campus from Norfolk to Omaha.

This chapter of NCC's story would include ingredients of bold vision, courageous faith, singular mission, and potential risk. Ingredients like these required unity, sacrifice and effort similar to the spirit of her founders and early leaders.

The Immeasurably More campaign sought to raise the



Richard Milliken



Nebraska Christian College moved its campus from Norfolk to Papillion in 2006.

money needed to move the campus to 80 acres of land in Sarpy County. All college constituents were asked to share in shaping the future of NCC's future by making sacrificial commitments toward a \$4.9 million dollar goal. God did Immeasurably More than we could have imagined.

Relocation Realized

For most of seven years the relocation had been a dream, a prayer, a hope, a plan, a strategy, a prayer (again), and a compelling opportunity. Others saw the relocation as a fear, a dangerous step and an anxiety. Yet, in August of 2006, the relocation of Nebraska Christian College became a reality of God's glorious ability to do more than we ask or imagine.

Though slightly over \$3.7 million was given, these gifts funded the first phase of campus construction. Classrooms, residence halls, library, offices, student center, and a maintenance building provided ample space for essential academic and student services for campus life. God blessed the construction and development of the campus so that construction cost for over 70,000 square feet of space was built at an average of just over \$113/square foot.

The successful relocation to its new campus at 114th Street and Capehart Road in the Omaha metro area is a testimony of how God blessed NCC's courageous vision. Those who participated in the Immeasurably More campaign saw first-hand how God brought a nearly impossible dream into a reality – the beginning of a new campus that is better than many could have imagined. Consider what God did. NCC Board members gave over \$500,000. College faculty and staff gave over \$100,000. Fifty churches gave over \$1.5 million. These pacesetters inspired alumni and friends of the college to join in NCC's largest campaign in her history. What a great chapter!

A Prelude to What Lies Ahead

Yes, the success of the relocation and first phase buildings was a great chapter in NCC milestone moments. Yet, in some ways, it is still only a prelude to what God is going to do in the years ahead. If God answered the prayers of NCC's constituents through the years past in these ways, what could the years ahead look like? We could easily say again, "The best days of NCC are still ahead of us". (Ephesians 3:20-21)

The vision that inspires NCC right now is to focus on equipping ministry leaders who think biblically, communicate clearly, lead courageously, and love compassionately.

They will take premier roles in fulfilling the Great Commission with every opportunity God gives.

We now stand at an open door to The Next Chapter of God's story at NCC. God will use our prayers to write the storyline. God will use our sacrificial gifts to demonstrate the depth of the characters. God will use the challenges of our world economy to intensify the plot. God will allow us to face nearly impossible situations, to show us His glorious nature. In The Next Chapter, God will take ordinary people and place them in extraordinary circumstances to accomplish a Great Commission that will inspire and transform each character. Lord, write my part for The Next Chapter of your story at Nebraska Christian College. "For this purpose I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works in me." (Col. 1:29)

~ article by Richard Milliken, President



Students enjoy the new NCC campus both inside and out and spend free time in their dorm room.

Movin' On Up

So what is it like?" That was a question I heard frequently from supporting congregations thirty-one months ago. Of course, that question is understood when you are relocating a campus—"what is it like...to move a campus?"

Upon reflection, the answer is the same as when you move your family because you're moving the campus. Thirty-one months ago, I found myself answering that question with words like "exciting," "daunting," "scary," and "hopeful." I am the type of personality that loves a new adventure like living in a new location. There is, however, an appreciation for what one leaves behind when a move occurs—friends and surroundings that take up a place of stability on one's life. I have a new appreciation for the large weeping willow tree that protected my yard like a sentry on duty. I have a new appreciation for the walk I made from work to home that made my day so much more relaxed. I have a new appreciation for the ability to be where I wanted to be in less time than it takes today.

Changes happen, however, and I am grateful for the new experiences. I am grateful for the opportunities our students receive by being in close proximity to multiple church models. I am grateful for the urban experiences my children receive by living in a metropolitan area. I am grateful for the thirty-minute drive home which continues to help me relax.

When I reflect upon moving the campus (and myself) from Norfolk to Papillion, I am both appreciative for my previous experiences and grateful for my present opportunities. Perhaps when you reflect upon the relocation of Nebraska Christian College, you feel the same way—appreciative for the previous experiences and grateful for the present opportunities.

~ article by Shane Wood, Chief Academic Officer



Shane Wood

A Trustee's Thoughts

It has been almost three years since NCC moved the campus to the Omaha area. As a trustee, I look back and remember some of the challenges we had and the faith we needed to show in order to move ahead. Our faculty and staff did a tremendous job in the transition and for that we are thankful.

Our students now have many more opportunities outside the classroom to experience ministry in both large and small churches. There are also many cross-cultural and inner-city ministries in which they can be involved. This is valuable to their overall education and development as a servant of Christ.

We still have challenges as we continue to develop the campus, but our first priority is to train leaders for the church. My prayer is that you will continue to support the ministry of Nebraska Christian College and join us in the excitement that lies ahead.

~ article by Roger Fletcher

A Student's Perspective

It has been a blessing to experience life on both sides of the move. As a student in Norfolk, I grew significantly as a person and built many fond memories on the old brick campus. However, through the move, I've been carried to a new place, not just spatially, but also academically. Concurrent with the transition to a new locale was the modification and establishment of several academic programs. I have personally enjoyed the benefits of studying in the new Biblical Interpretation program which has greatly expanded my view of Scripture and ministry. At this new campus, I have grown significantly as a student, finding benefit in many of the changes our school has made.

~ Brenden Lang

chapter three

An Aggressive Future

The First Chapter in the life of Nebraska Christian College is filled with heroic characters; adventurous spirits who forged concepts into classrooms and taught disciples to be disciple-makers. The campus in Norfolk changed often to meet the needs of the student body and the mission of the school. There were new buildings, new locations and new methods, but the same mission and the same Gospel.

Chapter Two carried that same theme of adventure as NCC transitioned onto a new 80-acre campus in Papillion, Nebraska. Relocating the campus from Norfolk to the Omaha metro area added a twist to the story that blended new excitement and fresh possibilities. With the first phase of buildings complete and the relocation process finished, it's time to turn another page and begin The Next Chapter.

The Next Chapter for Nebraska Christian College is an era filled with expansion and transformation. The original buildings on our new campus have served their purpose well during our transition, but it is time to add a much-needed structure. We need a building that will allow us to improve some of our core programs. We need a modern Preaching Lab that provides the space and technology to best prepare our young preachers. We need classroom and practice space for our growing Worship Arts program. We need a chapel suitable for the spiritual development of our students and for other large group gatherings such as graduation, seminars, concerts, and other programs that we currently have to hold off-campus. We need a Ministry Equipping Center.

The Next Chapter for Nebraska Christian College is a capital funds campaign which will provide the needed income to build our next building. The Ministry Equipping Center will provide the specialized settings, technology, and

atmosphere needed to attract and equip the next generation of Christian leaders.

When it comes to:

Focus - we are clear.

We are a Bible College and we equip people for ministry.

Faculty - we are strong.

Our professors are highly educated and well-respected.

Facilities - we are challenged.

What we have is of high quality, but we need to expand.

The total cost of this project will be three million dollars. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars of this amount is a scholarship element of the campaign to help us with recruitment and retention of our students. The remainder will cover the costs of building construction and related matters. The Next Chapter campaign is being funded by generous gifts and three-year pledges from supporting churches, alumni, friends of the college and various ministry partners. Gifts totaling just over \$700,000 have already been received from our Board of Trustees, several individuals and area churches. With \$2.3 million left to go we are asking all kingdom-dwellers to consider what God would have them give to further advance the kingdom. We do not know what each person's ability is when it comes to giving. We do know, however, that gifts ranging from under \$100 to beyond \$100,000 are needed for us to reach our financial goal. Statistics tell us that in a campaign of this size, we will need several five and six figure gifts to be successful. A one-time gift of \$1,000 may seem too large for many but a \$1,000 pledge spread over 36 months would equal about \$28



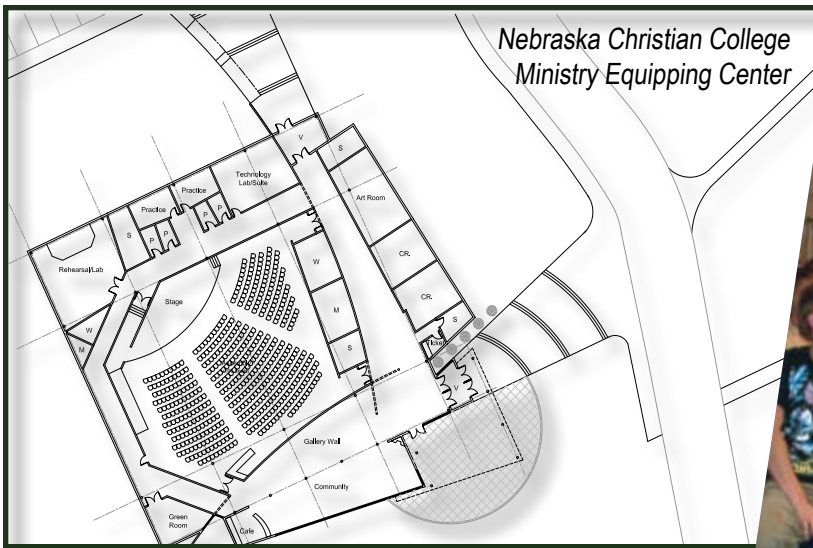
Jim Hardy

per month. A \$5,000 pledge would be roughly \$140 per month. God may nudge you to give out of your budget or out of your storehouse, but please give to this worthy and kingdom-expanding project.

As you consider your level of involvement, please prayerfully contemplate the value that NCC adds to the kingdom. We are sending preachers, youth ministers, children's ministers, family life ministers and worship ministers to area churches, missionaries to foreign lands, counselors to hurting people, teachers to public and private schools, and well-equipped Christian leaders to all types of employment. The Ministry Equipping Center will be a centerpiece of campus activity and spiritual development for our students for years to come. This building will allow us to do a more effective job of attracting, equipping and sending more and better laborers into the field – abundantly prepared and eager to claim the harvest for the glory of God! Thank you for your partnership with Nebraska Christian College. Please watch each edition of the NCC Newsletter to monitor our progress.

~ article by Jim Hardy, Chief Development Officer

The Next Chapter



The Next Chapter for NCC involves the building of the Ministry Equipping Center. With standing room only currently in the chapel/classroom, the need is great for a facility offering classrooms, preaching lab, chapel and more.

New Way Singers summer concert schedule

June 19 - 7 p.m.

Sioux Falls, South Dakota (contact Oakwood Park Christian Church for details)

June 20 - June 21

Crossroads Christian Church, St. Cloud, Minnesota

June 22 - TBA

June 23 - Free Day

June 24 - 7 p.m.

Church of Christ, Webster City, Iowa

June 25 - 7 p.m.

Antioch Christian Church, Marion, Iowa

June 26 - 7 p.m.

Church of Christ, LeMars, Iowa

June 27 - 7 p.m.

Elliott, Iowa (contact Elliot Church of Christ for details)

June 28 - 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Calvary Christian Church, Bellevue, Nebraska

June 28 - 5 p.m.

Closing Concert - Omaha, Nebraska (contact NCC for further details)



SERVE wholeheartedly,
as if you were serving
the Lord, not men

Week of Ministry

NCC students spend a week out of their year serving others during the annual Week of Ministry. Each project is led by NCC faculty or staff. This year our students are serving across the United States and in a foreign country. Please pray for them as they minister to the following areas:

Honduras

Baltimore, Maryland

Central California

Utah

St. Ignatius, Montana

North Omaha

Iowa

Dallas, Texas

be still



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

To know Christ and make Him known

The Next Chapter

We invite you to join the Next Chapter in the history of Nebraska Christian College. It is a story worth reading, a story worth joining and the opportunity is there. The chapter has just begun and we need your help to author the coming pages.

Take a look inside at what is happening at NCC. It is an exciting time to be involved in the history of this school. Walk the halls during the early years, read the perspective of a student among the very first NCC class, and see the plans for the future.

This is the Next Chapter for Nebraska Christian College.

to be continued...

