



Desires and Feelings

What drives people? What drives you or me to laugh, cry, be happy or sad? It can certainly be biological reasons, but if we are "in our right minds" what moves us to do things? This was the general question I asked our staff and associates at our last mini-staff retreat.

Every 6 months for 4 hours we as a group spend time thinking about the model of ministry we use at NCCC. Our last retreat topic was desires and feelings. To give the briefest of descriptions, a desire, which is at the core of our heart, moves us humans emotionally, relationally and behaviorally. The Bible in James 4:1 says this: "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (NIV)

Things we observe in counseling flow from desires. Much could be said about that rich word, but we realize that if we expect to help those that come to us, we better have an understanding of words like desire. We continually seek to grapple with and richly understand those words in scripture that hold such deep meaning.

Stephen Seay, Executive Director

God is the One Who is Moving

It had been a restless night. I sometimes find myself up at nights for an hour or two pondering and praying. For years I was harassed by anxieties that would be going on about work or relationships. That at times still happens but I am slowly making peace with those anxieties. I find the night a bit more of a friend now.

Sometimes I can pray undisturbed prayers and think. It was on one of those nights that I was up thinking about our need for office space at the Center. We are growing at NCCC and are adding people, both staff and clinicians. A proposal had been presented to me that just couldn't settle in my soul. The amount of money that it would take to bring this space up to counseling standards was, for me, enormous.

It seemed clear that I lacked faith and that I was afraid to step out and trust. I remember admitting and confessing that to God and others but here I was in the

Stephen Seay
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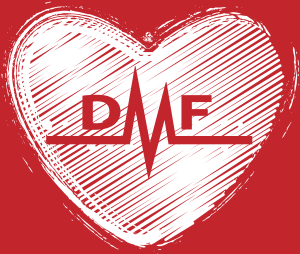


middle of the night still restless. Something beyond simply fear and lack of faith was going on. I wanted something different and better for the Center.

In the end, I stood my ground, so to speak in my own heart and didn't just settle for doing the thing that would have been normal to do. Now it seems that a better solution in line with those desires is working out. It could literally save us thousands of dollars. Make no mistake, God is the One who is moving. I can't wait to see how it all works out. I will keep you posted.

Stephen Seay, Executive Director

ONE GIVING HEART



2.8.18

1 DAY
28,044 GIVING HEARTS
\$13 MILLION
401 CHARITIES

On Thursday, February 8, 2018, 28,044 Giving Hearts raised over \$13 million for 401 charities in North Dakota and western Minnesota. More than \$54 million has been raised through 10 consecutive Giving Hearts Day events. It's an amazing accomplishment by the charities of this region.

Northland Christian Counseling Center has participated in Giving Hearts Day since 2012.

This year Giving Hearts Day donors gave over **\$18,000** to Northland.

All funds donated are used for the NCCC Client Assistance Fund. This is a fund that is used for people who carry financial burdens due to unexpected events in their lives. At Northland they find a safe place to come without feeling the pressure of needing help and not being able to pay for it. Qualifying individuals are able to receive up to \$550 per calendar year per family in assistance.

We are grateful for the many Giving Hearts that supported Northland this past February! Lives are changing because of you!



#COUNTME

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