

February 2, 2022

Though many of us would love to return to pre-pandemic life and what we perceive as “normal,” it is becoming clear that uncertainty will now probably dominate every sphere of life...except one. Let’s arm ourselves this year emotionally and spiritually by lowering our expectations for this temporal life to be “normal,” and then raise our expectation in our Almighty God and trust this rock-solid promise:

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

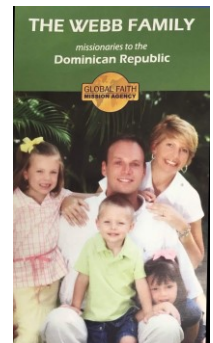
We want to thank each of you that gave so generously to SICM during our end of the year fundraiser. Every gift, large or small, was vital in helping us reach and exceed the \$25,000 goal for counseling scholarships and expansion of the ministry. Already in January of this year, we have been honored to come along God’s servants in Europe, Asia, Mexico, two families in Africa, as well as the families of pastors in three different states. In addition, during the months of January and February, we will be participating in two pastors’ conferences and will be speaking at a marriage retreat in Tennessee. We appreciate your prayers as we will be on the road and in the air flying pretty much every week until the end of May. In between conferences and meetings, we have already received over a half dozen requests this month for personal counseling intensives as soon as we possibly can schedule them.



Our mission has always been to **Encourage, Edify, and Equip** God’s servants, and our desire is to yearly increase that influence in all three of these areas as God leads. In 2021, the Lord burdened the heart of a generous businessman with a unique vision for equipping ministry leaders in biblical counseling. His donation gave birth to “Selah Seeds.” Through this program, Selah is providing the funds and training for ministry leaders to complete their certification in biblical counseling. Currently, there are 18 ministry leaders in training through Selah Seeds. We are honored to partner with Tim Bryant and the LCBC of Charleston, S.C. for this pathway to certification. **The following paragraph is an inspiring**

testimony from pastor’s wife, Kelly, that expresses how this program is being used to equip ministry leaders around the world. God is using John and Kelly Webb to shepherd the dear people of Madison Avenue Baptist Church in Paterson, NJ.

“In 2021, my God was so beyond kind to allow me to begin something I have had tucked in my heart for 17 years...On September 30th a little dream came true. I got to begin formally studying biblical counseling. In 2004, we were just a couple of years in the DR as missionaries. when the sickening thought occurred to me... “I studied the wrong thing in college! I should have studied biblical counseling!” As I was quickly realizing that when you dive all in to the ministry, you are just consumed with people...troubled hearts and souls, broken people, just like me, looking for counsel...desperately needing counsel. But with a sweet little 4-year-old at one side, another 2-year-old on the other, and our boy of 1 in my arms, I prayed, “Lord, maybe one day when the kids are out of the house, I could go back to school.” I still remember where I was when I prayed that prayer so desperately in my heart. My God has been very faithful, though. He has proven to be for me my Beloved “Counselor” to help me wade thru every counseling session, every pre-marital counseling we have ever done, and every heavy counseling session. Our last child went off to college back in August and I found myself with an empty, quiet home. One month later, I applied for a



scholarship through Selah Seeds and began my training. I am enthralled...perhaps this will simply help me be more prepared for the Church (His precious Bride), and for the ladies...that is who I do this for. I believe by conviction that ALL we need for godly living and victory over our besetting sins, for walking in liberty and love is contained in Scripture when applied to a life by faith. I testify to that with a living testimony of a private addiction I had that was resolved SOLELY through Scripture. I believe He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, actively for my everyday living. May He help me “get it” because, at the end of the day, it is a gift to be able to handle His Word for any circumstance of life. To believe, by conviction, that His Word is the answer to all. I am so thoroughly enjoying it...Thankful!”

Only by His Grace,
Chris and Dawn
Heb. 12:12-13