



November 3, 2025

Dear EIBCC Family,

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." – Philippians 1:3-6

These words were penned by the Apostle Paul as he thought about the Christians at the church of Phillipi. They were his family, his partner in the greatest mission of all time.... To make much of Christ and to make disciples. These words also describe my heart this afternoon as I put these words together to share with you my family and partners in the gospel, in regards to the Eastern Iowa Biblical Counseling Coalition.

The core team has been in much prayer for the future of the EIBCC, and have determined that the season for the EIBCC to exist as an organization has come to an end. Allow me to explain our thought process with some history.

As you all know the EIBCC was founded on the mission of equipping churches and church leaders in building soul care and shepherding into the discipleship DNA of the church so that our churches would care well for people and be better at discipling those who come. For over ten years our mission has never changed and as a result we have seen God do things that only God could do in the churches of the EIBCC and even across the country. When the EIBCC started, there were very few churches in central Iowa that were doing biblical counseling and soul care in the context of their discipleship efforts. Today there are many that do in east/central Iowa. The EIBCC has impacted churches all over Iowa and even into other states like Illinois, Wisconsin, and Alabama. The vision the Lord gave us in the early days really became a good model for building networks of churches anywhere.

In 2020 the landscape changed greatly in regards to how churches cared for their people with the rise of Covid, the derecho, and other things. It made things difficult in a lot of ways to care well for people but this time also provided new opportunities for our mission to grow and expand. For instance, all of a sudden, out of necessity we learned we could do online meetings and training. While not the same as face to face in person meetings, Zoom has allowed us a platform to train and equip people that wasn't being used before. When Covid went away and life began to resume for churches we noticed changes in how church Pastors and leaders were thinking about equipping their people. There were less conferences to equip and train people but more online opportunities "on demand" even for people to be trained in caring well for others. Today there are so many training resources available at your fingertips through the internet.

I am writing this because these changes have impacted how the EIBCC functions. We have continued to offer our monthly training meetings, conferences and consulting as needed and, while these things are meaningful and do help us to equip churches, we had started to sense that we needed change. Over the last few years, the Core Team has been praying about our long term trajectory as an organization. We all really felt like it was going to be time to expand across all of Iowa or recognize that maybe the effectiveness of our organization had run its course as many churches in our area either have soul care happening in the church now or churches have been introduced to soul care at least. This is a great accomplishment but leaves us at a crossroads. We began to make plans to expand the EIBCC into four regions and had talks with some great pastors in southern and western Iowa about the possibility of expanding into their areas and their churches becoming hub churches for the EIBCC. As we began to pray and plan we also wanted to remain open to perhaps the time to grow is not now. As it turns out, that is where we are. There were a number of obstacles for us to move forward in expanding the EIBCC. So as the Core Team prayed about that, we all sensed that the Lord was telling us that the season for the EIBCC to exist as an organization was coming to an end. It is hard to let go of something that is so near and dear to our hearts. Yet we realize from Ecclesiastes 3 that everything is beautiful in its time. God has used the EIBCC for his glory in lots of ways as stated above and now its time to rest in what He has done.

We are so grateful that even though the EIBCC may be done for now as an organization, the relationships and serving together amongst churches is strong and will continue. Those won't go away, honestly for all eternity. So knowing this makes it easier for us to wrap up our time as an organization. Before the EIBCC ends though, we want to celebrate our churches, the people who make up the EIBCC and we most of all want to celebrate our King. King Jesus in all that he has accomplished in us over the last 10 years or so. We will be hosting, as usual, our November Celebration Breakfast at our normal EIBCC meeting for November on November 20th. It will be a potluck breakfast, testimonies galore and a prayer of dedication. You won't want to miss it. We will send out an invite and instructions soon. This will be our last official EIBCC meeting but it won't be our last time at all getting together or serving together.

It has been a complete honor to serve as the Co Founder and Director of the EIBCC for all of these years. The Core Team has served tirelessly and admirably together to equip churches in Iowa. The pastors, leaders and people of the churches that make up the EIBCC will forever be family. From the bottom of my heart.... Thank you.

He makes everything beautiful in its time,
Dave Kirk and the EIBCC Core Team