

STANDING IN THE GAP

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

“To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ”

THE END OF THE YEAR, BRINGING MANY REASONS FOR CELEBRATION AND PRAISE

We are in the midst of another hectic holiday season. Through this time of the year, it seems there are always extra reasons to praise God for His work in all areas of our lives, even the ones that are not going as we had hoped.

The Standing in the Gap chapters are no exception. During the retreat at the end of October, God moved powerfully through multiple students' lives. There were not one, but three baptisms of students ready to take the next steps with Christ.

Relationships have been reinforced and strengthened by gathering both in weekly meetings and small groups with the depth and strength only having God at the center can do.

We are ready and excited for the holiday break, but also ready to keep being and making disciples again in 2024.

“Therefore thus says the Lord God,
“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all
in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through Him.”
Colossians 3:17



-Natalie Norris; Standing in the Gap
Communications Manager

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI: BRADLEY GETCHEL

By Gabriel Nelson

Brad is among the earliest members of Standing in the Gap at Northwood and stands as one of the longest-serving members of this ministry. Before I came to lead the Gap at Northwood, I remember visiting occasionally and Brad was always a mainstay. This includes the time before COVID, when Gap grew very quickly, to the middle of the pandemic, when the ministry had to social distance and had a day-long retreat outside on a cold and wet day, to now, as the ministry is flourishing once again. The health of the Northwood chapter is in no small part due to his hard work and perseverance in personal and spiritual growth.



In his time here, he has led several different small groups, including Foundations, the Celebration of Discipline, and the Men's Group, which went through a curriculum designed by Brad himself. We have had many discussions and meetings over the past few years, and I am consistently impressed with his insight in many situations, and his desire to honor God with everything.

Today, Brad serves as the intern campus pastor for the Northwood Chapter. To do that, he intentionally chose a job that would allow him to stay in the area and become involved at both the Northwood chapter as well as the Midland Church of the Brethren. At the same time, he is feeling out a call to ministry, with the possibility of attending seminary. Whatever path he is called to, I am certain he will serve well and faithfully.

RETREAT RECAP:

Retreat Attendees Share Their Experience

- Great topic. Got a lot out of it and was interested in learning about healing and spiritual warfare
- I took a lot away from the message and I thought it was very powerful!
- Great message!
- The message was really good, I enjoyed how all of the streams built on to each other and how they worked together to have a greater understanding! They all were great to cover individually, and together!
- Great!
- I found all the messages very powerful and meaningful! Gabe did a great job!
- wonderful! Hits the core and I'm already using insights from messages in my work.
- The message hit very close to the heart and needed to be heard.
- I usually don't feel God's presence in my life, but I did this weekend
- Worship was so special this retreat!
- I had a great time and can't wait for the next retreat!



- I was brought to tears more than 10 times over the retreat while reflecting and soaking in God's faithfulness. I feel renewed and for that, I'm immensely grateful.
- Great conversations. Interesting to learn from the experiences of others
- I liked my huddle group a lot! Having a small group of people made it easier to talk about my struggles
- Loved my huddle group
- I LOVED my huddle group. I've said it before and I'll say it again, I had the BEST huddle group!!! I also really enjoyed that the huddle groups were separated by gender! We were able to dive deeper into all topics!
- Great people to talk to!
- I loved my huddle group and found our talks very effective and helpful!
- Grouping ladies was a great idea!
- God had taken me out of a potentially dark spot right before worship night. After He had once again shown me His mercy and grace, my remaining time at the retreat was just spent praising and uplifting others.
- God has shown me so many things that I left with knowing how to broaden my horizon on the things that I need to keep an eye on for my spiritual growth.

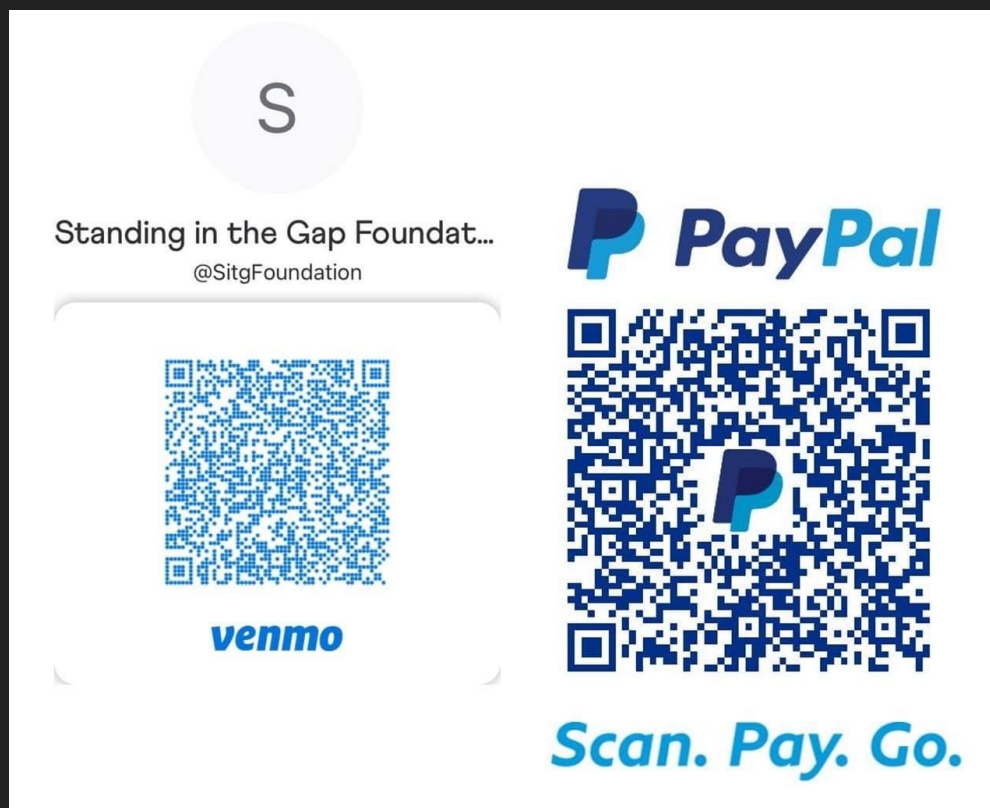


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