

Dear Parents,

I hope you are surviving the back-to-school flood of opportunities and that your calendar hasn't completely filled up because, of course, I have a wonderful opportunity for you as well. Most of us that are parents are filling our schedules based on the needs of our kids and what they are involved with. The primary need of our children is their spiritual growth, and sometimes as parents we feel ill equipped to provide the most important aspect of their life. On Sunday October 2 you have the opportunity to get some free equipping and training in this area of teaching faith at home. It is called Extreme Family Makeover Parenting Seminar and it is free for you to attend. The seminar is held at the Countryside Christian Church in Wichita from 2:00 – 5:00pm. The church has paid the registration cost for this seminar. We will have transportation available following first service on this day to Wichita. Please contact me and let me know that you would like to ride down with the group. There are flyers available in the gathering area at church. If you have questions please contact Jeff Neher at 628-8887 or jneher@northoak.net.

Here is what the hosts have to say about the seminar: "This seminar will inspire, motivate and equip parents to reestablish the home as the primary place where faith is nurtured. Come ready to gain lots of practical ideas you can begin implementing immediately to bring faith practices into your home life."

As I think back over this summer it feels like it was the fastest summer of my life. It feels like school got out just the other day and already kids are back in school and the busy-ness of the school year is upon us. This summer was filled with some amazing things. The trip to the Dominican Republic was a highlight for me. I have prayed for a long time that we would have a mission trip where families could go and serve together. It was so fun to see many family units or parts of family units go and serve together. This trip was an amazing adventure from the very beginning; watching how God provided for our team through prayer and financial support, and the opportunities to share with so many leading up to the trip, during the trip, and since we have been home. The team continues to learn as we have a goal of raising \$2,500 to provide a generator for one of the children's orphanages where we got to spend part of a day.

Another event that our group just participated in was our 30 Hour Famine. We experienced a very small fraction of what about one billion people experience every day, going to bed hungry. We learned what it was like to be a kid living in Haiti during the earthquake and what it takes to survive following the earthquake. We were able to provide a number of food boxes, blankets, and coats for people here in our own community. We were also able to send in \$600 to World Vision to help feed kids around the world! Thanks to all who baked for our bake sale. We ended with a celebration meal where we got to see how the food is proportioned out in our world where only a small percentage had a full meal, some got rice and chicken, and others just got rice.

I would love to encourage all of the men who have sons 12 years and older to come with them to the Men's Retreat in September. This will be a time of great encouragement to the young men as they join the brotherhood of men from North Oak. I hope you will consider bringing your son(s).

I will continue to pray for all of you parents as you fight the good fight for the hearts and minds of your children and do the difficult work of passing the faith on to the next generation.

Jeff