

Conscience gets the better of student, 22 years later

Now a pastor, former student sends school a letter of contrition and a check to pay for food dishonestly taken from student store in 1988

March 8, 2010—In 1988, David Grieve was a 7th-grader at Nelsen Middle School desperately navigating life as a bespeckled preteen and trying to fit in with the cool kids.

During second semester that year, David got his big chance: He was assigned, along with other boys, to the student store, selling food and school supplies to students during the school day. The big-selling items at the store were beef jerky and pepperoni sticks, and the boys were instructed by their advisor that if any food items fell on the floor, they could not be sold, and were to be tossed out.

After working in the store for a bit, the boys began to crave the pepperoni sticks and eventually succumbed to the allure of meat-by products. They began eating the food, claiming that the jerky and pepperoni

would—mysteriously and without help—become unwrapped and toss themselves to the ground. The boys also started to pocket some of the money other students were paying for items at the store.

Fast-forward more than 20 years and David has moved to the Midwest and become a pastor at New Life Community Church in Marion, Indiana. Recently, while talking to fellow church members about having a clear conscience with God, David remembered his time in the student store at Nelsen Middle School and all of the food he and the cool kids consumed, along with the change they pocketed.

Guided by his present-day principles, David wrote a letter of contrition to the staff at Nelsen, confessing his transgressions. To make amends, David also included a check for \$100 to replace the lost income to the school.

In a recent phone conversation, David says he feels better after confessing his antics, replacing the funds taken and paying for the food he and his buddies consumed. Even more though, he says, it was the right thing to do and his conscience is clear.

Now, says David, he feels he's living more in line with the adage to practice what you preach.



David Grieve, as a Nelsen Middle School 7th-grader in 1988.

David, with wife Shami, now a pastor in Marion Indiana