

ROLLING PRAIRIE

Defeating life's Goliaths

'Chihuahua on caffeine' explains how to overcome obstacles

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In his career, motivational speaker Dave Weber continues to draw inspiration from his sister.

On a rainy night more than 15 years ago, the Georgia teen's spine was shattered in a car accident that left her bedridden for a year at the age of 15. Eventually, through positive thinking and determination, she walked again, never complaining about the pain.



Weber

"She had the power of vision," said Weber, of Atlanta, speaking to more than 50 parents, students, teachers, faculty and school board members who attended his program, "Overcoming Life's Goliaths," at New Prairie High School Monday night.

Weber emphasized the power of vision and choice. Goliaths are the barriers, obstacles, challenges and changes people face in their lives that keep them down or hold them back from achieving their goals, he explained.

"Every person has their own Goliaths, which are as different as the people in the world," he said, offering examples such as changing jobs, marital troubles, death, anger, resentment, loneliness, depression, fear, and trying to do too much. "I'm always amazed at all of the stuff people will cram onto their plates. It can be overwhelming and discouraging."

Described as a "Chihuahua on caffeine," Weber jumped up and clapped his hands to start the 1½-hour program, waving his arms in the air and instructing the audience to stretch.

"It is possible to laugh and learn at the same time," he said, using humor and storytelling to get his point across.

To illustrate his point, Weber took the audience back 3,200 years to the valley floor of Eph in the Middle East, the site of many ancient battles, includ-



Audience members participate in an exercise during Dave Weber's interactive presentation Monday evening at New Prairie High School. Described as a "Chihuahua on caffeine," Weber involves the crowd in his programs.

By Wendy Thoms

ing the legendary story of David versus Goliath. David, a teenager from Israel, defeated Goliath, a Philistine, who stood a reported 13 feet tall, after negotiations failed between the two civilizations.

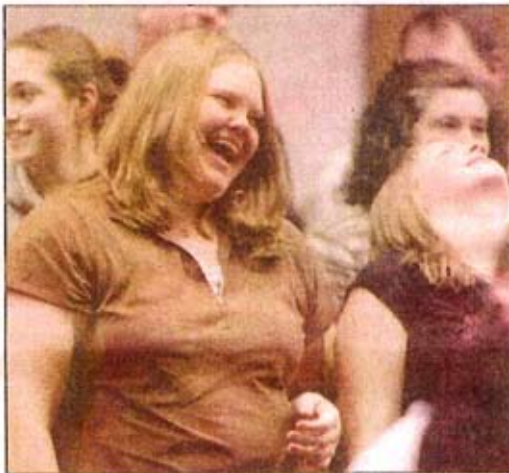
David, around 15, made the decision to take on Goliath after hearing about the prize for slaying the giant, which included never having to pay taxes and the opportunity to marry a princess.

"He had an unwavering commitment to his vision. For the first time, he took his eyes off the barrier and put it on the reward," Weber said, describing how David killed Goliath using a slingshot and rock and, eventually, Goliath's own sword. "He had a shift in his vision of the way things are to the way they will be, offering life lessons that can still be used today."

Others — such as Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron and Walt Disney — also had obstacles they overcame so they could achieve their goals, he said.

"They were men with a vision who never let it go," he said.

"We must learn to shift our vision. Attitude is a choice, infecting those around you. What you choose to become can have a greater influence on who you are today than all your yesterdays."



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The program causes laughter amongst the crowd as the motivational speaker shares stories to encourage people in "overcoming their Goliaths."