

# The LCF Connection

April 2016

## Attention Nursery Volunteers: The Babies are Coming!

by Andrea Biscup



Life is about to drastically change for three LCF couples as they prepare to welcome their first babies. Rob and Harmony Devlin are expecting a boy in early May, Aaron and Andrea Biscup are also looking forward to a boy in mid-July, and Dan and Jenn Frederick are anticipating a baby whose gender will remain a mystery until his/her birth in early September. I asked these soon-to-be parents a few questions to gauge their feelings about the parenting adventure that is coming their way.

### What are you looking forward to the most about your baby coming?

Rob: "I'm looking forward to meeting him."

Harmony: "Probably just being around family with him and giving Dad another grandchild."

Aaron: "Being able to hold him for the first time."

Andrea: "Seeing what he looks like and watching him grow and develop his personality."

Dan: "Having a child to teach things to – the tactile, like building and doing things, and teaching wisdom. Not the crying and pooping."

Jenn: "The whole experience – teaching, loving, and caring for our own child, not someone else's – you can't give them sugar and send them home."



### What are you dreading the most?

Aaron: "Decisions of being a good parent – like discipline."

Andrea: "The scheduling stuff, how to balance working and all the other busyness with having a baby."

Dan: "Cloth diapers." (Jenn: "What about the puking?" Dan: "I think I'll be okay with that; you've been giving me plenty of practice in the last couple months!")

Jenn: "I am dreading the actual birth. I want to have a natural birth, and it is kind of scary."

Rob: "Not being able to do whatever whenever."

Harmony: "Losing sleep."

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## Finding Our Extended Family in Bangkok

by Candice Mast

This February, we were lucky enough to get a month-long visit from Tom's parents! They picked up the kids from school, helped with homework, shared our meals, and went on outings with us. It felt so good to have family with us, and I relaxed more, felt less stress, and shared burdens with them. It made me think about who our family is most of the time, when our biological family is not close by, and how we can be family for those around us.



Do you think of your family as a gift you can share with others? Here in Bangkok we have all kinds of people in our lives (just like you do) - language teachers, English students, longtime friends, the kids' school friends, neighbors, our team, and people we see around the neighborhood. We know people of many nationalities (Chinese, Lao, Nicaraguan, American, Japanese, Korean, and of course Thai) and social classes. Silas is becoming friends with a

new kid in his class. His mom recently told me her son had a rough week of school when Silas was sick and absent. It encouraged me so much that Silas is a true buddy for this kid. A friend of mine with a dysfunctional family came over for a family dinner and mentioned that "this is what a real, warm family" feels like. So many of our neighbors have extended themselves in kindness to us, bringing fruit, offering advice. We are looking for ways to give friendly greetings or give small gifts in return. Even giving smiles around the neighborhood and going outside the house to eat and chat extends our family into the neighborhood.

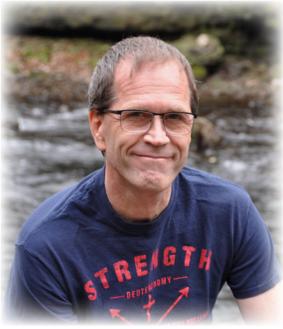
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London Christian Fellowship seeks to develop authentic and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.



# "I'm Coming to Your House Today!"

A Message from the Pastor  
by Rob Swartz

I have been intrigued with the story of Zacchaeus lately. In the midst of all Jesus was doing, he singled Zacchaeus out from the crowd and said, "I'm going to your house today." It was simple. It was bold. He saw Zacchaeus and he pursued a relationship with him. It's an example I'd like to follow.

I don't know that it would work for me to do exactly the same thing. I haven't seen anyone hanging out in trees lately. 😊 But...I do see a lot of people hanging out, and as spring approaches, I'd like to find some new people to hang out with, some who don't know Jesus. I'd like to see people the way Jesus sees them and find a way to say, "I'm coming to your house today."

What will that look like? I don't know exactly, but I trust God will lead me. Doris and I are planning to do a simple neighborhood "hang out on the patio" a few evenings this summer to get to know our neighbors better. I'm planning some bike rides with others I have met, who share the same interest. I've even thought of fixing a few computers on the side for the primary purpose of hanging out with people with broken computers. 😊

I don't know exactly where this will go, but I want to continue to be bold and intentional as I see Jesus was. "I'm coming to your house today. We're going to hang out, eat together, talk together. I want to get to know you, Zacchaeus. I care about you, Zacchaeus. I love you, Zacchaeus." I see all of those things happening in Jesus' short interaction with Zacchaeus, and I think it's pretty cool.

It's something any of us can do. It just takes some availability and some love, and for those of us who are a little intimidated by new people, maybe some "guts". It sounds like an adventure! I'm always a little nervous. Things never go the way I plan, but that is the faith walk with Jesus. As we step out, we trust that he will open our eyes to those Zacchaeuses around us and give us the boldness to say in some way, "I'm coming to your house today!" 😊 I'm excited to meet these new friends, and I hope you are too!

## Learning About LCF

Zach & Julie Freer, Kevin Ryan, and Kelly Ward learning more about LCF and Mennonite beliefs at the LCF 101 class that was held at Rob & Doris's home on Saturday, March 5.



## Upcoming Activities

- April 9 - Harmony Devlin's Baby Shower, 12 p.m. at LCF
- April 9 - Youth Tea Party Fundraiser
- May 8 - Child Dedication

# Doing Church

Elders' Notes (February and March)

by Vicki Sairs, based on minutes by Doris Swartz

We're combining two months in one report, sort of like Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, but not as sweet.

### Leadership

In both February and March, we spent a lot of time discussing leadership: How can we train leaders, and who should be our leaders? We're delighted that Zach Freer has agreed to pursue serving as an elder! We are still exploring possibilities for another new elder. Please pray for this—Bob is feeling lonely.

Rob and Reuben have met to discuss putting together a leadership training program; they will continue to work on this, especially since so many people have expressed an interest in it. If this is something that intrigues you, please be patient and keep praying.

Reggie Cooper is doing a great job as volunteer youth leader and is looking ahead to what's next for LCF youth. He and Brenda Perkins have recommended that we consider hiring a part-time youth leader. We like this idea, but recognize the challenges of hiring someone at minimal time. We talked about how we might manage this.

After many years of faithful service, Phil Hostetler is stepping down as our treasurer. The Council has recommended several people as replacements; we're exploring this.

Rob expressed excitement about things that are happening among men at LCF, and we discussed what would be the best way to support this.

### Church plant

We feel there is a need for CMC to have a church in Columbus—an Anabaptist, intergenerational, international body of believers. We don't know if God wants LCF to play a part in planting such a church, but we want to be open to it and will keep praying about it.

### Missions requests

We frequently receive requests for funds from various ministries and individuals. We think the ones we choose to support (in addition to those we already support regularly) should have a clear connection with LCF and have good financial accountability in place. One ministry that fits those criteria is the wheelchair ramp project that Clete has been working on here in London. We will ask the Finance Team to transfer some funds from our missions budget to the wheelchair ramp fund.

### Membership and baptism

We discussed how to proceed with membership for people who were baptized as infants. Our hope is to handle this issue with grace and yet be true to what we believe God's Word teaches.

### Marriage seminar

We are in conversation with Conrad and Lynette Showalter in Indiana about having a weekend devoted to a marriage seminar here at LCF in the fall. The Showalters have extensive experience working with and counseling couples. We'll keep you posted.

### Turkey trip

Conservative Mennonite Conference is sponsoring a trip to Turkey with a discount for CMC pastors. Rob and Doris are thinking and praying about whether they should do this. They invited input from the elders, and Vicki said, "Do it!"



# Getting to Know the *Slaubaugh Family*

*Interviewed by Theresa Hennis*

Sometimes, we take for granted that we know people at LCF, because we see them every Sunday and spend time with them at various functions and events. We like to interview our members to give us all a fresh look at who they are and what makes them a unique and a true blessing to our congregation. We introduce to you the Slaubaugh family: Joe, Tasha, Lydia, and Hannah. If you already know them, you know what a great family they are. If not, we hope this interview gives you a little insight into their lives, and then you can meet them and get to know them even better.

## **Are you and Joe both originally from Ohio?**

Tasha: No. Joe is originally from Greenwood, Delaware.

## **How did you and Joe meet?**

Tasha: We met in 2005, when we were both counselors at Choral Camp.

## **When did you start coming to LCF?**

Joe: I attended some when I was a student at Rosedale Bible College. When Tasha and I were dating I moved to Ohio and attended regularly.

Tasha: I have attended LCF almost all of my life.

## **Do you have other family members at LCF?**

Joe: My brother, Elmer, attends LCF, while he is at RBC.

Tasha: Yes. Richard Troyer is my father, Rachel Troyer and Harmony Devlin are my sisters, and Rob Devlin is my brother-in-law.

## **What do both you and Joe do, as far as work?**

Joe: I work for Mike Beachy, doing all sorts of farm operation and truck driving.

Tasha: I am a stay-at-home mom to Lydia and Hannah. I also share about the health benefits people have found, with natural supplements, from Plexus Worldwide.

## **Did you both attend a special Trade School or College/University?**

Joe: I attended RBC after high school.

Tasha: I have an Associate Degree in Interior Design, from VMCAD (a small art and design school, west of Cleveland).

## **What are both of your favorite hobbies? Interests?**

Joe: I love to work on mechanical projects. Small things like tillers, all the way up to tractors and trucks. I currently have a John Deere 1050 that I have taken apart and am rebuilding. I also love to go fishing, when I can find the time.

Tasha: I enjoy reading, and many craft projects (sewing, crocheting, scrap-booking, card-making, etc.) when I can find the time. 😊

## **What are some favorite things you like to do as a couple?**

We don't have many common interests, but we enjoy going out to eat on dates, and traveling together.

## **For each of you, who is the one person who has most influenced you in your life and why?**

Joe: My dad, because we have worked together a lot, and he has always been supportive of the dreams that I have.

Tasha: It would be Phyllis Swartz. Phyllis always gave me opportunities to learn leadership, through God's Creative Kids and Choral Camp. I admire her leadership skills, her wisdom with children/parenting, and her example of hospitality.

## **Do you have a favorite volunteer activity or ministry?**

Parenting is our full-time ministry right now. We mean that seriously. But we would also like to find ways to be a practical help to people in the community...doing things like building the wheelchair ramps, etc.

## **What are your favorite scriptures?**

Joe: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," and James 4:7 - "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Tasha: John 3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease," also 2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power, of love, and self-control."

## **Do you both have a favorite way to study God's Word, or a particular devotional you use?**

Tasha: I have been using Daily Light on the Daily Path, which has a short morning and evening set of scriptures, that focuses on a particular topic. Joe and I also try to read My Utmost for His Highest together every night.

## **Any favorite places around London you love to go and hang out? Does Los Mariachi's count? 😊**

## **What would you tell other parents about becoming a parent and the joys and challenges?**

Tasha: Lydia is 2 1/2 and Hannah is 1, so we are still new to parenting. It isn't easy to stick with it; teaching, correcting, and disciplining your children. But we feel like it is so important to do those things early, so that our children understand that obeying us is best, and that obeying God is best for us, too. Be honest with your kids about the fact that you mess up and need forgiveness, too.

Joe: No one is "ready" for kids, so don't be afraid of becoming a parent; God gives us grace. 😊



# Bethel Camp

by Bryce Swartz

Bethel Camp. Those are two words that I have gotten to know and love over the past 6 years. It is a wonderful camp down in the hills of Calyhole, Kentucky, where I have met amazing people from several different states, some of whom I stay in contact with throughout the year. It is something that I look forward to every summer.



The past several years I have gone there for two weeks out of the summer. The first week I go down and serve as a counselor for the middle-school campers, and then I stay for the second week to attend as a camper in the youth camp. The two weeks have a very different feel. As a camper, I am challenged to grow in my relationship with God and get to have lots of fun with my friends, along with enjoying sports, etc. As a counselor, I grow in my leadership skills as I learn how to focus on the needs of the boys in my cabin, helping them grow in their relationship with God, being a safe place for them (especially some of the local campers who come from a rough home life), or just being a friend and someone they look up to, who cares about them. The responsibilities of being a counselor can be extremely exhausting and draining, but it is also very rewarding. I learn a lot about myself as a person and am even challenged by some of the campers, which helps me to grow in my own relationship with God.



Bethel Camp is just that place where, year after year, I come away more energized to love God with all my heart and want to share his love with those around me. It holds many lessons and experiences that I will always treasure! If you are considering going to Bethel Camp, either as a camper, counselor, or both, I would highly encourage you to do so! Maybe I'll see you there!

*(Camp registration forms with information about dates, cost, etc. are available by the LCF mailboxes.)*

*Babies coming...continued*

## Which of you do you think will be the most protective parent?

Dan: "I think it will be me – it's already started. As soon as I found out we were pregnant, a switch flipped in my brain, making me want to do everything I can to keep Jenn (and the baby inside her) as safe as possible. Of course, I don't want to be too protective – I also want to let our child experience things."

Harmony: "Probably me – just the typical stuff with this being my first child, being overly protective and nervous when other people are handling him. I think Rob will be more relaxed about it."

Rob: "I'll probably be more protective when he's older, about other things."

Aaron: "It will depend. I might be because I come from a more protective family."

Andrea: "It might be me because I am often paranoid about things. I don't think we'll know what we'll be like until it happens."

## Which of you will be strict and which will do the spoiling?

Rob: "I think I'll be more strict."

Harmony: "I'll want to spoil him whether we can afford to or not. I'll try to be strict, but Rob will do better at that."

Andrea: "We both might be strict."

Aaron: "Neither of us will spoil him." (Andrea: "Poor kid!")

Jenn: "I will be strict."

Dan: "I would spoil a girl."

We all have a lot to look forward to and also a lot to learn. Please pray for us as we depend on God to teach us to become good parents, and please ask Him to steal our children's hearts. As I feel our son kicking and squirming inside me, I am wonder-struck that God is entrusting us with this brand new human being with a body built from both Aaron's and my DNA but with a heaven-conceived soul.

*Extended Family in Thailand...continued*

We have the goal of having more of the kids' school friends over. It's so easy to get caught up in our family life after work and school - just getting the homework done, running errands, eating at home, doing chores, ironing uniforms, biking/yoga/badminton, reading aloud and getting to bed early (hot season and early mornings wear us out!). It's tempting to claim time outside our "work day" for our own family. But we need to keep examining how we are extending ourselves. Are we family for our team? Are we family for those without family? Are we family when our neighbors have a need? Are we a family for our classmates? Whatever our family situation - we all have something that someone else needs. Let's all ask God to help us find our adopted, extended families and show us how to love and bless them.



*"Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families..." Psalms 68: 4-6a*



## The LCF Connection

*A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship*

What did you think? If any of the stories in this Connection sparked an idea or opinion you'd like to share, email us at [connection@lcfweb.org](mailto:connection@lcfweb.org). Editors: Doris Swartz, Trish Eaton, Theresa Hennis, and Amie Smith  
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