



The LCF Connection

April 2017



Our Customers

*Because the customer has a need,
We have a job to do.
Because the customer has a choice,
We must be the preferred choice.
Because the customer has feelings,
We must be considerate.
Because the customer
has an immediate need,
We must be timely.
Because the customer is unique,
We must be flexible.
Because the customer
has high expectations,
We must excel.
Because the customer has
influence,
Reputation is in our hands.
Because of the customer,
We exist!*

Lessons from London's Local Hardware Store

By Pamela J. Stanforth

The moment I walked through the front door someone approached me with a smile, asking how they might help. I was ushered to the office where TJ and Aaron invited me in and quickly asked Wayman to be my tour guide. Within minutes of our exiting the office three guys approached and Wayman went straight into his, "Welcome, may I help you?" speech, and I was left to look around the store. He returned and said, "Sorry, the customer is first!" He then took me to the office and pointed to a sign on the wall (see left) and said, "This is why I am here. If someone needs me, feel free to walk around or speak with anyone and they will gladly assist you."

register area as I asked questions and they began to share—each one adding to or nodding in agreement. "About 1/3 of what we sell is not used for its intended purpose." (I heard a customer laugh and say, "Yeah, he is talking about me!") "We have well over 100,000 various items available for our customers. Were you aware, since 1881 we celebrate four generations of Dwyers owning and operating the store, with the latest being Aaron and Drew."

Barely another minute passed and two guys approached saying, "We need two different sewer pipe pieces, both 1/2", one galvanized and one black." I smiled and started snapping pictures. This is why we love to frequent Dwyer Bros. Hardware. We know that when we have unique needs, the Dwyer team will work to help us figure it out. This was further confirmed as the team gathered around the



Continued on page 4...

Inside this Issue	
Lessons from Dwyer Bros.	1
What Easter Means to Me	1
Coming Up this Summer	2
Elders and Council Updates	2
Getting to Know the Rabers	3
Upcoming Events	4

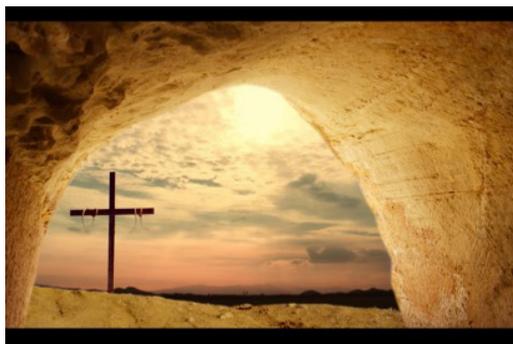
What Easter Means to Me

by Jeremy Hisey

Praise the Lord! Christ is risen! I am looking forward to celebrating Easter this month!

For me, the meaning of Easter has changed a lot over the years. My guess is it will continue to change as I gain a better understanding of God and his perfect plan for humanity.

Being present in this world that is full of pain, sorrow, and hatred, I can't help but think about the hope we have of a new life. Revelation 21:3-4 describes it well: *"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*



In this life that is full of trials and tribulations, I am in awe of God's ability to take the bad and make something good out of it. It should not be a surprise to us that God, in all His glory, used humanity's darkest hour to do His greatest work!



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

Coming Up this Summer...



SEARCHING THE VISIBLE, DISCOVERING THE INVISIBLE

Vacation Bible School is not far off! This year, as Galactic Starveyors, kids will search the skies and God's Word to uncover God's truth. Through lessons and activities they will discover that the God who created everything there is—the visible and the invisible—wants a relationship with them! And from the very beginning, God had a plan to restore the relationship He knew we would break. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Saviour, and his Holy Spirit to be our Helper.

Help us get the word out that VBS will be held at LCF June 5-9, from 6:30-8:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help or would like to pre-register your kids to attend, contact Sheila Miller.



- Bethel Camp for Jr. High: June 12-17
- Bethel Camp for High School: June 19-24
- Choral Camp week 1: July 10-14
- Choral Camp week 2: July 17-21

Each year in July, Xenos Christian Fellowship (located in the north part of Columbus) hosts an excellent 3-day conference where thousands of Christians come together to learn from God's Word and hear messages from some of today's top Christian leaders. There are more than 40+ breakout sessions offered to help you gain practical training and insight.

Visit <http://www.xenos.org/xsi/register> and register today to attend the 2017 Xenos Summer Institute, July 5-7. The early-bird price (before June 26) is only \$60 per adult and \$20 for students.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend
Conservative Mennonite Conference's
2017 Annual Conference



- Theme: Leadership
- Thursday evening, July 27, through Sunday noon, July 30
- At Central Christian School, 3970 Kidron Rd, Kidron, OH 44636

More details and information about registration will be coming soon.

Elders' Notes

by Donna Sauder

We met Wednesday, March 8th at Rob and Doris's house. We opened by praying for LCF. We, as an elder team, have decided to spend more time in joint prayer and fasting. We will begin this by having a day of prayer and fasting on Tuesday, April 4th. We plan to focus our prayers on the children and youth of LCF.

We are so grateful for all the youth and children's teachers and workers at LCF. We appreciate their commitment and hard work. We are so thankful for the leadership that Colleen Wolford has given to the children's ministry. As we look at the trends in our society, we are concerned about the statistics of youth walking away from God and the many stresses that our children face each day. We want our church to do all we can to make sure that our children are equipped with the faith and trust in God that will help them with each difficulty that they face in life. The elders want to help empower teachers to succeed in making sure the children are getting the big picture of the Bible and having the opportunity to respond to the gospel message. We are encouraged to see how God has answered prayers by raising up leaders for our youth.

We are in the process, along with the council, of updating the constitution of LCF. We will continue to work on this in each meeting until we have gone through the whole document.

We discussed the membership roll for 2017. We currently have 71 people who have committed to membership for this year.

We will meet next on Tuesday, April 4th. If there are any concerns that you would like us to discuss, please let us know.

Council Update

by David Perkins

Spring is in the air and the warmer weather that we have been waiting for is finally upon us. Soon, we will be able to enjoy all of our favorite outdoor activities such as camping, bonfires, and even some lawn care.

Speaking of outdoors, you will soon notice some new cameras being installed at the front entrance of LCF. Lyndon Miller has purchased some surveillance equipment for the church. This equipment will be used to help keep an eye out on the front door and parking lot to ensure safety during different events that the church is used for, during the week and even on Sunday mornings.

The Council has determined term limits for Ministry Team leaders after having one-on-one discussions with each leader. In September, we will be giving church members in the congregation opportunities to serve as leaders on a couple teams whose leaders will be stepping down.

That's all for now. Make sure to keep an eye out for your next Council Update.

An interview with Ray & Grace Raber

Interviewed by Theresa Hennis

Getting to know your fellow LCFers is something we hope to help you with every time we do an interview. Ray and Grace Raber have been attending LCF for a little over a year. They love working with youth and have recently agreed to help out with LCF's youth group. If you haven't met them yet, here are some interesting things to know about them.

Where are you both from, originally?

Grace: I'm from Apple Creek, Ohio.

Ray: I'm from Trail, Ohio, located in Holmes County.

Growing up, what did you want to do in the future as a profession?

Grace: I always wanted to be a mom.

Ray: A welder.

How did you both meet, and when did you get married?

Grace: We met at our friends' home at a get-together. We were married September 1, 1984.

Was there anything unique/unusual about your wedding?

Grace: Not really. We got married at Gospel Light Chapel in Wilmont, Ohio.



What one piece of advice would you give to someone considering marriage?

Grace: Communication is important—listening to each other's hearts.

Ray: It's not 50/50; it's 100/100. Give your marriage everything you have! It is worth it!

Where do you both work?

Grace: I do in-home baking. I call it Grace's Home Baking and people know about it by word of mouth.

Ray: E & R Tires Plus and rental maintenance man.

How many children/grandchildren do you have, and do they live in Ohio or somewhere else?

Grace: We have two girls: Cassandra and Angela, and two boys: Eric and Brent. We have three grandsons.

Ray: Our two sons and youngest daughter live in Ohio. Our oldest daughter and her family live in Pennsylvania.

Who influenced you the most, growing up, and why?

Grace: Our ministers' wives and their prayers for me.

Ray: My Grandpa Miller. He lived right across the road from us and was always there for me. In the summer I enjoyed driving the horses for him while he loaded hay.

Who influences you most today and why?

Grace: Johnny and Ruth Miller, friends of ours. They have helped Ray and I work through things in our marriage and helped us to focus on Jesus.

Ray: Johnny Miller has been my spiritual mentor. He has really helped me learn to know God and understand his love for me. He helped me desire to serve God because I love him and not just because I fear him and don't want to go to hell.



What is your favorite scripture?

Grace: Romans 8:1

Ray: I don't really have one favorite.

What is your favorite food, music, and hobby?

Grace: I like seafood, Southern Gospel, and I love to bake, read, and enjoy good conversations with my girlfriends.

Ray: I love anything seafood. I like old country music like Johnny Cash and the Oak Ridge Boys. My hobbies include: riding motorcycles, long-distance running, and guns.

Do you have a certain bible study or devotional time that works the best for you?

Grace: Morning study works best for me, and the Bible is my favorite book to study.

Ray: I love to meet God outdoors. Those are often my best times with him.

Is there something unusual or interesting about you that people might not know?

Grace: I love to ride motorcycles and go horseback riding.

Ray: When we are at home, Grace and I talk to each other in Pennsylvania Dutch, since we both grew up Amish and that is the language we speak most easily. I often feel the tension of being a bit of an unusual person, trying to fit into a normal world. 😊



Dwyers...continued

Our current team consists of: Jeff, Wayman, Janice, John, Fritz, Glen, Jim, Lindsey, Madison, Richard, Justin, Cindi, Nick, Missy, Traver, TJ, Aaron, and Drew. We are open 361 days a year, and technology has sure helped since the customer can bring in a picture now instead of referring to the 'whatchamacallit' or 'thingamajig!' I quickly injected, "Hey, now you are talking about me!" Everyone laughed. New customers entered, and as I exited I heard, "Is there anything I can help you with?"



So what did I take away from my Dwyer visit that we might apply at LCF?

*Because the customer has a need,
We have a job to do.*

The wheat fields are white and the laborers are few. There are so many who need Christ. We, too, have a job to do. Our job is to help provide opportunity for people to hear the word of God, which is able to save them. See Luke 10:2 and Romans 10:14.

*Because the customer has a choice,
We must be the preferred choice.*

We offer those who are unchurched a place of support, understanding, and guidance. We offer to all (churched and unchurched) a safe haven where they can find hope, love, forgiveness, support, and people ready to pray for them. Like Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:22, "...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

*Because the customer has feelings,
We must be considerate.*

Jesus loved us while we were yet sinners and showed this love, taking our shame and sins upon Himself. Our ransom He paid in full with His death on a cruel cross. How can we be anything less than considerate to our brothers and sisters? It is our duty as Christians to show the love of Christ within LCF and, by our example, the love of Jesus to a lost and dying world. Careful in word, action, and deed. Galatians 5: 22-23

*Because the customer has an immediate need,
We must be timely.*

We are told in John 4:35 that *"the fields are ripe and ready for harvest"*. The time is now! We have no promise of tomorrow!

*Because the customer is unique,
We must be flexible.*

We are unique and wonderfully made. God knew our names before we were formed in our mothers' wombs. He had already established our days before we breathed our first breath. It is this beautiful uniqueness that brings diverse and exciting moments as we open our hearts, free of prejudice, to discover God's treasures placed within each and every soul who walks through the doors of LCF. Psalm 139:13-16

*Because the customer has high expectations,
We must excel.*

The world expects we who are called Christians to be above reproach! We must seek God daily for forgiveness of our sins and pray fervently for wisdom with understanding. We must be quick to forgive, quick to ask for forgiveness, quick to make restoration, and give no place for the enemy of our souls to bring accusation. I Peter 5:8 says, *"Be alert and of sober mind..."*

*Because the customer has influence,
Reputation is in our hands.*

I may be the only Jesus this person will ever see. How will Jesus look to them? The more time we spend getting to know God—reading His Word—the more time we spend talking to Him—in prayer—the more we will understand who we are in Him! We will act more, speak more, love more, and be more like Him so when the world looks at us, they will see more of Him as we display the fruit of His Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Our reputation is in whom we represent!



*Because of the customer,
We exist!*

We exist to have fellowship with God! We exist because He created us! He has commissioned us to go into the world and tell people of His great love for them. As a church, we exist to bring the word to a lost and dying world, to bring Jesus to the world that they might be saved. In essence, the world is full of our "customers" who are waiting for us to realize they exist and need help in finding Christ to meet their needs. Mark 16:15 says, *"Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

Let's be like Dwyer Bros.—and go "above and beyond" as we share God's love and meet the needs of those around us!

Upcoming Activities

- April 2 Bridal Shower for Rachel Troyer, 2:30 p.m.
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion and Foot-Washing, 7-8 p.m.
- April 16 Easter Celebration
- April 22 Ladies' Thrift Store Outing



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 secretary@lcfweb.org. Editors: Theresa Hennis, Amie Smith, and Doris Swartz
If you prefer that we do not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us at connection@lcfweb.org.