

The LCF Connection

May 2017

Lessons Learned from Our Mothers



In celebration of the many mothers among us, we asked several LCFers what they have learned from their mother that has been meaningful or valuable to them. Following are their responses:



Naomy Ndungu: *Mom taught me to hope against hope—that is to keep hoping even when common sense shows no hope. Mom's actual phrase in our native language, Kikuyu, was "Ngai ena hinya" which is translated as "God is able."*

Brenda Perkins: *Something I learned from my mother is how to be calm in any situation. To not get worked up over little things; instead, just live life and don't worry about things you can't change.*

Becky Hostetler: *My mother taught me—by example—the importance of serving in the church, especially children's ministries. She was always (and still is) working in the nursery, teaching Sunday school, or children's church, cooking for someone, creating a bulletin board, or attending a meeting.*

Are you curious what Becky's children have learned from her? Here is what they said:

- **Emma:** *My mom taught me about self-sacrifice.*
- **Ethan:** *My mom taught me how to read.*
- **Evan:** *My mom (and dad) taught me about God.*
- **Ella:** *My mom taught me to spend my time doing things other than electronics.*



Ted Hennis: *I was born with a mild case of cerebral palsy from the waist down. My mom would not give up on teaching me how to walk, and she would not let me give up. She always told me, "Do the best you can do with what you have, and never give up."*



What lessons have you learned from your mother? Take a few minutes to thank her for her influence in your life and then faithfully pass along those same kinds of lessons to the next generation.

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particular, has changed the way a few of our LCF women think about small groups, and I invite you to consider what is so special about it.

Fervent

by Theresa Hennis

Small group studies are a good way to study God's Word together and share the daily concerns of our lives. Watching a video, taking notes, doing homework—these are the usual activities you would expect when you sign up for a small group. One study, in

Fervent, a book written by Priscilla Shirer about the power of having a specific, detailed, and strategic battle plan of daily prayer, is what one small group from LCF decided to use. The beauty of the study, if you can even call it a study, is not the information in the book so much as how the group applied it to their lives and the lives of others in their families and at LCF. We didn't just talk about prayer or read about prayer or ponder what makes prayer work—we actually spent most of our time praying for one another and for the prayer needs of each other's families and for LCF. And God has been faithful to answer those prayers in exciting ways. From addictions to issues of healing and so much more, the prayers of just eight women have resulted in lives changed, hope captured, and a better understanding of what it means to pray fervently.



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

We invite you to consider this book as a way to help you grow in your prayer life and learn how to incorporate the words of Scripture in your prayers. May each of us at LCF follow Paul's instructions in Colossians 4:2: "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."



Unmotivated?

A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

I didn't grow up in a religious/Christian environment. When I became a Christian as a young teenager, no one was close at hand to show me how to do it. I sensed that I had come under the power and influence of Jesus Christ, and that he changed me. I was settled. Now what?

There was little structure around me to support this new faith. For many years I would continue to live with family and friends who didn't share it. Three impulses were with me from the start. They made sense to me, but I can't to this day speak confidently of their origin. I tend to think that the Holy Spirit impressed them upon me. In as much as I stayed true to them, I thrived. When I neglected them, my spiritual life dimmed. Here they are:

From the beginning (maybe even the earliest hours).

- I wanted to read and understand the Bible, and believed it to be the word of God.
- I wanted to pray, enjoyed praying, and felt diminished when I didn't.
- I wanted to go to church, worship with others, and be a part of God's people.

Pretty simple, huh? But it wasn't. I had no background in Bible. I found a King James Bible! I wasn't a particularly dedicated reader. I went to a few Bible studies, but there was no one there to take me by the hand and walk me through. In short, I was not a candidate for success. Yet truths from the Bible poured into my life like water poured on parched earth. The word was alive, speaking to me, glowing, warm, immediate, and alive as if it weren't really a reading process at all.

Prayer. I wasn't one to pick up a book about prayer. No one taught me, and I didn't have much to work with, but talking to God simply seemed natural. I had prayed a bit as a child, but it was uninformed. I had little more than intuition to work with, but I did have faith that someone was hearing me, encouraging me, and able to respond to me. That simple confidence was far more important than any of the forms or lack of form that I had.

Church. It was a foreign environment on one level, but an irresistible attraction on another. My first church experiences were in an evangelically-minded Episcopal church—people wore ties, women dressed up. It was formal by today's standards. I, on the other hand, had long hair and wore blue jeans and flannel shirts. I stuck out like the proverbial sore thumb, but it simply didn't bother me. If it bothered anyone else, I really didn't care. I knew I belonged—my membership card signed by God himself—just try to keep me out!

My own experience informs me as a pastor. I've met new Christians who are, to me, strangely passive, and I don't know what to do for them. The impulses that were in me, apparently aren't in them. I can't read the Bible for them. I can't pray in their place. I can't attend church for them. A person has to do these things alone without being nagged. Pastors can talk about equipping God's people and nurturing new believers, but frankly I wonder if we could ever make it easy enough for those who don't show any inclination.

But I don't want this to stop communication. If you're a new believer and stuck, and can't figure out how to grow into Christ, talk to me. I can tell you ahead of time that I'll probably steer you to three basic ideas, and encourage you to be confident that you can do them, and that great reward will come from them. Read the bible, pray, and go to church.

Elders' Notes

by Donna Sauder

We met at the home of Rob and Doris on April 4, 2017. We each had spent the day in prayer and fasting, so we broke our fast together with a meal and shared thoughts and insights from our day. We spent time praying together for the children and youth at LCF, their families, and those who teach and lead them. Our desire is that each one would follow Jesus with all their heart, soul, and mind.

We took care of some Sunday morning details as to who will preach while Rob is away during the summer, if and when we will have a spring Adult Discipleship Class, etc.

We talked about the sabbatical for Rob and Doris. We want to make sure that what is planned for them is actually what they need for spiritual, emotional, and physical refreshment. The elders, along with Reuben, will meet to discuss and plan the policy for LCF for this type of sabbatical.

We discussed what to do if and when we may have concerns or questions about those serving in leadership positions at LCF. We recognize that each situation and each person is different; there are differences in leadership roles, and differences in the degree of problems. Thus, it's impossible to come up with a standard policy that would fit every situation. We would simply state that "all leadership positions in LCF are open for review to the elders team" and that we encourage good dialogue and openness between the Elders Team and anyone who is leading.

Currently, we have a screening process for approving anyone who works with youth and children at LCF. It includes them filling out an application which requires references from 3 individuals. In continued efforts to provide a safe place for the children of LCF we will look into possibly adding a background check to the screening process.

We processed Larissa Swartz's request to retain her membership at LCF even though she has moved to Dayton. She has informally been sent out from us to minister at IFI (International Friendships, Inc.) Dayton and is supported by various members through prayer, finances, and encouragement. We are her connection to CMC and the broader Mennonite Church, which is important to her as well as to her volunteer position with Mennonite World Conference.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 2nd, should anyone have something of concern for us to discuss.

Council Update

by David Perkins

Some of you here at LCF who have been part of the congregation for a long time or even just started attending within the last five years will remember the old church building. The Council had the opportunity at our most recent meeting to take a little field trip over there and take a look at the property that we are currently trying to sell. It was like a blast from the past. We got to review the ins and outs of the old church, which is now being rented by Restoration Worship Center. As we reminisced, there was much discussion about the pros and cons about the purchase of the property. We talked about different things potential buyers would require that the building is without, such as a sprinkler system for an office or day care. We are thinking

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An interview with Daekyun and Youngmi Oh

Interviewed by Theresa Hennis

In August 2016 Daekyun, Youngmi, and Hyunseo (Vivi) moved to Columbus so that Daekyun could study at Ohio State University. It has been a joy to have them become a part of our LCF family!

Where are you both from, originally?

We are from South Korea. I was born in Busan (southern part of the peninsula) and was raised there with my little brother until I moved to Seoul (capital city located in northern part) for attending Korea University, majoring in English Education. Daekyun was born in Cheongju (middle part) and grew up there with 3 sisters until he moved to Suwon (near Seoul) for attending Kyunggi University, specializing in Physical Education with Tennis as his specialty.



How did you meet each other?

We met in 2008 while we were in a teacher training course for a month after passing the Teacher Employment Examination. We happened to be in a small group while we were doing psychological test called MBTI (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) because both of us fell under the same type (ISTJ). We soon realized we had not only the similar personality type but also the same blood type. (Maybe we wanted to find some similarities! LOL). Daekyun surprised me by driving to where I worked and that was the beginning of our lasting relationship.



Where and when were you married?

We had dated almost for 4 years, from 2008 to 2012. In the meantime, in 2010, I was transferred to a high-school in Suwon, which happened to be the same school that Daekyun had been invited to that year. What a complete coincidence! In other words, I believe our meeting was no accident, it was inevitable in God's plan! We tried to keep our relationship secret but it became an open secret in our school. LOL! After my senior high school students graduated, we got married in 2012 in Cheongju. Our students sang and danced at our wedding. We all were very happy! One year later, in 2013, Hyunseo (Vivi) was born.



Who influences you the most now, as adults, and why?

The Bible is a life-changing book for us. We are taking baby steps in wonderment. It helps us become much wiser and brings peace into our lives. When we were in Korea, we did not go to church, but after we came to America and met our host family (Jerry and Donna Sauder), we became open to Christianity. We wanted to know more about the Word of God and searched for more chances to study the Bible. Meanwhile we met so many wonderful people here at London Christian Fellowship, IFI (International Friendships, Inc.), and BI (Bridges International). We are so grateful that we have friends who are willing to pray for us and share with us the lessons of the Bible. Their love toward us as foreigners has meant a lot to us, and we are also eager to love others as Jesus has loved us.



What is your favorite Bible verse?

Our favorite verse is "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19), which is what Donna wrote to us when we were struggling with financial difficulties. Now we learned that God had sent the trials, because it was His way of producing patience in us, as noted in James 1:2-3. We are so thankful that He knows our need and keeps His promises.



What is your favorite hobby?

Not to mention tennis, which is his specialty, Daekyun really loves baseball. He is ready to watch baseball games at any time of the day or night. He used to love playing baseball, too, as a pitcher, until his wrist surgery. I enjoyed singing in choir because I love the harmony that different voices make. With the sense of perfect pitch (though I'm not sure if I still have it LOL), I enjoyed playing songs that I like with the piano. We used to play tennis together (to be exact, he used to teach me tennis) before Hyunseo (Vivi) was born. I hope our family can play tennis together in our spare time when Hyunseo (Vivi) is old enough to learn and play tennis with us.

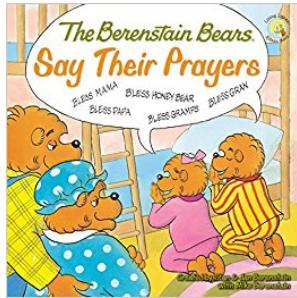
Where, in the world, would you most like to visit and why?

We have been thinking to take a trip down memory lane visiting Italy, where we went for our honeymoon, and may go again for our 10th anniversary. We also want to travel around the holy sites, maybe a visit to Israel. We think that having ourselves immersed in modern Israeli life and connected to the stories of ancient Israel would help us to better picture the images from the Holy Land each time we read the Scriptures.

Capture Precious Reading Moments

Linda Schlabach, LCF Librarian

"Some people just don't believe in saying prayers," said Mama. "But we pray at night so we can thank God for the blessings of the day." (The Berenstain Bears Say Their Prayers, created by Stan and Jan Berenstain with Mike Berenstain)



Comfortably nestle with your child and spiritually encourage your child by reading together The Berenstain Bears Living Light Series. Continuing with instructional and inspirational tradition, authors, primarily composed of the Berenstain family, intertwine fun and Biblical truths through story form. Aptly named the Berenstain Bears, the authoring Berenstains created numerous stories about the now famous Bear family.

Jump easily into the Berenstain Bears' fantasy world as Mama and Papa, with their bear cubs, learn to get along and to live out Biblical instructions. Find the Berestain books and other enjoyable stories in LCF's Children's Library which is housed in the middle Sunday School room (adjacent to the Fellowship Hall). Use our delightful old-fashioned card system to check out books of interest. Enjoy children's books about prayer, Jesus, and numerous topics. What precious reading moments will you capture with your bear cub today?

Showered with Love

by Doris Swartz

Rachel Troyer is counting down the days until she will become Mrs. Shane Mouser! Just 27 more to go! On Sunday afternoon, April 2, the ladies of LCF showered Rachel with prayers for her upcoming marriage as well as a lot of lovely gifts for her new home. They enjoyed an assortment of delicious breakfast-type foods and some fun games. We will miss you when you move, Rachel, but are excited about your upcoming wedding and look forward to seeing what all God has in store for you in Lexington (other than Shane, of course)! ☺



Encouragement for Moms

*As you care for your children,
look to the One who cares for you!*

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young." Isaiah 40:11

Upcoming Activities

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|------------|-----------------------------------|
| May 6 | LCF 101 at Rob & Doris's, 10 a.m. |
| May 12 | Dayton IFI Banquet, 6:30 p.m. |
| May 14 | Mother's Day / Child Dedication |
| June 14-18 | LCF youth group to City Challenge |
| June 18 | Father's Day |
| July 5-7 | Xenos Summer Institute |
| July 27-30 | CMC Conference in Kidron, Ohio |

Council Notes...continued

critically on how much money would have to go into the purchase of the building for the buyer versus how much we are selling it for. While there is still much information to dig into, it was nice to get a preliminary plan of direction of where we want to go in the process of selling the old church building. Keep an eye out for your next Council Update to stay informed.

A Note to Mothers of Little Ones

by Molly Rosati

Dear Young Moms,

You are awesome sauce! You are taking such good care of your little one! Being a parent is really, REALLY hard and exhausting! Those are sentiments I appreciated hearing as a young mom.

This season of a precious tyrant in charge of your time, sleep, meals, even your body—this will pass, and some of it you will think back on fondly. Our old house had few doors that latched. Thankfully our bathroom door was one of them. I composed this poem as my 18 month old knocked at the bathroom door—I call it:

A Mother has a Right to Poo

*A mother has a right to poo
Tell every munchkin, every shmoos,
When ole Mommy leaves their sight that,
She just needs a moment private.*

*A time of peace to gather her thoughts,
Since she no longer can take long walks.*

*And so I issue this firm decree,
A MOTHER HAS A RIGHT TO PEE!
And oh, Dear Shmoo, if it's in your power,
Please grant Mom the right to shower.*



Molly with her daughters, Anna and Amy

LCF Ladies' Outing

On Saturday, April 22, a group of ladies from LCF had fun shopping together at several thrift stores and then enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Sunny Street Cafe together.



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.

