

Bethel Camp

Junior Youth and Youth Making Spiritual Connections



In June, several of LCF's junior youth and youth attended Bethel Camp, and they share what the experience meant to them and how they grew from it.

Junior Youth:

Ethan Hostetler - Bethel Camp was a great experience for me. I learned a lot about Jesus and my spiritual connection with Him grew closer. I liked listen-

ing to the two pastors, Mark and Adam, preach. They connected their real-life experiences with their faith.

Vernon Hochstetler - This year I had another awesome time at Bethel Camp. I participated in their carpetball tournament and won first place. They always have lots of activities that you can do, and my favorite was soccer. The food is always good, and dessert is my favorite. I enjoyed learning more about Jesus.

Wesley Miller - I think Bethel Camp was an awesome experience. On one side, you have all the fun games, you meet new and old friends alike, and you have a swell time with everyone. On the other side, Bethel Camp gives a good spiritual experience, through powerful sermons and wonderful preachers/pastors. It's a life-changing experience at Bethel, and I love it!

Youth:

Ashlen Hisey - Every year I find myself excited for Bethel Camp because it is definitely the best part of my summer. Bethel Camp is amazing—not just for the fun games we play, or the good food we

eat, but because of the people and the messages you learn. I personally have gotten a little bit of a different experience each year I go. The first year was my favorite. I decided to follow Jesus and live my life for him, and that alone would make any experience worth living again. The second year I stepped over the line of my comfort zone, making new friends, which was bittersweet because it made it even harder to leave. Now this year, 2017 High School A, it was my first time going to the high school week. The one thing that stuck out to me the most this year was the first chapel message. We learned that night that 7% of the time you hear an ambulance siren someone is dying without Jesus. That fact really got me thinking, even scared me a little. First I thought of the people at my school. I thought of all the chances I have had to share about Jesus and His love for all of them, but I didn't. Another night a young man stood up and shared his story and all of the things that God had done for him just in that week, and once again I thought of home and of people who could be in the same situation who live next door or who I see at the store and just smile at but could be starting a conversation with. This year at Bethel Camp, I played fun games and ate good food, but most importantly I learned that I should not hold back anymore. We should not hold back our words when people do not know Jesus because 7% are dying without Him every time we hear that siren.

Meredith Hochstetler - This year I felt more confident about going to camp, because there were familiar faces, but I also felt more confident because I reached out to new people. It's like a home away from home. It's a good environment to worship God and get to know Him bet-

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

Ministry Highlight

Do you know about all of the great ministries we have at LCF? We think you'll enjoy learning more about them and how you can help. This month's highlight is on our **Wheelchair Ramp Ministry**.



Ministry Leader and Coordinator, Cletus Yoder, gives us a little background on how and when the ministry got its start and what services it provides:

Through helping with Joni Eareckson Tada's Wheels for the World worldwide wheelchair distribution outreach program, Cletus found out about a group of churches in Erie, PA, who started Ramps of Hope. He wanted something like that for our area, and they shared their program with him. The ministry was in place by Spring of 2015. Cletus got the word out about what the ministry does, with the help of Loving Care Hospice and Home Health in London. The therapists refer their patients to the ministry, and Madison Press wrote an article about what Cletus and the volunteers do, which brought in more requests. Levi Miller, of LCF, volunteers for Meals on Wheels, and he has brought in ramp referrals.

The process starts with a referral, then a visit to the recipient to determine if they qualify. Cletus does a ramp layout and has them sign a contract. The materials are purchased, and the ramp modules are built off-site and hauled to the site to be installed.



The cost per ramp varies depending on its size, complexity, and what modules are on hand for re-use. Ramps are provided as people request them. From when the ministry gets the request to when an installation is complete is about two to three weeks. So far, the ministry has provided 22 ramps to people in our community and surrounding communities.

Cletus says, "The reason I do this is my heart for the disabled. I go out and visit with people who have health issues, and they're so appreciative. It's a blessing to work for them."

When he has to travel for ministry work, Cletus would like to have more volunteers involved in getting the projects started and finished without his help. Another need for the ministry is a building in which to pre-assemble the ramps before going to the clients' homes to install them, as well as ongoing financial support for restocking the supplies needed to make the ramps.

Did You Know?

by Molly Rosati

Our church has two wheelchairs available for short-term use. Kept in the closet next to the kitchen, the wheelchairs have helped members with temporary mobility issues get around at church events, provided hands-on experience for students participating in Joni Eareckson Tada's disability awareness Sunday school curriculum, and even spent a weekend in Chicago helping my mother celebrate her 92nd birthday along the riverfront.

We often think of a wheelchair as a per-

manent seat for a person. However, it can make simple events like a bridal shower or trip to a museum possible when a person, who is mobile at home, doesn't have endurance or agility for navigating public spaces.

Originally, the wheelchairs were donated with the thought they would make their way to the Wheels for the World program. However, after attending a seminar by Joni and Friends about creating an accessible church and worship experience, it was decided to keep these two wheelchairs for our fellowship's use.

Want to Help?

If you're interested in donating to Wheels for the World, and you have any crutches, wheelchairs, or walkers (keep your eyes open at the thrift stores!) or if you're interested in learning how you can help the LCF Wheelchair Ministry, contact Cletus Yoder at: cleteyoder25@gmail.com. ■

On June 18th, we shared in the joy of witnessing the baptisms of Jeff Stanforth and Russ and Sandy Hauge at Little Darby Creek.



Getting to Know Richard Troyer

As told to Theresa Hennis

Where are you from, originally? If not from here, what brought you to Ohio?

I was born in Holmes County, Ohio, but grew up in Plain City from the age of three, and moved to London in 1995.

Are you married? Do you have children? Grandchildren?

I was married for 28 years and went through a divorce two years ago. We have three daughters (all married), three granddaughters, and one grandson.

Where do you work?

I own a cabinet shop, Acorn Cabinet Company, in London, which was started in 1999, and I have six employees (even a couple from LCF).

Who has influenced you the most in life and why?

Steve Swartz. He has always been someone who showed me love and walked with me through many tough times and some poor choices I've made. He never gave up on me when he could have.

Where is your favorite place to go on vacation, or where do you dream of going?

I like the Outer Banks, NC, the best, but I went to Islamorada in the Florida Keys this winter, and it's a close second. Right now I'm content to visit the beach somewhere each year - it refreshes my soul.

What does a typical or not-so-typical weekend look like for you? What would we find you doing?

I meet early Saturday or Sunday mornings with men's groups. Saturday mornings are for doing laundry, cleaning house and groceries. I could end up working some or finding time to work-out. In the Fall, I often watch OSU football games. I enjoy fishing or kayaking, too. Sundays after church are mostly for relaxing and spending time with family.

Who or what motivates you the most?

I am motivated to see men find freedom from struggles they have, to bring hope to marriages and strained relationships and see them healed by God, and to be used to further the good news of Jesus Christ. I am willing to share my testimony of the brokenness in my life and how I learned to trust our unfailing God and his love because of it.

Do you have a favorite charity or community service project in which you are involved?

180recover.com, which is a ministry of Vineyard Columbus to help men live a life of purity, and I also like to help with the Wheelchair Ramp Ministry at LCF.

What is your favorite way to study the bible or devotional, and what is your favorite scripture?

I read a chapter of the Bible in the morning before I get out of bed (it hasn't always been this way—only in the last few years has this become a habit). I also read the "Duck Commander Devotional" each day before I leave the house. Favorite scripture is Psalm 13.



What is your favorite music? Food? Hobby?

Contemporary Christian. Chipotle. puzzles, reading, board games, fishing, and golf.

What is something most people might not know about you that you think is unusual or unique or interesting?

I like to go to tractor pulls, and I like hot rods - I like to "feel" the power :-). I also like to write poems and would like to one day write a children's book or lyrics to a song.

What is it about doing a mud run that interests you the most?

I think what started it was turning 50. I had started exercising more, and guess I needed the challenge. I don't like the mud but love climbing over things. ■

Update from the Elders

By Donna Sauder

We met in the LCF library on July 11th to make sure that everything is running in tip-top shape while Rob and Doris are on their much needed sabbatical. There will be a document in circulation to make sure that everyone knows who to contact concerning each of Doris' many responsibilities in the church.

We spent the majority of the time in prayer for LCF. We prayed for our church body as a whole, that we would be good examples of Christ's love in our fellowship and in our community. We prayed for individuals in our congregation and the prayer needs that have been brought to our attention on Sunday mornings during prayer/sharing time.

If you have any concerns, please let Reuben, Vicki or one of the elders know. We are happy to help. We will meet again on August 8th. ■

Bethel Camp (cont. from pg 1)

ter. It's like a family. Everybody is so open to what we have to say, and they accept us. You can be yourself there, and you don't have to be afraid or wear a veneer.

I was challenged to focus on who I am in my faith and to shine my light for Jesus in reckless abandon. I was also challenged to spread the Word and Jesus' love with confidence in who I am, not hiding it because of what others may think or judge me for. Bethel Camp (along with City Challenge) have really helped me to reach this point in my walk with God and have helped me become a stronger Christian. ■



Life Balance

A Pastoral Message from Steve Swartz

Since I serve as conference pastor of Conservative Mennonite Conference, I have an interest in pastors remaining strong and healthy. And, having personally benefited from a three-month sabbatical in 2016, I said “yes!” when I heard the results of the church vote affirming a sabbatical for Rob and Doris. Rob has given good leadership to LCF for 14 years, which included a building campaign, expanded programming, and many new faces. Doris has provided organizational structure for LCF for several decades. I trust that this time away can be re-energizing for our hardworking pastor couple!

I recently learned a fascinating theory about life balance from which we can all benefit.

Christopher McCluskey, president of Professional Christian Coaching Institute, developed this theory, and I was introduced to it while taking classes in life and leadership coaching.

Picture a triangle with three words at the corners: **worship**, **work**, and **play**.

Other than sleep, most of what we do each day can fall into one of these activities.

Worship, of course, is your time at church, personal devotions, acts of service, watching a sunset, or enjoying the laughter of grandchildren while thanking God for his goodness.

Work includes your employment and duties around the home. You may be tired after a hard day of work, but you can feel invigorated and refreshed by it.

Play is different for each person, but in this model it is not simply “vegging out.” As with worship and work, true play requires concentrated time and effort. Reading a book, exercising, and playing a game all require something of you and give you something back.

McCluskey suggests that many people “worship” their work. These people focus their lives on and derive their sense of security and worth from their employment. Work becomes their object of worship instead of God.

Not only do these people worship their work but they need to “work” at playing. It is hard for them to play because they do not value it enough. But play feeds their souls.

Then, you “play” at your worship. You do not take it seriously and give it priority.

Consequently, your worship does not allow God to fill you. Your spirit is starved because you do not feed on Scripture or drink of his Spirit.

Obviously, if you worship your work, work at your play, and play at your worship, you are completely out of balance. Balance allows you to be at worship without thinking about work. It allows you to be at work without dreaming of your next vacation. It allows you to be free to play.

I pray that Rob and Doris truly experience sabbatical during these next three months. And I pray that you can take the opportunity to be fully present in whatever you are doing: to worship at worship, work at work, and play at play. ■

Upcoming Activities

- Aug. 20, 7PM Hymn Sing at Shiloh
- Aug. 25-27 LCF Camp Out
- Sept. 19-21 Farm Science Review

Discerning Truth at Xenos by Sandy Gregg

Rob, Doris, and I attended Xenos Summer Institute this year. For those of you who have never been to one of these, it is an intensive two-day focus on a particular topic, which this year was “God’s Living Word.” The emphasis by many of the speakers was on discerning the truth from the biblical text, being careful to figure out the context, especially the historical context, and using translations that stay as true to the original intent as possible. One of the examples of how something loses a little in the translation was given by Doug Stuart, who told us that a better translation of, “And God saw that it was good.” in the creation account could have been better stated as: “And God loved it.” ■



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