

# The LCF Connection

December 2017

## What God Has Brought Together

by Rosanna Waweru

My name is Rosanna. I'm 22 years old. I married Sammy Waweru on October 21st. I could NOT be more excited to start this amazing adventure with my best friend and the love of my life! I'm ready to take this next step together and face all obstacles ahead, side-by-side, for a life full of love and happiness.

The time leading up to the wedding should have been a time full of excitement. But what I encountered from several people was anything but. Warnings about being prepared for things to go south the minute we said "I do." People told me that "Marriage is worthless. Get out while you can. You're too young."

Why were you saying this to me? Shouldn't you have been encouraging me and giving me advice on how to have a long and happy marriage? Why did you put those negative and scary thoughts into my head? Because it's the new norm.

Divorce is the norm. Nowadays, if you hear of someone celebrating an anniversary, the response is "Wow! Good for you!" We say this because it's not common anymore. Divorce happens all the time. But why?

Speaking from what I've seen in my own generation, here's what I think. We look at relationships as a way to benefit from something. People start dating someone thinking "What can I get out of this?" Well, that's not marriage material. Marriage is giving your all without expecting anything in return. It's going the extra mile just to see that cute little smile on your husband's/wife's face. It's cooking dinner after a long day, even when you're exhausted, just so they can relax. Marriage is sacrifice. We hear the word sacrifice, and we are afraid that it means we have to give up something. But really, sacrifice is giving up something you love for someone you love even more. Putting someone else's needs and desires above your own. We need to learn to sacrifice and serve our spouses.

We're not dedicated. People nowadays have too many outlets for outside attention. Texting, social media, snapchatting. The minute things get

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## Serving the Youngest at LCF

by Amie Smith

Every Sunday morning my daughter loves "Lizzie's church" and gets excited to go to the nursery to play. We are always greeted with friendly faces and warm welcomes when we enter the nursery. As a parent it is special for me to see the happy faces and notice the good changes that have recently taken place.



The nursery is an important part of our church ministry, as it is the first contact that young families have with the church. This is where the first feelings that a child has towards the church is formed. The care provided helps the parents focus on the service and worship, rather than worrying about their children.

Recently, the job of the Nursery Coordinator has shifted to the hands of Molly Rosati. With the college students returning to school, the volunteers for the nursery have been limited. Molly has found it difficult to gather volunteers to fulfill the nursery duties. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Molly.

When Molly first took over the responsibility, she reached out to me for advice, since I have a daughter who attends the nursery. I felt honored to be asked my opinion on how

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

## Getting to Know LCF's Newlyweds

There have been 5 couples from LCF who have gotten married in the past several months. If you have not met them, we encourage you to take some time to learn to know them. Following you will find the dates of their recent weddings and a bit about each couple to get you started. Congratulate them and support these new marriages in any way you can.



### *Jesse and Kara (Paat) Graber*

August 12, 2017

Currently living in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, in Canada where Jesse is a student in the Graphic Design program at Sault College, and Kara is a housekeeper at the War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

A favorite memory: We most enjoyed tubing down a river, on our honeymoon. It was unguided, so we just floated down the river basking in the sun. There were intermittent rapids that made the trip exciting, too. Jesse left with a terrible sunburn, but we had a lot of fun! ☺

### *Ira & Seongyoung (Ban) Sairs*

October 7, 2017

Currently living in London for the time being and are in the process of looking for jobs.

Ira: My favorite memory was being married by my father and receiving his message to us. Also, a funny thing that happened was one of the wedding guests stepped on Seongyoung's long veil as we left the church during the recessional.

We would encourage other couples to be selfless, forgiving, and patient. Be honest about your feelings and emotions towards each other. Pray about any difficulties you are facing.

Thank you for all of the support and the warm welcoming we've received since returning to the U.S.!



### *Jeff & Elisabeth (Shenk) Yoder*

October 14, 2017

We live in a cozy little home on Amish Pike just outside of Plain City.

Jeff works in cabinetry at Sommers' Wood-N-Door, and Elisabeth is a teacher at Radiant Kids Childcare. Elisabeth will be returning to school in the fall to complete her bachelors degree in English.

A fun fact/favorite memory is that Jeff asked Elisabeth out in Paris, and they had their first date in Rome.

We would encourage couples to not be too set in their ways. Be willing to see things from your partner's perspective and work together to reach a compromise.



## Sammy & Rosanna (Miller) Waweru

October 21, 2017

We are currently living in the basement apartment that Rosanna's parents have. Rosanna is working as a registered veterinary technician at MedVet, and Sammy is doing carpentry work in London.

Sammy: My favorite memory was trying to figure out how to propose. I thought she had seen through my "garden trip" excuse to go outside, but I was thrilled at her surprise and that she said yes!

Rosanna: My favorite memory is probably when Sammy proposed. Knowing that my dreams were coming true and I would get to spend the rest of my life with him was so exciting. It was completely unexpected and perfect. I cried the whole time, and having my dad there to witness it made it even more special.

We love being part of LCF and are very lucky to have such a supportive and loving church family.

*Editor's note: For more of Rosanna's thoughts on getting married, read the front-page article, "What God Has Brought Together."*



## Chad & Nicole (Ayers) Thomas

November 4, 2017

We live in London. Chad works full-time with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services - Crager Tobin Real Estate and part-time in sales at the London Kroger. Nicole works as a Designer Services Specialist at Restoration Hardware in West Jefferson.

Nicole: "My favorite memory is when Chad proposed to me. Both of our families were there, and it was such a perfect moment. Chad explained that the diamond in my ring was my great grandmother's, who had recently passed away. It was from the diamond earring that she wore on her wedding day 80 years before. That moment will always remain in my heart."



### *What God Has Brought Together...continued*

just a little rocky, we turn to another source to see what our options are. "Ooh, he liked my last selfie." Maybe if this relationship doesn't work, I'll start talking to him." No. We need to dedicate ourselves to one person. Really dedicate. No more texting random people you met online or sending flirty pictures to guys you're "just friends" with. Don't "keep your options open." If you want something to last, you have to put your all into it.

Lastly, we don't know how to forgive. Growing up, we're taught to forgive and forget. Why do we forget that when we're adults? We just hold on to every little teeny-tiny, itsy-bitsy thing that someone does to us whether they mean to or not. A relationship needs forgiveness. Nobody is perfect. We all mess up big time. But that doesn't mean that we don't still love our spouses. I know that forgiveness can be hard, and trust me, I know. It's probably one of the hardest things that we have to do. I say we have to do this because it's true. Holding on to grudges only hurts us. Letting go can bring such peace. You can finally start enjoying life again. So, when our husbands/wives mess up, we need to forgive. Work through the issues together. Communicate. And I mean in person. None of this texting nonsense. Actually sit down and talk through things. It might take a day; it might take a few months. But as long as two people are committed and willing to forgive, they can work through anything.

So to those people who told me to enjoy my marriage while it lasts, I have something to say to you—My marriage Will. Not. Fail. I am solely dedicated to my husband. I have never met anyone like him, and I have never felt so loved by anyone else. By saying "I do," I'm making a promise to him. I promise to always be dedicated to him and him alone. I promise to put his needs before my own. I promise to forgive when forgiveness is needed and ask for forgiveness when I mess up. I promise to keep God the center of our marriage and pray for us every day. I know that marriage isn't easy and that there will be times when things aren't peachy. But I promise to never give up. We will make it. I promise to walk beside him every single day and grow old with him. I promise to be by his side 'til death do us part. I love him with my whole heart, and I promise to never stop. *"Therefore, what God has brought together, let no man separate."* Mark 10:9



## Elders' Retreat 2017

by Donna Sauder

We met for our annual elders' retreat November 10-11 at "the Woods at Farmvilla" in Plain City. We were thankful that our overser, Roger Hazen, and his wife, Sharon, were once again able to come from Vassar, Michigan to join us for the weekend. We began our retreat together with a meal at Ann & Tony's restaurant in West Jefferson on Friday evening and then went to the Farmvilla House for a time of prayer together. On Saturday, we enjoyed eating, laughing, praying, and discussing together.

We have each been reading the book "Transforming Prayer" so that filled up our first discussion time. We learned the difference between seeking God's face, a relationship based on who God is vs seeking God's hand, a relationship based on what God can do for us.

In our 2nd session, we talked about vision and what we feel God is calling us to at LCF. In our next session we listed the many things that we are currently doing at LCF. Then in our 4th session, we compared the two lists to make sure that our ministries and activities that we are involved in are fulfilling the vision of what God is calling us to do.

In our last session, we discussed the things that we are doing well and what areas we see that need improvement. As time goes by, we will continue to analyze and discuss how we can make improvements and share the load of responsibility better so that each person on the elders' team and in the congregation can use their individual gifts and passions to help us as a church accomplish what God wants us to.



## Thanksgiving Celebration!

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." Psalm 100:4*

Sunday morning, November 19, was a wonderful time of expressing our praise and thanksgiving to God for who he is, and for the many blessings he has given us. Thanks to each of you for your participation, and to Mandy and Meredith Hochstetler for the great job they did with decorating. May our lives continue to overflow with gratitude!



## Nursery...continued

to make the nursery better for our little ones. I had not even thought about volunteering myself, but have now since and feel so much joy watching the children learn and grow in the nursery.

When you serve in the nursery you are being entrusted with the most important member of the church family. As stated in Matthew 19:14 *"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"* There is no greater treasure on this side of heaven than the little ones that God has given us.



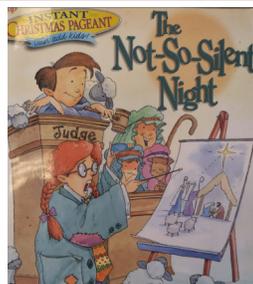
## Singing of Christ's Birth

Thanks to all who helped to sing Christmas carols at London's Old-Fashioned Christmas on November 27. Thanks, also, to Steve and Phyllis for the delicious cinnamon rolls and hot drinks afterwards.

## 2017 Christmas Program

The children at LCF are working hard to prepare for their upcoming Christmas program on December 17!

Three young shepherds joyfully shouted God's praises after visiting the baby Jesus. How were *they* to know they were "disturbing the peace?" Join them in a Bethlehem courtroom (held on the stage at LCF) for a "rib-tickling trial."



While volunteering in the nursery, I noticed that several of the toys and books were worn and out dated. Molly and I gathered for discussion and have determined that the toys in the nursery need to be changed. In the next coming weeks you will see a playpen out in the foyer, in which you can donate any slightly-used books or toys, if you choose. Please steer away from cloth toys, as those tend to get worn and dirty. Any biblical book would be greatly appreciated, as we would like to instill the word of God into our little ones during the service. This would be a great way to clean through your children's toys before the holiday season approaches.

So let us use this Christmas-time toy drive to bless these little children with dedicated ministry and in-better-condition toys for their educational needs.

## Upcoming Activities

- Dec. 9 Ladies Christmas Luncheon, 11 a.m.
- Dec. 10 RBC Choir at LCF
- Dec. 17 Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24 LCF Family Christmas
- Jan. 14 Celebrate the Church Sunday

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:connection@lcfweb.org).