

The LCF Connection

August 2014

Learning and Serving at Home and Abroad

This summer, many of our LCFers have been learning more about God and serving Him in various ways. We thought we'd take this issue to let several of them share with you some of the things they have been learning and doing.



Mission Trip to the Amazon Rain Forest

by Levi Miller

"Medical Ministry International (MMI) provides compassion and health care in a world of need using Jesus as our guide." MMI works in over 23 countries around the world. They work in areas where there are few or no health services at all.

This past June, I spent two weeks (June 13-18) with an MMI group in Columbia along the Amazon River providing medical services, concentrating on eyes, but also providing some general medical needs. To get to where we set up clinics, we flew into Leticia, the southern most part of Columbia, where Columbia, Brazil and Peru meet. The only way in and out of Leticia is by boat or air. From Leticia we traveled another 50-60 miles by speed boat up the Amazon to the village of Puerto Narino, where we were headquartered for the next two weeks. We set up a clinic at a school here and the ophthalmologists did surgeries at a small hospital nearby. At the clinic we checked people's eyes, prescribed eye glasses and gave out reading glasses. I was involved with testing people for near vision.

Later in the week we traveled another 50-60 miles up the Amazon to Caballo Cocha, a city on the Peru side of the Amazon with a reported population of over 6,000. We only set up a clinic there, where we checked

Continued on page 2...

Inside this Issue

Amazon Mission Trip	1
A Successful Singles Conference	1
Off on an Adventure	2
Leadership Team Notes	3
A Tale of Two Camps	3
Lives Changed at Bethel Camp	4
LCF Youth Trip	4

A Successful Singles Conference

by Danny Ndungu

Many weeks ago, Nicole Ayers worked with Rob to begin a small group comprised of anyone who was post-high school, whether in college or even in the workforce. During one of our regular meetings, she shared the idea of having a conference that was targeted towards the singles. Her simple comment slowly changed into more ideas in consecutive small group meetings. After contacting various potential speakers, figuring out logistics with the help of the church, and flooding Facebook with a plethora of information about the preparation process, boom! A date was set and before long, it was d-day.

The conference was held at LCF on the 19th of July from about 9 o'clock in the morning to 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The timing was especially friendly to some of us who are nocturnals (for we sacrificed breakfast for sleep) since there was a glorious table of bagels, fruit, donuts, orange juice and coffee. After the breakfast, Rob, Gloria Jacob (who works with Dayton's International Friendships ministry) and Nicole Ayers lead some great discussions touching on important points such as: key issues to figure out before

Continued on page 3



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Off on an Adventure!

by Doris Swartz



If you're like me, when you think about sharing your faith with others, you probably feel uncertain and afraid, not sure what you should say, what they will think, etc. On July 9 - 11, a group of us from LCF joined about 3,000 others at the 2014 Xenos Summer

Institute where we were challenged to think of evangelism as an "Unexpected Adventure". Risk and uncertainty are part of what makes it an adventure! It's only when we are willing to step out in faith that we will be able to see God work in amazing ways.

There were many great speakers and workshops that challenged us and equipped us in so many different ways! I especially enjoyed hearing Mark Mittelberg, Lee Strobel, and Randy Newman share their personal stories and wisdom. It was helpful to see how God has created us with different evangelistic styles, and we just need to be ourselves. I was touched by the many testimonies, from atheists to people who have grown up in the church, who have been changed for eternity because someone was willing to take a risk and share God's love.

Some of the things I heard that continue to rumble in my mind include:

- *What is more important than being a messenger for the Creator of the universe to someone whose eternity is hanging in the balance?*
- *Is my comfort, schedule, etc. more important than someone's eternity?*
- *If God answered all my prayers from this past week, how many new Christians would there be?*
- *Prayer is not just one more thing we can do - it's the best thing we can do.*

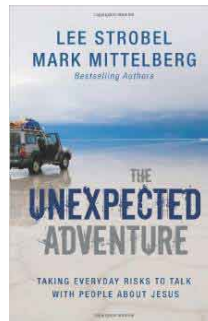


I am not naturally a very adventurous person, but as I reflected on God's great grace to me, his power to transform lives, and the opportunity I have to join him in making a difference for eternity in the life of another person...I have to admit, I am excited about joining him on this unexpected adventure! I know it will push me out of my comfort zone, but I can't wait to see what he is going to do!

If you would like to learn more about this great adventure (also known as evangelism), I encourage you to check out some of the following books from our LCF Library:

- "The Unexpected Adventure" by Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg
- "Confident Faith" by Mark Mittelberg
- "The Case for Christianity" by Lee Strobel
- "Just Walk Across the Room" by Bill Hybels

You can also visit the Xenos website for the (free) audio and video downloads of the 2014 Xenos Summer Institute sessions and workshops.



Coming Up This Month...

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| Aug. 1-3 | CMC Conference in Castorland, New York |
| Aug. 8-10 | Annual LCF Camp-out |
| Aug. 10 | Outdoor service at Camp-out (no church at LCF) |
| Aug. 16 | Be the Church event, 8:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds |
| Aug. 17 | Baby Shower for Jennifer Cooper, 3 p.m. at the church |



Amazon Mission Trip...continued

eyes and the doctors also treated eyes as needed. Anyone needing eye surgery needed to go to the hospital in Puerto Narino.

The last several days we travelled yet another 30-40 miles up the Amazon to Chimbote on the Peru side of the Amazon. This was a smaller town. There we checked eyes as well as provided other services. Some of the group checked the kids for lice and also passed out parasite medication.

The group was comprised of about 30 people coming mostly from the US, but also included 2 Canadians and 2 from New Zealand. The director of the project was Colombian as were most of the interpreters. The group contained 10 U.S. kids under 20 and a number of Colombian teens, as well as a number of people from Youth With A Mission based in Leticia. The youngest in the group was a 9 year old. The kids were a good asset to the project. They not only did a good job in the clinic, but also spent time playing volleyball and soccer with the nationals. Each day we spent several hours travelling to and from our clinic locations. This provided opportunity for interaction within the group.

This was a very physically taxing experience for me. Puerto Narino, where we had a hotel for the two weeks, had some very steep hills to climb. The one sidewalk near the hotel was extra steep and was a play ground for little kids. They had 1x6x24" boards which they waxed on the bottom with candle wax. The kids sat on these and slid down the sidewalk by the hour. A few of our kids joined in, but weren't nearly as adept as were the Colombians.

Some highlights for me were having so many youngsters involved in the project. They all want to go back. Another was also the gratitude of people we served. For many, this was possibly the first time ever having their eyes checked. These people were poor and some illiterate. For example, several people we tested did not know their numbers. These people are poor, but seem very content. They do without many of the conveniences we take for granted: no hot water, no cars, no bicycles and the list goes on.

You can go online and read more about Puerto Narino, Columbia, and Coballo Cocha, Peru. I would encourage LCFers to go on a mission trip, whether it's a stateside or some overseas venture. The opportunities are there. You will certainly be blessed.

Leadership Team Notes

Leadership Team is looking for leaders!
by Vicki Sairs

The Leadership Team met on July 7 at the church. After devotional input from Bob Zachrich, updates about what's happening at LCF, and a time of prayer, we launched into our main topic: developing leadership.

LCF needs leaders. If you recall, the last time we had an elder nominating process, the nominees declined. They had good reasons, but it's still a matter of concern.

How can we do a better job of raising up and equipping leaders? In our discussion, we noted that the need for leaders goes beyond elders and pastors; LCF can use men, women and young people in a variety of leadership roles.

We decided to have a Leadership Training Class this fall (perhaps in October). Rob, Naomi and Reuben will work together to make this happen. We'll keep you posted, and in the meantime, be thinking about whether this is something you should look into!

Before closing, we briefly discussed using the new Kingdom Come curriculum for adults and young people at LCF. We all agreed that we'd like to see that happen; we'll discuss it in more detail at our next meeting on August 12.

A Tale of Two Camps

by Grace Ndungu

Going to Bethel Camp as a counselor, I was very scared. I had heard stories that didn't exactly bring joy to my soul. I spent time in prayer for weeks before I left for camp. God took the situation into his hands and it was amazing to see what he did in the lives of the campers that were there. I saw kids dedicating and re-dedicating their lives to Christ. During my second week there, I was a camper and got to be involved in everything. The whole week, no matter what anyone was doing, you could just feel the presence of God, especially at chapel. In fact, every chapel session we had, there was at least one person who would go up to the front and just cry out to God, whether it was because of their relationship with him or even something going on back



home. Through it all, I felt very humbled to witness God's presence in those two weeks.



Later in July, I had the opportunity to volunteer at Choral Camp, which is a music based camp right here at Rosedale. Although it's very different from Bethel Camp, the campers here got

to see, experience, and grow closer to God through the music they learned in the course of the week. It was humbling to see many young people from all over the states just come together to volunteer and to help campers learn more about and grow closer to God

In these four weeks of volunteering, God taught me something that I will take with me forever: no matter what you have planned, God can come, take it, and change it into this incredible mission that seems impossible. All you have to do is trust in him and dive in head first!

Singles Conference...continued

marriage, the importance of putting God first before pursuing a spouse, understanding sex in the context of being single, etc.

I asked some of the other participants to jot down their thoughts about the conference. Here is what they had to say:

- **Harmony Troyer:** "I loved the variety of people: younger and older, a good mix of guys and girls, married and single. I also appreciated each person's thoughts on the various subjects we discussed. Overall, it was a great day for all of us to discuss some of the peaks and valleys of being single and how God can use each of us, whether we are single or married."
- **Andrew Pullin:** "What impacted me most was seeing the faces of people I knew coming together before God to learn. One of the big topics on sex was very encouraging to me. Nicole touched on the idea that sex, and our sexual desires, are feelings that God has given us. I liked hearing this because I believe it's easy to feel ashamed or discouraged when we encounter those desires. I'm so thankful to Gloria, Rob, and Nicole who spoke. I'm most thankful to Nicole who put hard mental work into the creation of the conference!"
- **Danae Swartz:** "God really spoke to me about the theme of contentment. Whether we're married or single we're all going to face problems, but there are also different advantages for each. I'm hoping to work on finding my contentment and satisfaction in God and realize that He is more than enough for me. And it all comes back to trust; I know I can trust God with every detail of my life, even when it's difficult."
- **Grace Ndungu:** "The one thing I liked the most about the conference was the diversity. We had people ranging in age from 17 through 68. It helped to get different views on 'the single life'. I also liked the breaks we had after each session to help us reflect and pray about what we had learned."



We wrapped up the session by receiving beautifully potted plants that we were to take home and grow, symbolizing our calling to *bloom where we are planted*.



Special thanks to Rob, Gloria, and Nicole for leading the group discussions; to Dottie and Jennifer (Nicole's mother and friend respectively); and the participants for attending. Also, thanks to the church body for supporting this conference.

by Ashlen Hisey

Lives Changed at Bethel Camp

by Alyssa Hisey

My week at Bethel camp was too much fun to explain in words. We did lots of fun activities. My favorite was the shaving cream struggle. If there was one thing I enjoyed more than spraying shaving cream at everyone, it was the Chapel. I liked to sing in Chapel and really enjoyed the lessons we learned. Honestly, at first I didn't understand much about the Bible. I didn't like that, but after the first couple days I started to feel different. I started to feel at home with God and Jesus. I learned so much and felt like I really understood everything. That's when I came to the conclusion to get saved and have Jesus within my heart. Overall the experience at Bethel camp was the best thing that happened to me...until next year!



From left: Ashlen's friend Meridith, Ashlen and Alyssa

When I first got there I felt so happy to go to the camp, especially with my sister. There were a lot of activities and games on the schedule. We went to the Chapel twice a day where we sang and learned about God. The meals were delicious! We were on teams with different colored bandanas and had a tournament. The best day was Friday because I decided to get saved after the camp fire. My counselor Courtney helped me get saved.



LCF Youth Missions Trip

by Natalie Cocanour

On June 22, our Youth Group set out in a fifteen passenger van on our summer youth trip. We traveled to several different cities doing different types of outreach and mostly just showing Christ's love.

One of our outreach opportunities that we had was handing out sacked lunches to people in Flint, Michigan. We offered to pray with anyone who wanted prayer, and to our surprise that was a majority. One thing that stuck out to me was that people need God's love. It was amazing to see people's faces light up when we handed them the lunch and offered them prayer. That was something I know I will never forget.

Another outreach opportunity we had was to visit Cornerstone Youth Ministries. This was a tuition free non-profit organization that provided a Christian environment that kids could go to after school or during the summer to learn and hang out. It was designed to get kids off the streets where there were drugs and bad things going on and into a place where they could learn important life skills.

At the end we met with the owner and one of the founders and prayed with him and learned about how it got started. It was really nice just to hang out and have fun with kids around our age. At our last outreach opportunity we visited the Christamore House. Across the street there was a nursing home that we went to. You could tell just by how they waved and smiled when we first walked up that they were glad to have visitors. While we were there we cleaned and visited with the people who lived there. There was a good amount of traveling during the trip. While we were in the van we each led two lessons based on passages in the Bible. Also, we enjoyed just singing along to worship music.



The experience of this trip made a huge impact on my life. It has shown me that just reaching out to someone can make a difference in their day. I know that this will help me be more confident in showing my faith. One word of encouragement I heard at our first stop stuck out to me throughout the whole trip: You don't know when you share your faith whether that's the first time or if that person has heard it many times, but it just might be the time that God uses to open their heart.

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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. Editors: Doris Swartz, Trish Eaton, Candice Mast and Amie Smith
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