

The LCF Connection

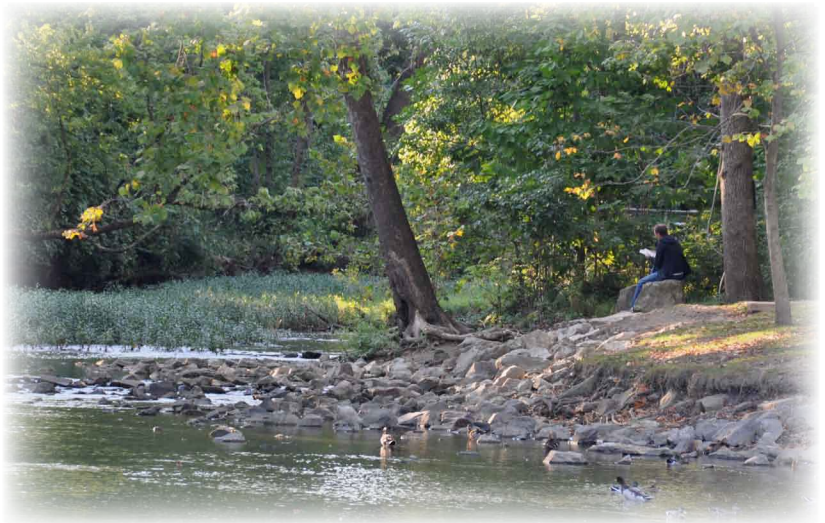
October 2014

Soul Care

A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

Something was wrong. I wasn't sure what, but I had been feeling distracted, unenthused, and downright unmotivated at times. After procrastinating yet again and getting about four hours of sleep Saturday night, I knew that something was broken. Doris was feeling some similar things and so we stepped back once again and looked carefully at our lives and asked God to shed some light on what was going on. We discovered that, as in times past, our souls had begun to dry out; to shrivel. Why? How? What to do about it? God began to gently lead us on a house-cleaning journey.



Reducing the Trivial - Like persistent ivy, our lives had gotten entangled in the trivial again. So...we have begun to methodically clear stuff from our lives. Nothing against any of these things, but Facebook has been reduced to checking about once a day, with each other, and for a short period of time. Vegging in front of the TV has been basically eliminated. The computers go off around 8:00. I'm sure we'll find other things as we go. We intend to be methodical and ruthless in eliminating trivia. Left unchecked it consumes and overwhelms our lives to the point of strangling the life out of us. We want to make space for that which brings lasting life and renewal.

Continued on page 2...

Inside this Issue

Soul Care	1
Operation Christmas Child	1
Leadership Team Notes	2
Getting to Know the Millers	3
Sausage Gravy = Volleyball!	4
A Special Gift	4
Kingdom Come Class	4
Upcoming Events	4

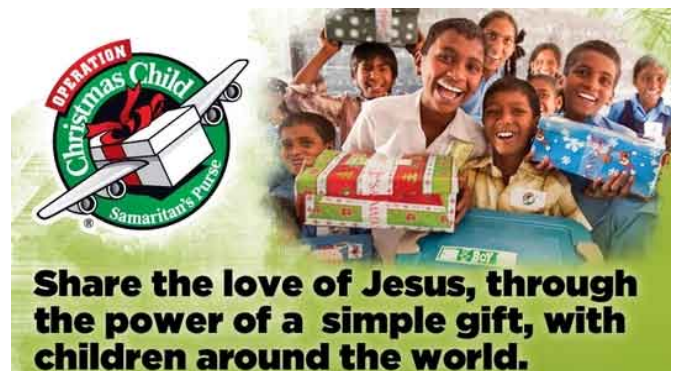
Operation Christmas Child

by Pam Shay

Many people have created Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes over the years to be distributed to children all over the world. This year, the LCF Fellowship Team thought it would be a great LCF Family cooperative project. Many items have been collected throughout the year in preparation for the LCF Operation Child Shoe Box Packing Party. This is when we will gather on a Saturday, November 8, to assemble all of the various items to prepare the Shoe Boxes for shipment worldwide.

LCF's goal is to pack 100 Boxes for the oldest age group: 10-14 year old boys and girls. This is the group with the least number of Boxes packed annually. This age group appreciates hygiene products, clothing, games and toys, school supplies and work-related items. While many items have been collected over the year, there are still more items needed. Below is a list of items still in need:

- Shoe Boxes (men & women shoe sizes)
- Flashlights & batteries
- Tubes of toothpaste
- Plastic cereal bowl
- Wash cloths
- Hard candy
- Soap (bars)
- Chewing/bubble gum
- Combs/brushes
- Hot Wheels/Matchbox cars
- T-shirts (boys & girls)
- Small stuffed animals
- Hats (baseball, toboggans)
- Hair ribbons, hair clips
- Underwear, socks
- Necklaces/bracelets



Share the love of Jesus, through the power of a simple gift, with children around the world.

Continued on page 4...



255 US 42 NE London, OH 43140
(740) 490-2121

www.LCFweb.org

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

Going Deep - We were not ministering out of deepness, but out of dryness. It never works. And so...we began searching for the living water again; searching, looking, seeking, and when finding, drinking deeply. We are learning to care for our souls so that out of the depths of our relationship with God, we might be able to care for and minister to others. We found that our souls are hungry for things that are deep and that we were weary and tired of the trivial. I'm reading "The Unchained Soul" by Calvin Miller, a collection of writings that have stood the test of time from saints who have gone before. We are both reading "Soul Care" by John Ortberg. The question is, "What will bring us closer to the heart of God, the wellspring of life?" That is what we seek.

Slowing Down - We are attempting to slow down. We are trying to seek the Lord without rushing and without an agenda. Yes, there is much to do. Yes, there is little time. Building the kingdom is urgent. All the more reason to slow down and do it right; seeking the Lord... to enjoy the ride, and to be ready for the end. Jesus had a crazy schedule, but scripture says that he "often withdrew to lonely places and prayed". We are making a priority of our quiet places. We aren't making excuses for needing to go to these quiet places. We are learning how to listen again without interruption (turn the phone off) in this ADD world. We are learning how to meditate, as the psalmist says, on the Word of God instead of breezing through it. There are certain quiet places that are particularly special. Ours usually involve streams, oceans, trees, sand, sunsets...those kinds of places, and we make a point to find them wherever and whenever we can.

So...are we doing better? Yes. Worship preparation was a song which burst from my heart this week. This article did not feel like the weight or burden it has in the past, but came from the Lord stirring and gently reviving a wayward, dried out soul. These are but brief windows into what lies ahead and there are miles to go, but I'm encouraged once again.

Maybe your soul is withered as well and you haven't even identified it yet. There is no life apart from the Lord. Only in him is there purpose and fulfillment and joy and hope. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Wait upon the Lord and he will renew your strength. Call on him and he will answer.

*"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.
He will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green. It has no worries
in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Leadership Team Notes

Catching up with the Leadership Team
by Vicki Sairs

Here is a highly condensed, Reader's Digest version of what went on at the last two Leadership Team meetings (August and September):

Big picture: We talk about big things and little things, extraordinary matters and ordinary matters. It's all part of nurturing a church and discipling believers. Even when the meeting drags on and certain individuals can't sit still (you'll never guess who), everybody realizes that what happens when we meet together is significant — not because of who we are but because of what God is doing.

Some of those things: Rosedale Mennonite Missions (RMM) would like to see Tom Mast ordained as a minister of Conservative Mennonite Conference (CMC) before returning to Thailand next summer, and wondered if we would like to do that as a church or participate in some way. We all heartily agreed that yes, we would like that!

Kingdom Come Curriculum: We're excited about using CMC's new Kingdom Come curriculum. Jesse Diller and David & Brenda Perkins will be helping to present it on Sunday mornings.

Junior Youth: Jeremy and Mandy Hisey, Danny Ndungu, and Phyllis Swartz will be leading our junior youth. Yes!

Leadership Training: Reuben, Naomy and Rob will work together to present a fall leadership training class. It will cover things such as: what to expect when you take on a leadership role, showing initiative, working without supervision, not expecting appreciation, etc. We will invite specific people to attend but open it to anyone interested. It will be geared towards those interested in being an elder, small group leader, etc.

Restructuring: With our growing congregation, we feel some structural changes are necessary. We spent most of our September meeting working on a proposal to present to the congregation for a new team that we would like to call "The LCF Council."

We picture this as a team to handle all of the business and organization responsibilities at London Christian Fellowship. We want to empower the Council to make decisions and give leadership without needing to run everything back through the Elder's Team. It will be a learning process as we determine exactly which items fall under each team's direct supervision.

By adding the LCF Council, it would free up the elders to spend more time on prayer, preaching and teaching the Word, overseeing discipleship and spiritual formation, giving leadership to small groups, setting and promoting vision for the church, dealing with spiritual concerns, shepherding the flock, and providing congregational care.

We hope to share details in October so the congregation has a chance to provide feedback and think the proposal over before voting on it in November.

Getting to Know...The Miller Family

(Lyndon, Sheila, Rosanna, and Lance)

Interview by Candice Mast

Where are you from originally? How did you end up in this area?

- Lyndon: I grew up in a family with four children- two girls and two boys. I was adopted into the family when I was a baby and grew up on a farm near Plain City, Ohio.
- Sheila: I come from a family of six children: four girls and two boys. I grew up on a farm, in Hutchinson, Kansas, and moved to Ohio in 1988, after attending Rosedale Bible College for a couple of terms.
- We first met while we both worked at Der Dutchman in Plain City, but started a relationship a couple years later, when we got reacquainted through a Christian singles group that met in Plain City. After getting married in November, 1991, we moved to Kansas in February of 1992. While there, our three children were born: Katlyn, Rosanna, and Lance.
- In 1999, we felt that God was leading our family back to Ohio. We attended United Bethel Mennonite Church when we first moved back. Several years later, when Lighthouse Mennonite Church was started, we began attending there. We were very involved with leading worship, as well as teaching Sunday School, and headed up VBS this past summer. Several months ago, through some unexpected circumstances, we made the decision to leave Lighthouse. After visiting several churches, our family started attending LCF. We felt very welcome, and have enjoyed renewing some old friendships, as well as beginning new ones. We wanted a church that was Christ-centered, as well as a church where our kids could plug in and connect. We feel that God has led us here, at least for now, and will trust him for the future.

What are you studying in school and what do you do for a living?

- Lyndon: I'm currently working at Kramer Electric (beginning in January of 2014). My position is VP of inside sales and I'm also in charge of inventory and work in many other areas. Prior to working at Kramer's, I worked at Contract Building Components, in Marysville, as head truss designer. I now drive only 2 miles to work!
- Sheila: I've been cleaning houses for the last 12 years. Most of the homes are in the Muirfield area, but a few are in Powell, and Upper Arlington. I clean about 7-9 a week.
- Katlyn, is our oldest who lives with Sheila's mom in Kansas. She is working as a CNA, as well as waitressing, while she is going to school at Hutchinson Community College to become an LPN.
- Rosanna: Currently I am working full-time at Yutzy's Farm Market. I am also studying to become a Veterinary Technician at Columbus State Community College. I started this August and will be finishing in the spring of 2016.
- Lance: I am a junior at JAHS and attend Tolles (in Construction Technology). I'm in the marching band and am playing the quads this year (set of 4 drums). I work at Der Dutchman several evenings a week washing dishes.

What are some of the things you like doing individually and together as a family?

- Lyndon: hunting, music, raising chickens, quail, and rabbits, and watching football.
- Sheila: reading, relaxing, and spending time with friends
- Rosanna: baking, cooking, and anything to do with animals.
- Lance: hunting- bow or gun, playing guitar, and playing drums.
- As a family, we enjoy going out to eat or watching a movie together. We also enjoy having people over to our home.

Thanks so much, Miller family!
It's so good to have you attending at LCF and we're looking forward to continue getting to know you!

What is something you have never done but would like to do some day?

One thing we would love to do as a family someday is to travel, and see places like Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon, and the Rocky Mountains. Our vacations are usually spent with family, and while good, doesn't give opportunity to visit other places.

Rosanna, what story does your family always tell about you? My parents like to tell people about me not knowing my right from my left. When I was learning to drive I turned on my left turn signal on accident and I will never live it down.

Lance, what's a chore that you hate doing?

Anything that has to do with cleaning!

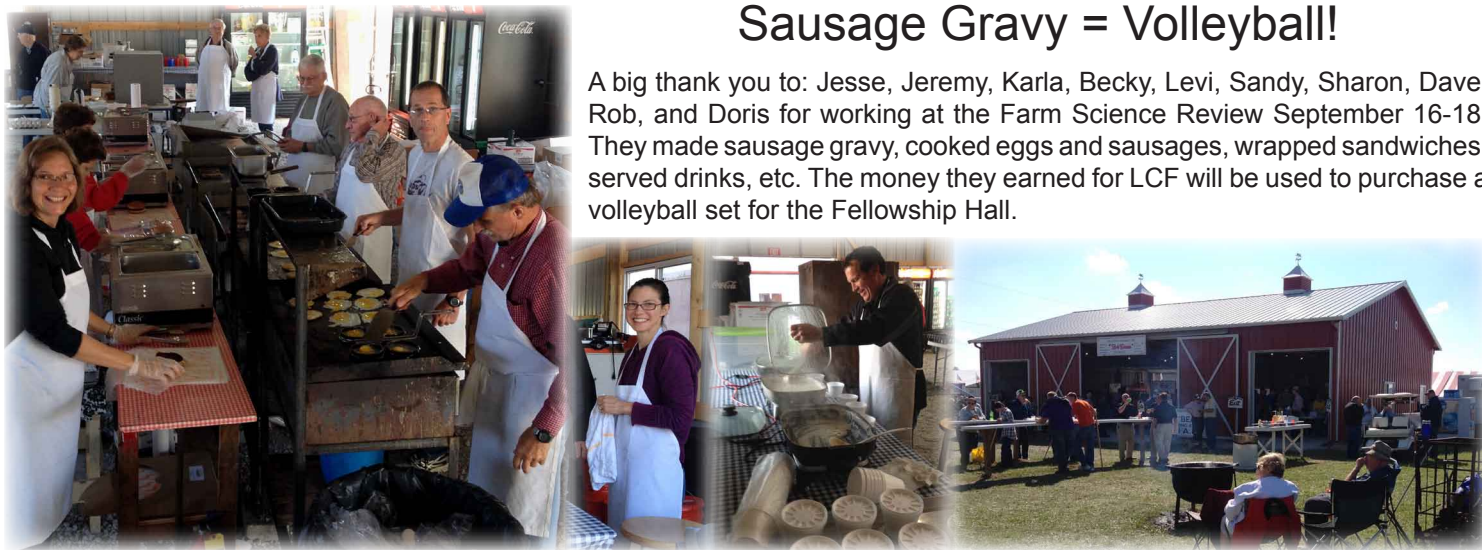
What are some things that God has been teaching you lately? Or favorite scriptures?

- Lyndon: I have been learning forgiveness: to accept it from God, and to extend it to others as well.
- Sheila: I lost my dad almost two years ago to pancreatic cancer. Since then, God has been showing me that he wants to be my Father. I am learning in a new way what it means to be a daughter of the King. It has been a time of growing; being reminded again that we are all made in his image, that each of us was made "on purpose" for a purpose, to love who God made me to be, and to love others because God loves them and created them, too.
- Rosanna: Recently God has been teaching me about his timing. This has been really challenging for me. My favorite verse is Jeremiah 29:11



Sausage Gravy = Volleyball!

A big thank you to: Jesse, Jeremy, Karla, Becky, Levi, Sandy, Sharon, Dave, Rob, and Doris for working at the Farm Science Review September 16-18. They made sausage gravy, cooked eggs and sausages, wrapped sandwiches, served drinks, etc. The money they earned for LCF will be used to purchase a volleyball set for the Fellowship Hall.



Preparing for the



Packing Party!

Operation Christmas Child continued...

Also, we will make career/work kits that can help the older children help their families and earn income. For the boys, we'd like to assemble small fishing kits and tool kits. For the girls, small sewing kits, bead kits, and cooking kits. While we have collected many items already, here's a list of items still needed to create 50 of each work kit:

- **Fishing Kits:** hooks, line, weights/sinkers, small bobbers
- **Tool Kits:** hammers, pliers, nails, screws, nylon rope
- **Sewing Kits:** 1/4-1/2 yard fabric pieces
- **Bead Kits:** variety of beads, line/string
- **Cooking Kits:** oven gloves/pot holders, wooden cooking utensils, can openers

Other items Needed:

- Small containers with lids (large Rx bottles, mini plastic containers, Altoid tins)
- 2-4 small containers of small BBs (for a craft-game)
- 50 - 100 metal flat washers (1 to 1 1/2 inch) to make necklaces
- Christmas wrapping paper
- Scotch tape
- Variety of nail polishes (for craft projects)
- 10-12 packs of bobby pins

How you can participate:

- Donate any of the above items.
- Donate money to help buy items or pay for postage. (We have some great resources to purchase many items at great discounts.) Simply designate money in the church offering by writing "Christmas Child" on your check/envelope.
- Attend the craft day in October to help make various items for the boxes--kids and adults are all welcomed to participate.
- Join us for the Packing Party on Saturday, November 8.
- Pray for the boxes to reach children children and make them aware of God's true love.

Thanks from the LCF Fellowship Team, for your help and support!

A Special Gift



Pictured from left: Brenda's sister, mother, father, and husband

On Sunday, August 31, 2014 Marcus Freed presented LCF with a special gift, a pencil dawning of Brenda, done by Charley, a prisoner at LoCI.

Join us for LCF's Fall Adult Discipleship Class

KINGDOM COME

Sundays at 11:15 a.m.
Sept. 21 - Dec. 14



Thanks to Jesse, David, and Brenda, for teaching.

October Activities

- Oct. 4 - LCF Jam Night. 6 - 8 p.m.
- Oct. 5 - Potluck meal after church
- Oct. 19 - Communion, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 25 - Fall Harvest Party at Headings, 4-8 p.m.
- Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 - RMM Prayer Conference

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 connection@lcfweb.org. *Editors: Doris Swartz, Trish Eaton, Candice Mast, and Amie Smith*
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.