

The LCF Connection

February 2015



The Heart of Worship

by Amie Smith

The act of worship is an outward expression of praise to our heavenly father. When we sing or speak in praise, it is to reflect on how good and powerful God is. Psalms 68:4-5 says,

"Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."



We as Christians are called to declare he is worthy through praising and worshipping him.

As a church of believers and individuals we have different reactions to various styles of worship. We asked three of our worship leaders, lead pastor Rob Swartz, Larissa Swartz, and Aaron Biscup for their thoughts on how they prepare for worship and recommendations for inspirational songs to help us understand the process a little better and give us ideas for personal worship.

Continued on page 2...

Inside this Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| The Heart of Worship | 1 |
| Investing Wisely for Love | 1 |
| Anna Joins Thailand Team | 3 |
| Elders' Notes | 3 |
| Ashlie's Baby Shower | 4 |
| "Celebrate the Church" | 4 |
| Little Things...Big Difference! | 4 |
| Upcoming Events | 4 |



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Investing Wisely for Love

by Pam Shay

2015 is under way and many have set their goals for the new year—better health, less stress, and better investment strategies. With the beginning of February approaching and Valentine's Day coming soon, what are you doing to better invest in your relationships and marriage?

When talking about investments, most people think about money, savings, and retirement. But in a successful marriage and relationship, both husband and wife must be willing to invest time and energy. And all marriages, no matter how good, can be made better.

If you consulted a financial planner about investing in your future, he would advise: invest money regularly. The type of financial investments you make will change at different times in your life. Yet the principles hold true for love, marriage, and relationships. Both partners must invest regularly in the relationship to make it flourish. Many believe a relationship is only good if it comes easily. But the reality is this... most good relationships require a lot of work. It takes a daily investment of time, communication, and being there for the other person.

Don't get lazy about your relationship. If you stopped investing in your savings account, you wouldn't be surprised when you had very little in it. Relationships need a regular

Continued on page 4...

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

How do you decide on what songs to play on Sunday mornings?

(Rob) Each of us worship leaders is influenced by the songs that we like and the songs we know that other people like. We tend to get different styles or songs based on the worship leader. We have not chosen a particular style for LCF, but consider our worship style to be eclectic. We have people that prefer hymns and others that like newer music. It can be helpful to hear what songs people in the congregation like, which helps influence what we choose. We try not to have too many “new” songs because we want the congregation to be able to learn the songs we play fairly quickly and not always be learning new songs. Our definition of a new song is one that we have not sung in the past 365 days whether brand new or old.



I usually settle on a theme that each of the songs contribute to. The rhythm of the songs is important to look at as well. Too many “upbeat” songs can get tiresome. Too many slow songs can be uninspiring. A mix is usually good. The words of the songs are obviously really important. Lighter songs can be fun, but I tend to prefer ones that are understandable but have some depth to the lyrics.

Also, we do not want to be leading songs that are theologically weak. I am trusting that the Lord will guide me as I pick out songs. I pray about it and then as I look through songs, I’m asking God to prompt me in choosing a group to start with. Then I start narrowing the group of songs down to the five or six that we will use on Sunday morning. In the end, I pray that the Lord will use the songs to draw people to himself.

(Larissa) There’s not always a set requirement or process, but I often pull out my two large worship notebooks and play through them and during that individual time of worship, God draws my heart to different songs. Sometimes, he is speaking to me through the songs or he is showing me some theme or connection between them. The organizer in me loves to have songs that build on each other or that center around an idea or theme, but other times, when I have to pull some songs together in a pinch for a small group setting or have to plan on the fly, I have to more heavily rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. No matter what the situation though, I have to always pray and trust that the Lord is guiding and directing people’s hearts towards him, no matter which songs I choose.

(Aaron) The way I choose songs differs from week to week. Sometimes I choose songs based on what I feel God has been teaching me that week. Other times I have a song I like and I try to base the other songs around whatever theme that particular song focuses on. Also, when I lead a new song I try to lead it at least two or three times in a row to make it more familiar.

Are there any particular songs that you have found encouraging in times of struggle?

(Rob) Right now, I really like the songs “Anchor”, “My Lighthouse”, “Oceans”, and “It is Well”. They are about the joy and the hope that we can have in Christ even when things are difficult.

(Larissa) It’s always amazing how God uses a song to speak what I’m thinking, feeling or experiencing. There are so many songs that I can think of that encourage me when I’m feeling overwhelmed or depressed and I’ve made a playlist on Spotify for that very reason. It’s entitled “For the Moments I Feel Faint,” which is actually the name of a Relient K song. Some of my favorite songs on this playlist are “I Shall Not Want” by Audrey Assad, “Sacred” by Above the Golden State, “Psalm 118” by Shane and Shane, “Your Love is Strong” by Jon Foreman, and “Give Me Faith” by Elevation Worship. Some of my current favorite worship bands are: Rend Collective, Esterlyn, Sovereign Grace Music, All Sons and Daughters, and Shane and Shane.

(Aaron) Yes, there are many songs I have found uplifting. “Come as You Are” by David Crowder is a song that is about coming to God as you are because he loves you no matter what you’ve done or where you’ve been. I tend to be really hard on myself, sometimes falling for the lie that I cannot come to God for help because I’m not good enough. That song has helped to remind me that God wants me anyways; even when I fail, he will take me just as I am. As for new songs I would recommend “Shoulders” by For King & Country and “You Gave Your Life” by Laura Story. Also Jonathan Thulin is another great artist.

Thanks, Rob, Larissa, and Aaron for the “window” into the worship-leading experience and for your great song recommendations! Thanks also, to all the worship leaders who take the time to seek God and lead us in worship each Sunday.

To conclude, we as believers are to give praise and honor to him through all that we do. As it states in John 4:24; “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” Let’s take these song recommendations to heart and uplift each other in times of struggle. Grace be to God for he is always with us.

Anna Rosati Joins the RMM Thailand Team

by Candice Mast

Most of you know Anna Rosati, who is the daughter of Jack and Molly Rosati, and a long-time member of the church family at LCF. You probably also know that she has been teaching in Thailand over the past few years. You've seen her e-mailed prayer updates and she comes to visit when she's back home (like this Christmas). What you may not know, is that Anna has now joined the mission team of Rosedale Mennonite Missions in Bangkok! This is great news for us personally, as members of that team, and for the work in general, it's a huge blessing. As you know, Anna is a gifted teacher, as well as a humble person with a sincere desire to serve Jesus.



For those of you who haven't heard the story of how she ended up in Thailand, here it is! Anna attended Cedarville University, studying Elementary Education and ESL (English as a Second Language) and had the opportunity to do her student teaching in Bangkok. Anna taught at the International Community School (ICS) and fell in love with the school and with Thailand. She had peace about returning and when a teaching position became available, she decided to return the following year.



Anna is now in her second year of teaching at ICS and has committed to an additional year. She teaches students in grades K-5 in a pull-out ESL classroom. She is very involved in many other areas of school life as well including: English testing for admissions, facilitating chapel, teaching an after school Bible program, and tutoring. Outside of school, Anna enjoys time with her friends, running (when it's not unbearably hot!), studying Thai with a tutor, and going on adventures around Thailand with her friends. She is also working with a ministry called Lifesong whose mission is to rescue and disciple children found in migrant construction sites and slum communities. Anna participates in this ministry by teaching English classes to children of Cambodian construction workers and local Thai kids who

don't have the opportunity to learn from native English speakers. She has made occasional trips to Cambodia to support the Cambodian side of the ministry.

Anna is a covenant worker with RMM, which means she has a job that provides for her financial needs but will work with RMM's team in its ministry and will support RMM vision in Thailand. Anna says that she always had the goal of using ESL in a missions setting and is excited to see this dream becoming a reality as she comes alongside the team. At RMM, we are grateful for God's provision of a job and ministry in Thailand for Anna and that she can work together with our team to reach Thai and Cambodian people with the Good News of Jesus! At LCF, it's such a privilege to be Anna's sending church. Let's continue to lift her up in prayer and to be big supporters of her work!

LCF PRAYER FOCUS

Anna in Thailand

Anna's current prayer requests include:

- Wisdom in relationships and commitments
- Patience and a loving heart for my students, their families, and my co-workers
- Spiritual growth

Can You Name these Adorable Little LCFer's?



From left: Ella, Kailyn, Kinsley & Alaia

Elders' Notes from January 6th

by Vicki Sairs

The Leadership Team met on January 6 at Rob and Doris Swartz's home and spent time in prayer for the church and each other before tackling the agenda, which included:

RBC Scholarship - We discussed the need to update our RBC scholarship process with an application. We also noted that we hadn't processed a scholarship for current RBC students this year, and moved to make sure that those funds are properly distributed.

LCF Council - As of the night of our meeting, the Building and Grounds Team and the Finance Team had not yet come up with someone from their teams to serve on the Council. We feel that it is important that both of these teams be represented on the Council since decisions made by the Council will affect these teams so directly. We asked Rob to work with the Buildings and Grounds Team to find someone to be their representative on the Council. He will also check out possibilities from the Finance Team.

Membership - We talked about the upcoming LCF 101 class, scheduled for January 10 and clarified how we would run "Celebrate the Church" Sunday on January 18th.

Leadership Development - Nurturing new leaders is a high priority for LCF. We discussed effective ways to go about that.

Joyful Anticipation!

The ladies and girls of LCF enjoyed showering Ashlie LeGrand with gifts, love, blessings, and prayers on Saturday, January 3rd.



Abel Dwayne LeGrand arrived on Saturday, January 10th!

(Family photo credit to Barbara Mann.)



Invest Wisely...continued

investment of time and effort to grow and last. Love, romance and your relationship are not about splurging on a big, expensive, lavish gift (investment). What really holds true love together are the little things, little acts of love, the small steady day-to-day investments. Those small contributions add up over time and serve to strengthen and lengthen a loving marriage and relationship.

Suggestions for steady investments: hold hands while taking a walk, show common courtesy by saying thank you, open a door, give an unexpected kiss, leave a note thanking your partner for a simple task, give the other the last piece of pizza, take over a chore of the other, have a simple date night such as attending the LCF Valentine's Dinner.

Remember the key to success when investing: steady wins the game.

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. Proverbs 21:5

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong doing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
1 Corinthians: 4-7

"Celebrate the Church Sunday"

January 18, 2015

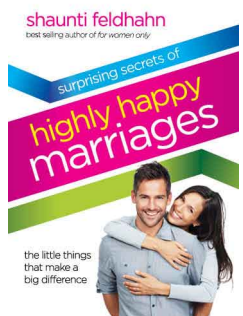
The day included bringing in new members, having current members reaffirm their membership, giving appreciation to those who have served this past year, providing opportunity for people to sign up to serve in the coming year, and a delicious potluck meal.



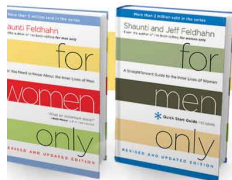
Little Things Make A BIG Difference

"Are you, personally, generally happy in your marriage these days and enjoying being married?"

That's the question that Shaunti Feldhahn spent three years asking 1000 couples. Their replies revealed 12 habits that most highly happy couples share. Shaunti shares her findings about the little, very unexpected, often overlooked, actions that make a huge difference in relationships in her book, "The Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Marriages".



This book along with two of her other best-sellers, "For Women Only" and "For Men Only" (which reveal some of the most important needs of men and women) are now available in the LCF library. Invest in that special relationship in your life by checking out one of these books today.



LCF Valentine's Day Dinner

Saturday, February 14, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

5:30 Appetizers
6:00 Dinner



Italian buffet, fellowship, and fun entertainment for the low price of \$5 per person. (For adults age 16 and up. No childcare provided).

Upcoming Activities

- Feb. 7 Men's Breakfast at Phat Daddy's, 8 a.m.
- Feb. 14 Valentine Dinner at LCF
- Feb. 15 Communion
- Feb. 16-19 CMC's Pastors' Conference at RBC

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, Theresa Hennis, 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.