

The LCF Connection

March 2015



Photo credit: Kelsey Ortlieb

Children of the Day

LCF Women's Bible Studies

by Theresa Hennis

Small groups are a great way to meet new people, draw closer to those we already know, and learn something new about ourselves, about others, and about God.

There are currently two ladies' small groups who are studying 1 & 2 Thessalonians through Beth Moore's video Bible study *Children of the Day*. One group meets at the home of Dorothy Jones every other Wednesday morning and the other meets at the church every

other Tuesday evening. We were curious to know how the study is making a difference in the lives of those who are participating, so we checked in with several of the ladies.

Becky Hostetler says, "I learned many things throughout this study, but one thing in particular has stuck with me—I have a God-ordained ministry, *only able to be performed by the power of the Holy Spirit*. I cannot serve Jesus without Jesus."

"What I've learned from this study has really been an affirmation of what God's been teaching us about Him being our Father, about how He wants to nurture and encourage us," says Sheila Miller. "He speaks to each of us and to our needs."

A number of the ladies mentioned that one theme that has been inspiring group members is the importance of us depending on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Audrey Maust says, "Beth Moore stated that a healthy church needs non-believers, new believers, and mature believers. By taking this class it reminded me how important it is to do my part in not only welcoming newcomers but to be willing to nurture them as well."

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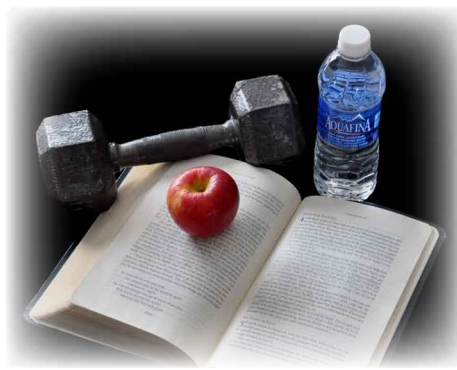


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The Physical & Spiritual Workout

by David Perkins

"Exercise yourself toward godliness," writes Paul in I Timothy 4:7-8, "For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come".



Exercise is good. We all know that. It is definitely beneficial for our health to exercise regularly. Whether you are going for morning walks or hitting the gym a few days a week, exercise is important for all of us. It keeps us healthy, focused, energized, and strong. It can even make us feel happy.

Our physical fitness promotes our appearance and overall health. Sometimes we can get lost in the physical attributes of exercise and

forget that it is very important that we train ourselves spiritually as well. Paul could not have said it better in the verse above. Physical, or bodily, exercise is important, but in the scheme of things, exercising godliness is of greatest value to us. The godliness that Paul is referring to is the godliness of being like Christ. To exercise our godliness, we must train ourselves to become more like Christ.

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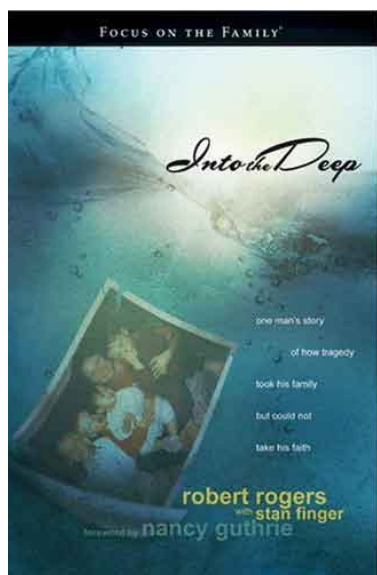
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London Christian Fellowship seeks to develop authentic and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

Into the Deep

written by Robert Rogers with Stan Finger

Book review by Shannon Scheffel



Into the Deep is the true story of husband and father, Robert Rogers, who lost his wife and family in a tragic accident involving a flash flood. The family was returning from a wedding when they encountered high waters along the highway they were traveling. This book tells the story of decision and indecision in moments of pure fright, the inability to stop the fateful events of a horrific evening, followed by the incredible painful days and weeks to come.

Robert bares his heart in this book with the struggles and questions he had after these events. "Why would God let this happen? I thought we were doing everything right. Why did I survive? How do I move on?" In all these struggles, Robert gives a strong testimony to God's "peace beyond all understanding" and of grace and strength when he had absolutely no strength of his own. He shares how God's word became his lifeline and how it brought him through depression and into healing.

Our small group had the privilege of hearing Robert speak in late January at the Ohio Wesleyan University. I came away very touched and encouraged by his strong testimony that our God is a God who can be trusted and that He brings beauty from ashes. Robert now has a full-time ministry of speaking engagements where he shares his story and encourages others to "Live a Life of No Regrets."

A copy of this book has been donated to our church library. It is an easy read, and I think you will find that God's faithfulness is celebrated throughout the book. I suggest that you read it and be encouraged as you see how God fully restored Robert's life in ways that he could never have imagined.

Ladies' Bible study...continued

"To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power." (2 Thessalonians 1:11). Molly Rosati shared a few thoughts that struck her as significant in studying that verse. A quote from the workbook stated: "...Every resolve for good—forget setting out to do something great. That goal entangles our egos every time. Instead, let's resolve to do some good in Jesus' name...if we feel like it failed to achieve the fruit we hoped for...did we do anyone any good? Don't worry about doing something great. Resolve to do some good." The scripture, highlighted in this passage, gave Molly cause for thought as she pondered if "...fulfill every resolve for good" is Paul describing the leading of the Spirit.

What do you need in your life right now? Perhaps you need a fresh infusion of hope that only His Spirit can bring. Maybe you just need affirmation that you're on the right track, spiritually, and that you are not alone on your walk.

Wherever you are on your journey with Christ, I would encourage you to consider becoming part of a small group at LCF and join others in studying and learning from God's Word together.

Benevolence Team Update

by Jennifer Cooper

The LCF benevolence team has quite been busy lately. We have had the opportunity to help individuals and families both within and outside of LCF. Recently, we assisted an older London resident who has become a friend to several members of the LCF congregation and was badly in need of a new car. We were able to assist her in looking over a car that became available, and we provided her with a loan to purchase the car, which she is paying back in monthly installments. We have also invited her to attend LCF, and we continue to pray for her.

Over recent months, we have assisted individuals in need of gas money, rent assistance, and heating assistance. We also donated two large boxes of non-perishable food items to the HELP House for their Thanksgiving event.

There are many financial and material needs in our community, but we know that the greatest need is for Christ. We share Him with those we assist and always offer to pray with and for them. We also invite everyone to attend LCF. We feel blessed to be able to serve those both within and outside of LCF who find themselves in need of short term financial or material assistance, and we welcome any gifts that members of the congregation would like to provide to supplement the benevolence team's budget. If you feel led to give to the team's ministry, you can always place donations for the benevolence fund in the offering and write "benevolence" on the memo line.

LCF PRAYER FOCUS *The Benevolence Team*

- Thank God for each person who serves on the Benevolence Team: Jennifer Cooper (leader), Nicole Ayers, Cletus Yoder, Levi Miller, Dave Stewart, and Phil & Lucy Elfrink.
- Pray that God would give them wisdom in how to respond to each request that comes their way.
- Pray that those who receive assistance will see Jesus' love and be drawn to him.

Getting to Know... Theresa Hennis

Interviewed by Candice Mast



Can you tell us about where you lived before and how you ended up in London?

I lived in Apopka, Florida, right outside of Orlando. I came to London because I reconnected with a former love, and we have since married. We knew each other and dated for four years when we were younger, but I was not ready to marry at that time, and we went our separate ways, remaining friends. We have come full circle, and are now married, and it is God's blessing to me that he brought this wonderful man back into my life.

Please introduce us to your family.

My husband's name is Ted, and he was born and raised in Springfield, OH. He drives truck and he is very talented with fixing things and working on cars. He loves folk music and going to flea markets and yard sales. My daughter, Chelsey, and grandson, Luke, 10 months, live in Belleview, FL. My son, Jason, and his wife, Jennifer, and my two other grandsons, Christian, 11, and Cameron, 7, live in Winter Garden, FL. My grandsons are the joy of my life...they love going to the beach and playing with Legos. They love coming to visit Grandma and going to church. I hope to have them stay with me this summer.

What is a "normal day" in the life of Theresa Hennis like?

I love to write, and I have a blog at theresaannhennis.wordpress.com. I used to write for local magazines in Orlando, and I'm looking to do freelance writing here, if I can connect with some magazines. My favorite writing is about people who make a difference in their communities and writing about food. I love food fiction!

What is a dream you have?

I've written a chapter in an inspirational book, "On the Road to Hope", with 11 other writers, and I'd love to finally write my own book from start to finish...not just one chapter! *(Theresa has copies of the book available if you are interested.)*

And what are some other things you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love to read and love anything to do with tea. I collect teapots, teacups, and pretty handkerchiefs that I use with my tea settings. I love to use tea parties as an outreach to other women who need to take time for themselves and have some quiet, reflective time away from stress.

Are you outgoing or are you more reserved?

I am a bit of both. I have learned to make myself reach out and be social. Interviewing people made me come out of my shell and get to know people and draw them out by sharing their stories.

What is something God is teaching you right now?

That it is ok to have a season of rest and not be so busy, busy, busy.

Thanks for volunteering to be a part of the team that writes and edits the Connection! Theresa, we're so glad you're a part of the LCF family!



Physical and Spiritual Fitness...continued

How do we exercise ourselves toward godliness and becoming more like Christ? The act of exercising spiritually takes a lot of focus, determination, and devotion. It is a lot like training ourselves physically. In order to reach the goals that we desire, we must keep pushing ourselves beyond our limits. We would never witness results with a lack of motivation or by doing things at only fifty percent.

So, we have our push-ups, our sit-ups, and many other workouts to train ourselves physically. We also have workouts to train ourselves spiritually. Our spiritual exercise can consist of prayer, fellowship, discipleship, bible study, and the overall practice of becoming closer to God. Just like our physical workout, it takes a lot of sets and reps to see our spiritual muscles grow. This is how we exercise ourselves toward godliness and becoming more like Christ, by exercising in what the Bible has instructed us to do.

Keep in mind that much like our push-ups and sit-ups, we must exercise ourselves spiritually in proper form in order to witness results. We've got to keep practicing and perfecting our workout to get the results we desire. So, keep doing those prayer push-ups and bible study sit-ups. Keep pushing toward godliness and you shall reap the rewards that God has promised us. It is important to be confident in yourself and always remember that, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13).

Thanks For Your Service, Abraham and Naomi!

by Rob Swartz

I am grateful for the many wonderful people God has given us the opportunity to work beside. Abraham & Naomi Ndungu are a couple of those people. They have served faithfully on the Leadership Team the past three years and have done so with wisdom, grace, compassion, and humility. Abraham's term as elder ended this past December. (He chose not to make himself available for a second three-year term due to time constraints he has with helping to give leadership to a developing ministry in Columbus.)



On Friday, February 20th, the Elders' Team took Abraham and Naomi out to eat as a token of our appreciation for their service during the past three years. I will miss them serving in this capacity, but am grateful for their

continued partnership in the gospel at LCF. Please give them your thanks and gratitude for their service.

Please be praying that God would guide us in discerning who it is he is preparing to join the Elders' Team in the near future.



Looking Ahead...

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| March 7 | Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m. at Phat Daddy's |
| March 8 | Potluck meal after church |
| March 13-15 | "Cheaper by the Dozen" drama at Rosedale Bible College |

During the month of February, Rob has been preaching about God's amazing love to us, and challenging us with what our response should be.



On a cold and snowy, Sunday morning, February 15, we remembered Christ's love with a time of communion together.

The Deep Love of Christ

by Sharon Headings

The love that Jesus Christ has for me is so amazing! Although the fact that the Creator of the Universe loves to spend time with me is disconcerting altogether. Whatever my mood may be, his love never waivers. The deep love of my Savior is an unselfish, committed love.

To experience this kind of love we need to be united with Christ. It is a love that is about giving, not receiving. It takes risks; it suffers.

Once we have experienced Christ's undying love, we are urged to turn around and share that love with others and love each other deeply. We don't have that love within ourselves, for we are imperfect. However, if Christ is living in us, he is impacting our actions and attitudes.

When Jesus Christ died for us, it was marked by a wrenching sacrifice. To know that I am completely and sacrificially loved by Christ is enough for me.



Photo credit: Dan Frederick

"This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me..."
- Jesus (in 1 Corinthians 11:24)

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.