

The LCF Connection

June 2015

Thoughts from New Fathers at LCF

by Amie Smith

With Father's Day approaching, several of our new dads give us insight into how they feel about their new role.

Nathaniel Smith, LCF's newest dad, recently welcomed his baby girl, Elizabeth, and shares his thoughts about becoming a father.

"When you're a single man you pray for a girl to be the woman of your life. You hope one day you will find her and have a family, a little of both of you to be carried on in the next generation. When you get a wife, the life you had before, with more free time, is gone. This change can bring fears. Then when you find out a baby is coming, you worry about the extra expenses, where you are going to put all the things a baby needs, and how crazy it is that you NEED three different swings and a newly painted room for a baby that keeps its eyes closed for 20 hours a day. It's crazy that your wife can't eat a bologna sandwich without worrying that it may give the baby cancer. Your wife wants you to always be MORE EXCITED for the coming baby. Once your sanity is about to leave for good, the baby comes! One look into your child's eyes, as she is comforted by your voices, and you realize she's an amazing gift from God! It feels like the world stops; nothing else matters. It's a glimpse into how God feels about all of his children."



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Joe Slaubaugh, father of two girls, Lydia and Hannah, reflects on fatherhood.

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

Freed Family Update

by Kris Freed

We miss LCF!!! That is the main update from our family. It's hard to believe that it's been almost a year since we moved from London to Wilberforce, just outside of Xenia.

We love our new house and cannot imagine living in our old house in London anymore! If you were ever at our house on Sullivan Avenue, you completely understand. We now live across the street from Central State University, and yet it feels like we live in the woods. We are enjoying lots of campfires this summer, burning all the brush.

We also like the new school. Tecumseh Elementary is one of the five Xenia Elementary Schools, and we appreciate the smaller size and general friendliness that we have experienced there. This year Kalvary finished fifth grade, Glory third, and Malachi first.

Continued on page 3...





Believe In Jesus

A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

Faith in Jesus Christ has many levels. Let's remind ourselves of the difference between believing

about and believing **in**. Believing about is necessary, but it is only a starting place. James so bluntly said, in James 2:19, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!" Believing **in** means investing in that belief—trusting. The test is when we find ourselves in sticky, depressing, dangerous, or confusing situations. We can all be comforted when we think of 12 or so scared men in a sinking boat. Jesus calmed the storm, and he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Life presents problems that make it hard to believe. Our money, health, and family problems that make us worry are each an opportunity to trust Jesus. Matthew 6:27 says, "And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" The goal is not to stoically endure "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" and hope it pays off in the end. God is here, he cares, and he acts. God said to Isaiah, in Isaiah 59:1, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear." One benefit of fellowship is to hear from those who echo King David in Psalm 34. "I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles."

Some of the problems that test us have private and public dimensions. The church today is challenged with questions about gender, sexuality, marriage, and more. Among other things, the church has had to recognize that it is only one voice in a pluralistic society. Although we might learn that our Bible interpretation or application hasn't been right, let's assume for a moment it has been right, even though some still think our beliefs are backward, destructive, and socially unacceptable. How will we respond? Flex our muscles and fight back? There are those who do that. They're not succeeding, and I'm not sure I want them to, because I'm pretty sure that's not Jesus' way. Should we compromise what the Bible teaches? There's a fair amount of that going on, too. It won't produce good results. I'd say, trust God and be confident in the Bible. As Psalm 119:130 says, "The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple." Our teachings may become unpopular, but "why are you afraid?" Believe **in** Jesus.

Upcoming Activities

- June 14 Commissioning for the Masts & potluck meal
- June 21 Father's Day coffee and doughnuts
- June 28 Outdoor service at Battelle Darby Park, 10:30 a.m.

Elders' Notes

Pressing On at LCF

by Vicki Sairs

On May 5, the elders' team met at Rob and Doris's place and focused on different aspects of leadership:

Elders: We approved an updated version of the job description for elders and are still working on details of the selection process, which is in transition right now.

Moderator: We would like to invite more people to share the role of moderator in our services. This is a very visible and important role (creating a warm and welcoming presence, keeping an eye on the time and making necessary adjustments, knowing how to respond to and pray for requests that are shared, etc.). We'll spend time making sure that each moderator is adequately trained for the responsibility.

Discipleship: It is the power of God, especially through prayer and scripture, that changes lives. We want to make sure that we provide sufficient time for both at LCF. How can we do this effectively? What will help people take advantage of the opportunities we do offer? How can we encourage people to be Christians at home, spending time in prayer and Bible reading?

We agreed that our discipleship plan should be flexible, diverse, and intergenerational, and we plan to spend some focused time in our upcoming meetings reviewing and discussing how we make disciples at LCF.

Leadership training: We would like to be more directive in equipping people to serve in leadership roles at LCF, including small group leaders, our RBC Bridge intern Benji Martin (arriving this fall), and others from LCF who are interested in leadership training and development.

The plan is to develop a program of short sessions that are taught by a variety of people and cover a wide range of topics.

With all this emphasis on change, we recognize that many good things are happening among us, for which we are very thankful!



CMC's Annual Conference

Hartville, Ohio, July 16-19, 2015

This year's theme will be "Step with the Spirit".

For more information see the May Brotherhood Beacon.

Register online at www.cmcrosedale.org. Hope to see you there!

LCF Council Update

by David Perkins

Have you been wondering what the new LCF Council has been up to lately? You may be asking yourself, "What goes on at the council meetings and what kind of big decisions do they have in the works?" Well, you are in luck, because this is your official LCF Council Update. ☺

The LCF Council has a lot on their "To-Do-List", ranging from items concerning budget to analyzing important feedback from the congregation. During the council meetings, the members have mapped out an agenda of tasks to be completed and decisions to be made. Currently, the council members are building new processes for the upcoming reviews of the pastors, staff and team leaders. By conducting these reviews, the council, as well as the other leadership teams, hope to have a better understanding of what kinds of things need to be done within the various duties of the church to keep them running smoothly and make sure the people in charge of these duties are happy doing them. The council plans on completing the reviews in the coming months.

The council is making plans within the budget to invest in items to better improve the overall experience of the church. They have approved and are looking into the purchase of sound panels for the Fellowship Hall and blinds for windows in the classrooms. These items should help to improve future activities in the Fellowship Hall and classrooms.

The LCF Council is working hard on their agendas to make sure our growing LCF Family continues to enjoy their experience here at London Christian Fellowship. Make sure to keep an eye out for your next LCF Council Update.

Freeds...continued

We have found a new church home in Emmanuel Baptist Church in Xenia. They have excellent children's activities, a diverse church body, and a highly accountable leadership structure. It's not LCF, but we are learning to know and love the people there. Our kids participated in Awana over the school year, and the Bible memory and fun was invaluable.

This summer we are part of a community garden that is a lot of work, like gardens always are, and we appreciate the chance to work next to others and get to know them in a different context.

We are still learning and discerning why God has put us here. It is definitely a blessing for Ryan to be so close to his workplace, the WEEC radio studios. When he gets called in, it's only an eight minute drive as opposed to the 40 minutes from London. Church has been difficult though. We miss being a part of a Mennonite congregation! We had talked about planting a church in Xenia but have decided that we are plenty busy with our six children, including little Mercy who was born since we moved. We also did not realize just how many churches are in Xenia...the number is ludicrous compared to the population. Currently God seems to be teaching us to say "no" and to spend more time with our family. He also is opening our eyes to the wider church and softening our hearts to the different ways he speaks and works in other Christians, outside of our comfort and experience. Pray that we will continue to be challenged and that we would be faithful in what God brings our way. We miss and love you!

LCF PRAYER FOCUS

Our Overseer

Our Overseer provides accountability to the conference, support to the pastors and elders, and guidance to the congregation in working through any significant issues. Roger Hazen recently began a new three year term serving as our overseer here at LCF. Join us this month in praying for him and his wife, Sharon.

- Pray that God will keep their marriage strong and give them wisdom as they navigate the challenge of parenting their three young adult children.
- Pray that God would bless and refresh them as they pastor Pineview Mennonite Church in Vassar, Michigan.
- Ask God to give Roger much wisdom and guidance as he serves as Overseer here at LCF, as well as at several other churches in the Conservative Mennonite Conference.



Xenos Summer Institute

www.xenos.org/xsi

things to come

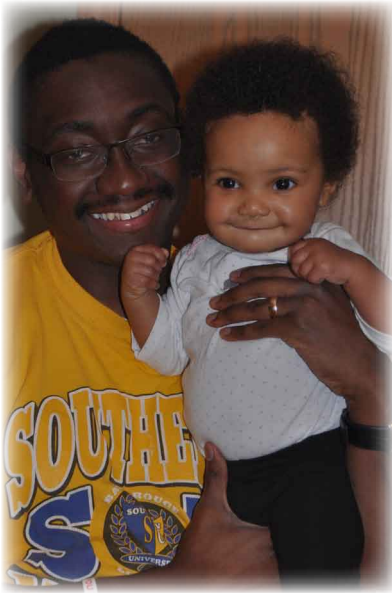
JULY 15-17

with
PAUL DAVID
TRIPP
and
MIKE
LICONA

Come learn from top Bible scholars teaching about Heaven, End Times, and having an eternal perspective.



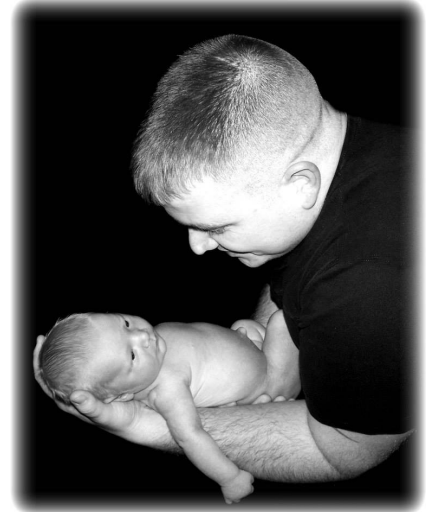
Reggie Cooper, new father to Alexandria, provides insight into how fatherhood has impacted his life.



"What does it mean to be a father? One of the ways I look at it is like a broken vessel in the hands of a Divine Potter. Becoming a father has emphasized my desire to have more—spiritually, mentally, and physically—for my child, as well as the next, and subsequent generations. Becoming a father has highlighted my imperfections. It has also enhanced my understanding, as well as my faith, that God will use me to do his will in the life of my child and the generations to come. I am not planning anything special for Father's Day, but I am looking forward to cherishing the blessing, gift, and responsibility of fatherhood with Alexandria, and my wife Jennifer."

Chris LeGrand is the father of two girls, Skotti and Alaia, and a new baby boy, Abel. He notes some of the things God is teaching him as a father.

"God has taught me so much about being a parent. He has taught me patience, understanding, unconditional love, and much more. I love watching our children grow and seeing them learn how to show God's love to others."



Psalm 127:3 says, "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him." We want to congratulate all of our new dads here at London Christian Fellowship as we share in the joy of their little blessings. Remember to pray for them as they teach and train their children to love and serve God.



Ladies Tea

On Saturday, May 9, the ladies of LCF, along with several guests, enjoyed a time of tea, delicious finger foods, fellowship, and an inspiring video message from Patsy Clairmont.

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, 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.