

The LCF Connection

July 2015

A Cool Evening with the Clippers

by David Perkins



There is something about watching baseball and stuffing your face full of hotdogs that gives you the essence of summer. On the evening of June 1st, that summer essence was captured by a group of guys from LCF as they attended the Columbus Clippers vs. Toledo Mud Hens double-header game at Huntington Park.



When you think of summer, you think of sunshine and warm weather. Unfortunately for us, we live in Ohio, where scattered showers and chilly fall-like temperatures happened to be present with us that particular evening. Although the weather was not up to the standards you would expect in June, we did not let it bring down our spirits. Plus, it just happened to be dime-a-dog night, so that kept us, as well as our stomachs, very happy.

From our seats, we had an awesome view of the field. We were in an area where it was probably best to keep track of where the ball was going and hope that it landed in your hands and not on your head. The players and other Huntington Park personnel were really interactive with the crowd. Many baseballs were practically handed to people in the stands. The people that got their hands on a baseball seemed pretty ecstatic about it as most of them proceeded to do a victory dance and howl very loudly. Personally, I'm not too familiar with all the aspects of baseball, but I still enjoyed watching the game. Although, if you are wondering who won, lost, or have any other questions regarding the baseball part, I would probably ask one of the other guys who attended. 😊 The evening was full of good conversations and pure relaxation. It was a great time for fellowship, building friendships, and simply hanging out with good people. Also, did I mention that there were hot dogs and they were only ten cents?



Inside this Issue

A Cool Evening with the Clippers	1
Offering our Loaves and Fishes	1
A Call to Simplicity	2
Feel Like Leading?	2
Library Link	3
Be Strong and Courageous!	4

Offering Our Loaves and Fishes

By Candice Mast

As I think about returning to Thailand, the story of the feeding of the five thousand keeps coming back to my mind. God wants what we have to offer, even if it feels insignificant, never-enough, a drop in the bucket. Jesus had been teaching and healing all day and the crowd was large, the people hungry. Jesus had compassion on them (their physical and spiritual needs). Instead of performing a miracle on the spot, he first asked the disciples what they had, and they offered him very little; the five loaves and two fishes. But Jesus multiplied it and made it more than enough. I love the idea of scarcity becoming abundance, enough for many.



TOM & CANDICE MAST

Eliza, Claire, Silas | tomcandice@gmail.com | masts.rmmweb.org

Tom and Candice oversee the work of the RMM team in Bangkok, Thailand. Along with the team, they are forming friendships, discipling small groups of new believers in Jesus, and training emerging leaders.

"May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy." - Psalm 67:3-4a

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The crowds of Bangkok and the needs there feel overwhelming. In a huge city of traffic jams and temples and busy commuters, less than 1% of people are believers. How can living our life in that huge city make any difference for Jesus or the kingdom? What we know for sure as we go is that we don't make a difference,

Continued on page 3...



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

www.LCFweb.org

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A Call to Simplicity

A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

As we closed the back door of the small moving van filled with what was left of Tom & Candice's possessions, I had to wonder what it would be like to do this. What

would it be like to condense my belongings down into a small moving van? How about a couple suitcases for the Thailand trip? How would I decide what to keep, what to put in storage, and what to give away or sell on Craigslist? How would I help my kids decide what is important to take and what is not?

While we may not be moving to Thailand, I think it would be helpful for us to go through a similar process, as the Mast family did, to simplify. I remember when they returned to the U.S. a couple years ago they couldn't get over how many people had large screen TVs; not just one, but several. We who live here tend not to notice as culture dictates new things as necessities.

Jesus probably lived one of the most simple lives of anyone. He did not even have a home. And when he sends his disciples out he tells them not to even take an extra pair of shoes. Try that for your next trip! ☺

Things can get in the way of our walk with God. Could I walk away from my "stuff" if God called me to Thailand or some other place in the world? Would I be like the rich young man, unable to part with my things for the sake of the kingdom of God? Things consume tremendous amounts of time and resources. How many gadgets do we need? How many social networks do we need to be a part of? How nice do my clothes need to be? How many computers do I really need? ☺

It was interesting to watch the Mast family purposefully not accumulate things while they were in the states for these two years. They knew they were just here temporarily. I think it would be good for all of us to think of this life in that way. We don't need bigger barns.

Watching the Masts condense their belongings into a small moving van and a few suitcases ignited a desire in me to do some similar things. I want to be free of "stuff"; free to respond to God's call, free to give, free to share, free to go, free to be with God. Thanks for the example, Tom & Candice!

LCF Council Update

by David Perkins

The LCF Council has been meeting for a few months now and has made a pretty good-sized 'To-Do-List'. Currently, the council is in the process of conducting Pastor, Team and Staff Reviews. These reviews are being done in various ways, such as, online surveys or team discussions. For the Pastor Reviews, an online survey is being created for everyone to use. Hard copies of the surveys will also be provided to those who are unable to go online. For the Team Reviews, members of the council are meeting up with each team and discussing the productivity that goes into each group. As these reviews continue to be conducted, more information will be provided about how to get involved.

The LCF Council is also working on a new Rosedale Bible College Scholarship Proposal. New applications for the scholarship are in the works and will soon be available for those who wish to apply. More information about the LCF-RBC Scholarship will be provided in the coming months. Keep an eye out for future LCF Council Updates.

Elders' Notes

by Vicki Sairs

Feel like leading?

The team has discussed how to develop leadership gifts in the church for quite a while. Two priorities have emerged: expanding the number of moderators and launching a leadership training course at LCF. We devoted most of our June 2nd meeting to this topic.

Moderators

Our current moderators are Bob Zachrich, Reuben Sairs, and Danny Ndungu. We would like to add Jeremy Hisey, Naomi Ndungu, and Vicki Sairs.

Moderators play a significant role on Sunday morning. They open the service, welcoming people warmly and creating space for a worshipful attitude with their words, prayers, and Scripture reading. After the sermon, they conduct the prayer time in a thoughtful way. They have to think on their feet, be sensitive to the needs of those present and absent, and know how to close the service with grace and clarity.

To help prepare people for this role, Rob would like to have a yearly moderator training meeting.

Leadership Training

A leadership training course is also in the works. We hope to launch it this fall and have it run during the upcoming school year, ending next May.

The current plan is to conduct three to four group training sessions, with all participants having the opportunity to help out with each of the following areas of ministry: children (Sunday school and nursery), junior youth, youth, welcome and fellowship, building and grounds, worship, benevolence, small groups, council, elder, and pastoral duties.

Since some of these areas include working with children and youth, participants will need to complete a child protection screening application, if they haven't already done so.

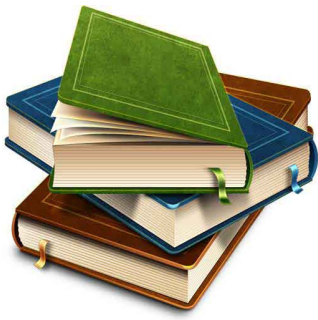
We are working on specific content in the group training sessions. We hope to cover spiritual and devotional life, character development, communication skills, servant leadership, and cultivating a "big picture" view of work in God's Kingdom.

After participants have gone through the group training sessions and worked in each of the ministry areas, they can choose an area where they would like to serve. We hope to pair each person who completes the course with someone who can mentor them, using an individualized training plan.

If this is something that would interest you, be sure to let Rob, Reuben, or Bob know!

LCF Library Link

by Linda Schlabach, LCF Librarian



Pack a book or two. Take a book along this summer as you travel. Discover, or as the case may be, rediscover a variety of venues including allegorical and biographical books with which to grow and learn and enjoy. Step into the Library Room, and while using the simple, old-fashioned card system, check out books at your convenience. Why not consider the Junior and Youth sections of our library? Two young people have done just that. Here are their thoughtful insights.

"I love, love, LOVE to read! It's my favorite thing to do." What joy to hear such a heartfelt declaration from an active, electronically tuned in, and early elementary-age gentleman. He responded immediately and with certainty when questioned, "Why do you read books?" Bright-eyed and with purpose he stated, "You can get information from books."

While recalling specific events and character interactions, Derek Elfrink enthusiastically told me that his new favorites are *The Magician's Nephew* and *The Last Battle*. (Both books are part of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, by C.S. Lewis, and found in the Junior Section). "I wish there were more of the Chronicles," he sighed. By the end of our conversation, Derek clearly offered three main points about the books of his current reading agenda. "They are exciting. They entertain you. They represent Christ."

LCF Library's small and yet growing Youth Section contains a treasure trove, according to some. One young, well-spoken lady in our midst discovered *Christian Heroes: Then and Now*, a widely received and carefully researched biographical series written by a husband-wife team of Geoff and Janet Bengé. Claire Mast (age 12), who is in the process of reading through the series, thoughtfully offers her input about one of these books - *William Carey: Obligated to Go*.



Clarie says, "I was impressed and encouraged by how courageous William Carey was and how he was prepared to leave everything behind to go as a missionary to India. The book was written in an exciting way but also teaches you about a true story. I love this whole missionary series because it's a fun way for kids to learn about mission workers from the past, and I think that's important for us to know. I think kids should learn about missionaries because they were important people in the past who served God, but they're not taught about in history in school."

So the question remains: Why not come and see what these two fine young folks discovered?

Loaves and Fishes...continued

Jesus does. He takes the loaves and fishes and multiplies them. Wherever we go, he is in us. His presence changes us and others- we've already seen him do it in the lives of our friends. We are so happy and feel so privileged to be any part of that and want to keep growing toward Jesus, along with our friends.

LCF, we hope you can look on the crowds in Bangkok with compassion like Jesus did. Pray for them and for us-that God brings multiplication to his work and that many people will be fed and nourished and changed by his Word. We will pray for you, too, that you will be filled with joyful obedience in your calling here and that Jesus multiplies what you have to offer to the people around you. We are so glad to be sent by you and serving together with you! May his kingdom come in Bangkok, Thailand, and in London, Ohio! We love you and will miss you very much!

A few questions for the Mast kids...



What was your favorite experience during your time in America?

Claire: I liked going to American school. It was interesting just seeing what it was like and really different. The math was easier and the reading was harder (which was good- more challenging). Teachers were more open to questions. I understood how to do all my assignments, which was more challenging when some of my teachers spoke Thai.



Eliza: I like that we are closer to our grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins here, so we can see them more often, not just once every three years. I liked learning to crochet and knit with my Grandma Mast and doing chores with Grandpa Mast. I liked learning to scrapbook with my Granddaddy Rhodes, and baking sticky buns and bread with Grandmom Rhodes. One of my favorite times with my grandparents was when Claire and I got to go visit them (both sides) by ourselves, and we went to Bible school and did lots of fun stuff.



Silas: My most favorite thing about living in America was playing in the snow. We don't have snow in Thailand. I also liked Fall, how we can play in the leaves. I like that we can go to museums here.

What are you most looking forward to about returning to Thailand?

Claire: Thai Food, Thai language, hot weather.

Eliza: Seeing old friends again, and the transportation (I love having no seat belts and riding in tuk tucks and songtaew-pickups, and the skytrain).

Silas: My seventh birthday!

Be Strong and Courageous!

On Sunday, June 14th, Rob challenged us to be ready for the work God has for us, to be strong and courageous, and to be rooted in God's Word. Following the message, we had a time of commissioning and prayer for Anna Rosati, Tom & Candice, Claire, Eliza, and Silas Mast, who will all be returning to Thailand this month. Afterwards, we enjoyed a potluck meal and fellowship together!



Pictured above: LCF's missionaries to Thailand with their Missionary Support Team (MST): Lucy (children), Dale & Sharon (logistics). Danny (prayer), Rob & Doris (communication and pastoral care), and Molly (Anna rep).



Upcoming Activities

July 1-5	LCF youth group to City Challenge
July 15-17	Xenos Summer Institute in Columbus
July 16-19	CMC Annual Conference, Hartville, OH
July 21-26	Mennonite World Conference in PA
July 26	Communion

Enjoying A Visit Home

by Anna Rosati



Anna enjoying a lunch out with her mom, aunt and grandma.

Coming back to Ohio feels like entering a different dimension. I travel back in time twelve hours each summer to a cooler and more spacious place. This summer, I'm looking forward to a lot of family time. I've already had the opportunity to meet up with some friends in the area and attended a wonderful commissioning service at LCF. I've also been enjoying American food and more than my fair share of *Masterpiece Theater* and *Chopped*.

In the coming weeks, I will be traveling to Kentucky to visit family. Then, I will be heading up to Michigan to visit family there, and attending the wedding of two of my good friends from Bangkok. It will be a bit surreal to have the Thailand and American dimensions overlap. However, I am looking forward to seeing everyone's "America hair" (80% humidity makes a whole different head of hair in Bangkok), and celebrating. I hope to see all of you at LCF at least one more time before returning to Bangkok near the end of July. The support of my Ohio community really rejuvenates my spirit. Thank you to all who have been, and are still praying for me!

LCF PRAYER FOCUS

Thailand Missionaries

Tom & Candice and their children will be returning to Thailand on July 11th, after spending the past 2 years here in the U.S. Anna will be returning to Thailand on July 20, after being home for several weeks on her summer break. Pray for each of them as they re-adjust to life in a very different culture and as they look for opportunities to share Jesus!

- Thank God for the various ways the Masts have been a blessing to us here at LCF these past two years - leading a small group Bible study, helping with the Christmas program, and Candice's great help with the LCF Connection!
- Pray that God would help them find a house quickly after they arrive back in Thailand.
- Pray that God would help Candice as she concentrates on learning the Thai language.
- Pray that the Mast kids would have a smooth adjustment to International Community School, and that Anna would have another good year of teaching there.
- Pray that God would help Anna know how to balance her many responsibilities.
- Pray that God would use each of them in mighty ways to share his love with the people in Thailand and that many would come to know Jesus!

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.