

The LCF Connection

May 2018

Mother's Day Perspectives

by Pam Shay

It's Mother's Day, and a time of joy to celebrate our wonderful mothers. I go through a multitude of emotions at this time of year in remembering the women in my life and my own journey.

A time of celebration. I am fortunate to have my Mom (pictured with me on the right) still living and to be such an important part of my life. She has taught me well, and continues to provide guidance, love and support. I'm reminded of Proverbs 6:20-22 (The Passion Translation) *"My child, obey your father's godly instruction and follow your mother's life-giving teaching. Fill your heart with their advice and let your life be shaped by what they've taught you. Their wisdom will guide you where ever you go and keep you from bringing harm to yourself. Their instruction will whisper to you at every sunrise and direct you through a brand-new day."* Her love and guidance are a faithful companion throughout my life.



A time of remembrance. There are many "mothers" who have passed from my life who I remember during this celebration. They were all great "mothers" to me—Godly women who shared the teachings of the Lord and influenced me in so many ways. My grandmother, Sinda, who showed the importance of serving in the church; my grandmother, Adna, who never met a stranger, and all were welcomed at her table; my mother-in-law, Phyllis, who demonstrated love of family and how to accept God's grace through death; my adopted Momma Rae, the mother of dear friends, who always reminded me to rejoice and enjoy the life that God has provided. These important influencers are fondly remembered at Mother's Day for the impact they have had on my life.

A time of sorrow. Mother's Day is the annual reminder that I was unable to have children. I had difficulty getting pregnant, and we rejoiced once I did. And then there was a tragic car accident—I lost the baby and was never able to have children. We avoided Mother's Day for the first couple of years after the accident—too difficult to be joyful. Psalm 113:9 (The Passion Translation) was my saving grace—*"God's grace provides for the barren ones a joyful home with children so that even childless couples find a family."* He

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Moms From a Child's Perspective

by Elisabeth Yoder

I had the pleasure of visiting the children of LCF in their Sunday school classes and asking them a few questions about their moms in honor of Mother's Day. When asked to tell us something cool about his mom, Derek declared, "She can speak Swahili!" I asked several children what their moms do that makes them laugh. Kayleigh said her mom's jokes make her laugh, Kristen laughs when her mom acts silly, and Ethan said, with a twinkle in his eye, that it's funny when his mom gets mad.

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



Fun Exploration Ahead

by Sheila Miller

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! This year, kids will be exploring who Jesus is—the Light of the world! Kids are in for an awesome underground adventure as they go spelunking in Cave Quest.

We will be discovering how Jesus gives us hope and courage when we are in difficult circumstances. Also, we will see how Jesus gives us direction in how to live, how He loved us enough to die for us, and how He gives us power through His Spirit.

We will be learning by hearing stories, singing, doing crafts, playing games, and digging into God's Word!....and of course there will be snacks!!

We want to thank Zach Freer's mother and her church for donating all the curriculum and decorations! They enjoyed Cave Quest so much and wanted to pass it on! We are excited about what God is going to do this year at VBS! He has already blessed us! Please pray for VBS, for all the volunteers, and all the kids, that God would be glorified through it.

Cave Quest will be held Monday, June 4th, through Friday, June 8th, from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m. All kids ages 3 - 12 are welcome! Online registration will begin May 6th. Please visit www.LCFweb.org to register. If you would like to help out with VBS in any way, contact Sheila Miller or Katy Miller. ■

Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

We met at the home of Rob and Doris on the stormy evening of April 3rd. We shared requests and spent time praying together.

We reflected on the recent services LCF had over Easter week, and talked about what went well, and what we'd like to tweak for next year.

We discussed logistics and scheduled items to include in the memorial service for Kelly Ward. We always want to give people hope and point them to our God of mercy and hope. We also want to do all we can to help people deal with the pain, loss, and regret that a death like this brings.

We discussed logistics for upcoming services; coming up soon is our spring Adult Discipleship Class. Reuben will be teaching on the Holy Spirit from April 8 - May 27th.

We discussed upcoming schedules and details concerning when various ones of the leadership team will be out of town.

We talked about the logistics of scripture reading, and started to think about creating some guidelines and suggestions in order to help this part of our service go as well as possible.

We went over the list of compiled ideas that the brainstorming discussion groups came up with at the CMC discipleship workshop Steve & Phyllis led at LCF on March 25th. There were a lot of great ideas given. We discussed how we should proceed from here; there were quite a few ideas, so discerning next steps may be a little complex.

Bob closed our time with prayer. Our next meeting: Tuesday, May 8th. ■

"Where is God?"

Have you ever wondered where God is—especially in the midst of pain, conflict, or unanswered questions? If so, don't miss this year's Xenos Summer Institute!

It will be held at Xenos Community Church in Columbus Wednesday evening, July 11, through Friday evening, July 13. The cost for the entire conference is \$60 for adults and only \$20 for students.

Visit xenos.org/xsi for details and to register.

2018 XENOS SUMMER INSTITUTE

"THE GOD WHO IS THERE"

JULY 11-13



J. WARNER WALLACE



SEAN MCDOWELL

A Letter from the Mast Family

Hello church family at LCF! We miss all of you and are so excited to reconnect this summer with old friends and meet new ones who have more recently started attending LCF! Our family is Tom and Candice and our three kids, Claire (15), Eliza (13), and Si (9). We have lived in Bangkok Thailand, working for Rosedale Mennonite Missions, for almost 10 years now. This last term has been three years so we are very anxious to get back and see all our friends and family stateside!



It's been a very interesting three years with many new developments as far as connections and new opportunities. Hopefully you have seen our newsletter which came out April 12 (if not, check your e-mail!) which has ministry updates and prayer ideas. To wrap it up in a nutshell, we are involved in supporting reproducing simple churches in Bangladesh and Laos as well as supporting local ministries here in Bangkok and leading our Rosedale Mennonite Missions team of 14 adults (including a short-term team of five). Anna Rosati, from LCF, is also a teammate! We teach English as well, partly for ministry opportunities, to meet a need locally, and to raise support for our family. In addition to his Regional Director duties, Tom is in a graduate program through Biola University, working on a Masters in Intercultural Studies, which has led to more recent contact with refugees here in Bangkok. Learning about the plight of Pakistani Christians, who are relocated here due to persecution and lacking refugee status in Thailand, has touched our hearts and we are making friends and hoping to help in some small ways.

Our kids all attend International Community School (4th, 7th, and 9th grades), a Christian school with a very diverse student body with plenty of opportunity for cultural learning and experiences. The two youngest have begun to study guitar recently, and Si is an avid runner (cross country and track). Claire, our oldest, is involved in after school tutoring and co-leading a creative writing club. Our family enjoys teaching Cambodian kids at Construction of Hope (which Anna Rosati gives leadership to) on Saturdays, once a month.

All three kids are content living here in Bangkok, although of course we all miss our friends and family back in America. Feel free to ask them about life in Bangkok!

So, that's a quick overview of life at the moment! We are in the middle of hot season here, so we will be happy to come to the States in spring for some relief from the 90s and high humidity as well as city smog! Next week is the Thai New Year so there will be a school break and country-wide water fights to celebrate, making it easily our kids' favorite Thai holiday.

As always, we are so grateful for all the ways you support us, from kind gifts to notes on Facebook and especially your prayers. Thank you for holding us and our friends here up to the Light! We see it making a difference! As you may know, our mission support team is all from LCF, and recently we made some changes to simplify things a bit. Our team now consists of Molly Rosati who will keep you informed of our prayer needs and Rob and Doris who provide pastoral care to us on-field. We are also very grateful to Dale and Sharon who have served in the past as logistics coordinators, Lucy Elfrink, who has connected our kids with the church, and Danny Ndungu who was our last prayer coordinator. Thank you for caring for our family!

We plan to attend church at LCF July 8 and 15 so we will hopefully see most of you then!

Much love, The Mast Family



Mothers devote their lives to us and pour hours of hard work into raising happy and healthy families. Vivi, Emma, and Emily all expressed appreciation for the time their mothers devote to cooking for them. I asked Lydia and Ella what they like to do with their moms. They both said they like playing games with their moms; Ella especially likes playing card games.



Presents are a wonderful way to express appreciation, and I received wonderful answers to the questions, "What would you get your mom for Mother's Day if you could get her anything?" Evan would get his mom a new book because he knows how much she loves to read. Hannah was not sure of the specifics, but she would definitely get something really cool. Lydia, on the other hand, was emphatic that a balloon would be the best present. After some thought, Matthew decided he would give his mom a new car, and Bree thought a tuner for instruments would be a great gift.



Although I was not able to ask Tabitha, Cameron, and Lizzie questions about their mothers, I have no doubt that they bask daily in the love, care, and attention their mothers lavish on them.

They may not understand yet all their mothers do for them, but they likely know in some way how deeply they love and need their mothers.



Thank you, Mothers of LCF, for all you do! Your children and your church appreciate you!



Upcoming Activities

- May 6 Parent/Child Dedication
- May 27 Last Adult Discipleship Class
- June 4-8 Vacation Bible School
- July 8 Potluck meal to catch up with the Mast family
- July 11-13 Xenos Summer Institute
- July 20-22 CMC Annual Conference at Montgomery, IN

Mother's Day...continued
makes them happy parents surrounded by their pride and joy. Praise God." This verse greatly helped me in knowing that I can be a "mother" to others' children. We drew closer to our nieces and nephews, and we accepted the wonderful families that God placed before us so that we could be "parents." Over time, we have learned to move beyond the sorrow of Mother's Day and to celebrate a time of God's love. While there are many emotions associated with Mother's Day, the best is the feeling of God's love. Isaiah 66:13 (ESV) "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you." God likens himself to a mother, bringing to mind the incredible comforting ability of a loving mother.

May you experience the comfort of a loving God and mother, whether she is with you, passed, mother-by-birth, other relative, or someone like a mother to you. It is a day to celebrate all Mothers. Happy Mother's Day! ■

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 secretary@lcfweb.org.

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