

The LCF Connection

September 2018

Both a Campout and a Hangout

by Doris Swartz

The term “LCF Campout” is a bit misleading since there were actually only 2 tents of guys who camped out. ☺ But don’t be confused—even though there were very few people actually “camping out,” and even though the weather was hot and humid and included a Saturday afternoon thunderstorm with some very loud “pops”—there were a lot of people “hanging out” and having a great time! There were about 75 who came throughout the day on Saturday and enjoyed participating in fun games that Mandy Hisey led (including an oiled watermelon toss), playing table games under the pavilion while it rained, jumping on the trampolines (yes, some adults were even spotted jumping!), cooling off by wading in the creek, catching “critters,” kayaking, and much more! On Sunday morning there were around 100 who came for the outdoor worship service. They were challenged with a message from Rob about how amazing the gospel is, and then were blessed to witness the beautiful testimonies and baptisms of 4 new believers!

It’s nice that the campout is held nearby so that most of us can go home to get a good night of sleep in our own beds, but yet, anyone who wants the fun of primitive camping has the opportunity to do so. It’s also nice that it’s close enough that people can easily come for all or part of the various days to “hang out by the creek” to enjoy extended time together learning to know and/or catch up with one another, and to worship God in the beauty of his creation. Following are some responses from others about the weekend:

Jeremy Hisey: “This year’s campout was filled with lots of fun times: fellowship, good food, laughter, games and activities, worship, and baptisms. It’s always a refreshing experience that leaves me encouraged and inspired by what God is doing at LCF.”

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Be Still and Know

by Sandy Hauge

In January, 2012, I was driving to work and the verse “Be still and know that I am God” randomly popped into my head. “Nice,” I thought. The next day the same thing happened. Again I thought “I really need to look that up.” A few days later, while shopping at a furniture store, I looked up and saw a sign on the wall that said “Be still and know that I am God.” I said to Russ, “This is getting creepy. I feel like God is trying to hit me over the head with something, and I don’t know what it is.” Those were my exact words. A few days after that I flipped open my Bible, and it randomly opened to Psalm 46 and verse 10 was the only verse I had previously highlighted on those two pages.

God literally hit me over the head because two weeks later I began to have numbness on one side of my body, and an MRI showed a lesion smack dab in the middle of my brain that had started to bleed. Thankfully the bleeding stopped on its own because the surgeon said due to its location it was far too dangerous to operate on.

For one and a half years I had frequent MRIs to monitor it. In August, 2013, the lesion had grown and had to be removed. Leaving it there now was far too dangerous. As only

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





Hope for the Hurting

A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

Depression, anxiety, OCD, ADHD, delusional thinking, substance addiction. You would be unusual if you didn't know someone who has experienced the harder side of these mental illnesses. I'm not talking about a week or two of a visit by one of their weaker siblings. I'm referring to the clinical level--the chronic, the one that drives people out of normal activities like work, family, or church. Mental illness can destroy relationships and wear down the patience of even the most loving family and friends.

I am always disappointed and surprised when I come across Christian teaching that suggests that we have the whole idea of mental illness wrong, and that it is not illness at all but is somehow rooted in our choices, usually our sins, and that we need repentance not medicine. One group I knew of years ago suggested that it was not just sin in general, but one sin committed sometime in the past that would unlock the whole chain that led a person to their condition. I reject this entirely. ENTIRELY.

There is no good reason to believe that it is so. We all commit sins all the time, but we are not all mentally ill. We have found, by God's grace, medications that work at least a little bit in these cases, but we have yet to find a drug that keeps us from sinning. Of course we need the cross and the Holy Spirit for that. Most of us know intuitively that our problems are complex, multi-faceted and take not just one but many approaches over a lifetime to unravel. We bring problems on ourselves, but some we just seem to get. We might wish for magic bullets, and we might pretend the Bible invented some, but this simply isn't so.

I have had friends who were the victims of quack counseling. For that reason alone, I always recommend people seek counsel and treatment from people with real credentials, licenses, and oversight. But you have to beware. Anyone can buy some credentials from a diploma mill or get what looks like solid credentials from a fast, easy, unrecognized course of study. You wouldn't choose a dentist or surgeon with dubious credentials and a degree from an unaccredited school; don't make the mistake of choosing a counselor without the same kind of scrutiny.

It's fine to seek out friends and informal counseling from friends and pastors and family. That works for most people most of the time. It is fine to see if improvements in your spiritual life might not bring you a sounder mind and a more stable emotional condition. That's a different matter really. Serious mental illness can be referred to professional level psychology and psychiatry. There is nothing wrong with medications as part of their treatment.

There will always be in all areas of medicine, just like there are in ministry, quackery and incompetence. It is common for the critics of a modern medical approach to mental illness to point out examples of over-diagnosis, over-medication, fads that failed and anti-Christian bias. I don't think these can be used to discredit the good work that is often done, and the great blessing we have to be living in a world in which medicine has discovered that biology and soul, brain and mind, thoughts and chemistry come together and don't separate on this side of heaven.

If you are suffering or know someone else who is suffering, I don't think you've done anything wrong or that you are especially weak. I think you need help and that we could all be in your shoes under a different set of circumstances, and we well might be someday. Let LCF be a place of healing and safety for you. ■

Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

We began our evening with prayer for health and relationship issues that were on our hearts.

We spent a good amount of time discussing how we can work with our children and youth ministries to be as effective as possible; these are important parts of the ministry of the local church!

Doris shared the results of the recent Communication Check. We had 50 people complete the survey. Everything we asked for feedback on (from the bulletin and Facebook, to the website and iTunes, etc) gets used by multiple people. Thus, it's obvious that we need to continue to communicate to our congregation in a variety of ways. No "one way" works for everyone. That being said, texts and emails rank highly for the most preferred modes of communication.

We want our Sunday morning prayer time to be meaningful and will continue to work at developing it. We recognize that it takes time for people to adjust to change and want to give adequate time for us as a church to adjust to this change. We will continue to work at developing our prayer time and trying to find ways to encourage people to share their requests, be prayed for, and also feel connected and cared about. We will work with the moderator group on this.

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Council Update

by David Perkins

During our recent Council Meeting, we discussed some happenings with the old church building. Currently, there are two interested parties looking at the building. One is looking at it for a contracting business and the other is interested in using it for a banquet hall. Please continue to pray that God will provide a buyer for it.

The Council has received an estimate for the concrete pad at the front entrance. At this time, we may continue shopping around. Considering our current financial situation, we felt there is no rush to install the concrete pad.

There was lengthy discussion about the church budget for the remainder of the 2018 year and going into the future. The Council is looking into several different options for the church to save money to greatly impact the budget. After narrowing down the options, we will relay the necessary information to the congregation. We will be discussing budget with the Team Leaders in the near future.

That is all for now. As you already know, the Council will try to keep everyone updated with all the goings-on here at LCF. Thanks for reading and be sure to keep an eye out for your next Council update. ■

Celebrating Lives Transformed by Christ!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

At the LCF campout on Sunday, August 26th, Rob preached about the good news of the gospel and how it has the power to radically transform lives. It was exciting to hear the testimonies of the 4 people who were being baptized and see how God is at work changing their lives. May God continue his transforming work in each of our lives as we follow him day by day!



Derek Elfrink

"Before I became a Christian, I was not a good person. I was mad easily and steamed up. In June, I went to Bethel Camp. It was our 4th chapel meeting. After chapel was over, I walked up to the camp pastor. I told him I wanted to be a Christian, and I repeated the sinner's prayer. I was doing a lot of bad things and making wrong decisions, and that was why I wanted to become a Christian. After I became a Christian, I felt better. God is a loving Father. I love God, and I know he loves me. I am so excited to get baptized."



Emily Miller

"I was born and raised in a Christian family so I've known about God my whole life, and I know he sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. However, I haven't really been following him or putting him first in my life. But this summer at Bethel Camp, during one of the chapel services, I made the decision to follow God for the rest of my life. When I got back, I decided I should get baptized to grow my faith in the Lord."



Clayton Carner

"At church in the library on Sunday, April 22, 2018, I told Marcus Freed that I wanted to pray to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. After I did that I felt the Holy Spirit come upon me. I felt at peace for once in my life and will forever have the Holy Spirit in my life. After our dear friend Kelly Ward passed away, I felt there needed to be a change in my life. So I thought real hard about my past decisions that have haunted me, and I got on my knees and started to pray. And when I prayed, I prayed for forgiveness and a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I felt free from all the guilt that I had carried all my life."



Clayton concluded his testimony by quoting Psalm 40:11-16 from memory, which ends saying:

*"...But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation always say,
'The Lord be exalted!'"*



Nathan Jenkins

"I was saved on May 27th, 2018, at London Christian Fellowship. I was raised in the Catholic religion, but never practiced the religion. In my teen years I was with a Christian-based camping group where I saw the Christian religion, but I didn't practice it. I started going to LCF in February of this year, and I liked what I was feeling. On Sunday, May 27th, Pastor Rob was preaching about sin and about asking for forgiveness from the Lord, and it hit me, and the Holy Spirit told me I needed to ask for forgiveness and told me to be saved, and I was saved. Since then, I have been a changed man. I am still growing spiritually, and will be growing spiritually forever."



"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 ■

A Day of Appreciation for a Special Couple

On Sunday, August 5th, we showed our appreciation to Levi & Cora Miller for their 30+ years of service and support here at London Christian Fellowship with a potluck, photobook of pictures from over the years, cards, etc.

For more information about Levi & Cora's service and transition, read "A New Chapter for Old Friends" in the June 2018 LCF Connection.



Campout continued

When asked what his favorite part of the campout was, Ray Raber replied, "Spikeball, for sure! But the Sunday morning message and baptisms were also very good!"

Ashlen Hisey said she loved the food and games.

Speaking of the good food we enjoyed...Sharon Headings, who has done an awesome job with meal planning and preparation for many years of campouts, says that she is ready for a break. So if you would like to be a part of the organizing team to make sure there is something good to eat and fun things to do at next year's campout, please let Rob Swartz know.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped out in so many different ways to make the weekend possible! ■



Upcoming Activities

- Sept. 1 Fall semester begins for Small Groups
- Sept. 9 LCF 101, 12:15 - 2:30 p.m. at Rob & Doris's
- Sept. 18-20 Farm Science Review
- Sept. 30 Fall Adult Discipleship Class begins
- Oct. 5-6 Elders' Retreat

Be Still continued

God can do, He led me to a neurosurgeon in Phoenix who, after reviewing my films, felt very confident that he could successfully operate. This news should have made me beside myself with worry but I continued to "Be still," and I felt the most amazing peace and heard God say "I have you." I felt an overwhelming need to write letters to my family "just in case." I could not seem to get the words on paper. After three attempts, I heard God say, "It's ok. You don't need to write these." I felt so at peace about it, and I never thought about the letters again.

Two weeks later we flew to Phoenix, and four days after surgery I was on my way home. The lesion was completely removed.

I learned to "be still" and let God handle the details of my life. I learned to give my worries and anxiety to Him. Yes, I do have some annoying residual effects from the surgery, but those are daily reminders of the depth of God's love and care.

In every circumstance we have to just "Be still and know that He is God," and remember that absolutely nothing on this earth is bigger than He is! ■

Elders' Notes continued

We discussed some of LCF's upcoming events; including the LCF campout, baptisms, LCF 101, and the preaching schedule for the next month or so. We also worked out some details for a congregational meeting to be scheduled this fall.

Reuben closed our time with prayer, remembering the situations we discussed. Our next meeting will be September 16th. ■

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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. Editors: Theresa Hennis, Amie Smith, Elisabeth Yoder, and Doris Swartz
If you prefer that we do not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us.

If you'd like to see more pictures from the campout visit LCF's Facebook page.