

# The LCF Connection

August 2019



## Irresistible Evangelism Conference— an Irresistible Time!

by Pam Stanforth

I am a first-time CMC attendee, and I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, finding the Multiply 2019 “Irresistible Evangelism,” irresistible! I could not stay away. There was a downside—it was not possible to attend every single breakout session I wished to attend. ☺

The Plenary Sessions were engaging, offering personal challenge, self-evaluation and thought-provoking avenues and ideas of how to approach others with the good news about Jesus Christ. I would be remiss if I failed to mention the heart-touching praise and worship. At one point, I could not

sing. I stood with my eyes closed, listening as hundreds of voices blended together in worshipping Father God. Surely, it was but a small sample of the glory we shall share as we worship together in heaven.

One of the breakout sessions I attended was titled, Fine Arts as a Tool for Ministry, led by Christa Wolf, director, playwright, fine arts coordinator, dramatist. She shared a plethora of ideas and ways to incorporate the arts in delivering the message of Christ. One of the ways I thought was intriguing was to pre-record the bible reading for Sunday, create a video or power-point, with maybe music, that emphasizes the Word as it is being read aloud. Another idea was to include short drama skits to introduce the pastor’s message for the day, giving people a clue as to what is to come. I really appreciated Christa’s willingness to share her e-mail and offer to be a sounding board.



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Another session that was at the top of my list was titled, The Role of Apologetics in Evangelism, taught by our very own Reuben Sairs. I got to attend the 2nd session

## LCF Youth Share God’s Love in Arizona

by Shepherd Ndungu

June 22-30 the LCF youth group took a summer trip to Phoenix, Arizona, to volunteer with AIM Right Ministries. There were 15 youth and 5 chaperones who went along. AIM Right Director, Caleb Reed, gave leadership during our week there. The main thing that we did was to help their interns lead a week of Vacation Bible School at AIM Right.

Monday through Friday we planned and led games, Bible stories, short movies, and craft projects for children in grades one to six. The games were mainly water-based, which allowed for the kids to cool off from the beaming Arizona heat. Bible stories tracked the story of Moses and how God used him to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. In the short movies station, the children followed the story of a young Kenyan girl and how God was working in her life. And finally, the crafts station is where kids stretched their creative muscles as they made toy binoculars, drums, giraffe paintings, and even miniature volcanos.

When we weren’t having VBS, we were out performing service projects in different areas of Phoenix. Most of that time we were at Garfield Elementary School, where we

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# What to Do During Pride Month?

## A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

What to do during Pride Month? This past June was set aside as Pride Month to celebrate LGBTQ lives and history. If you are like me, this celebration put you in an uncomfortable position. Although there are many kind and accepting things I would like to say, I can't say the two things that lie behind the celebration, and are often demanded, and that is that this is all ok, and I must express pride in it.

I am not one of those Christians who thinks it is our job to police the world. I don't think the Bible teaches us to rule the culture through the government. I'm convinced those days, if they ever existed, are over and I don't believe that they will come back, and I'm actually glad about that. Like Christians throughout history, we have to live with the reality that we are a minority, and maybe at times will be thought of as a kooky or dangerous minority. Yet, as the apostles expressed in John 6:68-69, right after many turned away from Jesus, we have come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and has the words of life.

What to do? My approach is to speak politely, and to start with the positive. No one should feel threatened by me. I'm not trying to take away anyone's civil rights, demean them, treat them with less respect, or regard them as less than me. I don't think Jesus or the apostles ever treated anyone that way, even though in both cases they were surrounded by people who didn't reciprocate. I think we can de-escalate some of the rhetoric. Our choices with regard to sex and gender issues are important, but they aren't everything in life. They are one dimension of life. There is much more to all of us.

At the same time I think the Bible invites us to choices and these preclude homosexual practice and the deliberate attempt to switch genders. I remain unconvinced by any argument that the Bible is actually teaching acceptance of homosexuality. Those Biblical invitations that involve sexuality and gender choices are among the words of life. A person with homosexual inclinations, whether born in them or finding them as life proceeds, will have struggles. I am only here to support them if they want to follow Jesus. I'm not their judge, but I cannot in good conscience tell them that according to the Bible acting on homosexual desire is not sin.

The gender dysphoria that becomes part of this discussion doesn't necessarily connect except in that it represents a minority position related to sexuality. Especially with the gender issue there are complicated and exceptional cases, but they can be distractions. Today it is commonly held that there are more than two genders and that even though sex is biological, gender is, in all its aspects, a cultural issue. Gender certainly is very flexible across cultures and throughout history, but the contemporary issue with transgender is a deliberate effort to cross gender lines wherever they might be drawn. Our modern ability to pump people with hormones and fiddle with them surgically wasn't possible in the Biblical world. I believe that we are still probably only playing on the surface of something that is simply unchangeable. It is still perhaps merely impersonation. It seems particularly reckless when children are allowed to make these decisions.

What to do? Insist on God's love, insist on God's word and get ready to live with criticism. He loves us all in the midst of our various sexual issues (cisgendered heterosexuals certainly have their own challenges with regard to faith). He puts up with us very patiently in these areas. If he didn't, we'd all be lost. The Bible shows the way to a whole life. It's an offer. We can live with the criticism humbly but confidently, especially when we consider what we are asking homosexuals and the gender dysphoric to do if they want to follow Christ with us. ■

# Elders Notes

by Jesse Diller

We began our meeting on July 9th with a time of prayer and then discussed various plans and upcoming events including:

- A baptism at Little Darby Creek on September 8th
- New small groups starting up in September
- We are planning a sermon series on the various aspects of sexuality. We will discuss the details later as to when and how that will happen.
- Our elders retreat at Farmvilla, September 20-21
- A one-day outing at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park on September 22. It will include having our morning service there, followed by a potluck and an afternoon of fun and relaxation. This will be in place of our regular camp-out this year.

In our discussion about baptism someone asked about a young child who is requesting baptism. We all agree that it would be wise to encourage young children to enjoy the special place of being covered by God's grace and wait to be baptized until they clearly understand what their choices are and can make a rational decision of whether or not they want to commit to following Christ for life.

We spent the remainder of the meeting sharing our 2nd answers to the question: What are the top 5 things that are on your heart for LCF (that you think LCF should be about)?

- Stand for God's Word - to not water it down but faithfully teach and follow it
- Continue to be a body that sends people out and brings new Christians in, as well
- Reach the lost in our community, as well as the lost among us
- Expand our expressions of worship (such as prayer, scripture reading, special music, etc.) and strive for excellence that honors God in all we do
- Several of us shared our heart for the children, youth, and young adults at LCF. We desire to see them develop a strong faith in Christ and understanding of the Bible, to be developed as leaders, and be well-connected to the church. We recognize that this is an area that requires significant time and energy. We would love, at some point, to be able to hire a Youth/Children's Ministries pastor to help cover these areas. We will pray that God will provide for what we need.

Joe closed our time with prayer. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 6th. As always, we invite your thoughts and feedback, and ask that you pray for God to give us wisdom and guidance. ■

## Upcoming Activities

- August 7 - LCF 101, 6 p.m. at the Swartz home
- August 18 - Hymnsing at Shiloh Mennonite Church, 7p.m.
- August 23 & 24 - Beth Moore Live in Cincinnati
- September 8 - Baptism after our Sunday morning service
- September 20 & 21 - Elders Retreat at Farmvilla
- September 22 - Church service and potluck at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park

# Gospel Truths Presented Creatively

by Jeff Gates, Artistic Director, Godspell

On behalf of the cast, crew and band from Godspell, let me express a great big THANK YOU to LCF for all of the support in presenting the first-ever production by the newly-formed Light and Life Theatre Company. We were blessed with a very talented group of people to work with—including LCF's own Wesley Miller, the youngest of the group. Once our expenses are figured out, we will be presenting funds to LCF's Youth Group with all of the profits we made from our July 11 show.



Our goal was to present some of the parables from the Book of Matthew in both an entertaining and enlightening manner. With singing, dancing, comedy and thought-provoking lessons, we loved presenting these to a very appreciative audience at LCF.

Thank you to those who attended. And if you were unable to, do not despair. This is only the beginning for Light and Life Theatre, and we hope to be able to utilize LCF for a venue for future adventures. Thank you to Pastor Rob, Doris, Sandy, Jesse, Sammy, and others who were so helpful.



As a veteran of close to 100 theatrical and/or musical productions, I'm proud to say this is right near the top of the list for quality of music, impact on audience, expression of show meaning, and outstanding quality of participants! ■

## Council Update

by Jim Jones

Updates from the LCF Council's meeting on July 16 include:

There has been continued interest in the old church building—a prospective buyer who has a light assembly business attended the Madison County Commissioner meeting on July 1st to get approval to build an additional structure. Later in July he met with two contractors at the old church building for two-and-a-half hours for improvement and new structure estimates.

Our church copier is going to be obsolete in December 2019, but has years of life left. After our current service agreement is up, money spent on copying expenses (\$160 per quarter) will be budgeted into a copy fund towards service, parts and a new copier in the distant future.

The front entry-pad project is moving forward. Funds are available for this project.

Dan has found a new conference-calling system that is free of charge and could be used by other teams, if desired. It also had an email-link option that could be utilized to share and discuss documents. ■



Youth Trip...continued

helped clean the school walls and floors, power washed paint off the pavement, painted mailboxes, and created bulletin boards for several classrooms.

Projects done other than at the school included some maintenance around the AIM Right building, handing out water to people on the streets, helping to prepare the future AIM Right North location for its debut this fall, and holding a food pantry for those in need around the neighborhood.



Not all our time was occupied with kids and work; we also had time to ourselves. On Saturday night, we went to South Mountain and watched the city light up as the sun was setting. Tuesday and Thursday were more relaxed days that called for swimming at the local pool and grabbing food and snacks from local shops, including Ranch Market, which is infamous for its Mexican cuisine. After tearing down VBS decorations on Friday night, we went to a late dinner at Whataburger to test out whether it was as great as the locals made it out to be; there were mixed reactions.

The week involved many different things, but some of the most special times for us included hanging out and getting to know some of the kids from VBS. Seeing them for five days allowed us to get a peek into their lives, learn about what they enjoy doing, listen to their struggles, and build friendships that hopefully have an impact on them.

Other highlights included: visiting the Grand Canyon (and not falling in!), sleeping after the long, hot days, and spending time with each other.

This trip has brought us closer to each other and made us more confident in planning the next out-of-state (or country) trip. We can't wait! Thanks so much to each of you who prayed for us and supported our fundraisers to make this trip possible! ■





LCF's 2019 Choral Camp volunteers and campers:  
 Pictured above from left: Kaleigh, Ella, Emma (crew), Maddie, and  
 Janelle (counselor), and below: Kristen and Derek

## A Great Combo of Fun and Learning!

by Emma and Ella Hostetler



If you are looking for a place where you can grow spiritually, grow in your singing ability, and meet new friends, then Choral Camp is the place to go! The week was filled with fun activities such as choir sessions, band and voice classes, and recorder lessons. Campers and counselors got to enjoy an intense shaving-cream fight, bowling, scavenger hunt, and campfires, among other fun things.

I (Emma) had the privilege of joining the crew this year. We spent the majority of our week cleaning up the kitchen (for hours a day), setting and cleaning up activities for campers, and staying up late—laughing until we fell asleep. My favorite parts about being in the crew were the new friends, getting to eat as much food as we wanted, and the satisfaction of working behind the scenes of Choral Camp to make sure everything was running smoothly.



Benji Martin, who previously attended LCF, was the 2019 camp pastor. He gave amazing sermons. It was awesome to see how engaged the campers were, how well they learned and related to his experiences. ■

*Multiply...continued*

of the three parts. I was not ready for the session to end, and I was sad when I discovered each session covered a different teaching. In today's culture, I truly believe that Apologetics is a necessary tool we need in our Evangelistic tool chest. I've been told the sessions were recorded and most will be available online. I can't wait to hear more!

I volunteered to help serve lunch, and I must say, it was a great opportunity to connect with many beautiful Christian ladies of faith, (and men) to hear their stories and to listen to loving examples of evangelism, teaching, in the form of female chatter. There were several whom I met, but to name a few: Ruth, Dorothy, Sharla, Charlene, and one lady who especially blessed me by her testimony was Miriam. I was a little timid after learning that many of these ladies had served God all their lives. In fact, some of them started learning about Jesus from the time they were babies. They married Christian spouses and raised their families reading scripture and having God's Word at the center of their homes. What a marvelous testimony to have!



My heart was filled with joy and thanksgiving for their lives—faithfully living for God for so many years—and yet, I felt a sharp pain as I recalled my own life—not such a pretty testimony—full of brokenness and learning of God's great love late in my life. Being led by the Holy Spirit (whether or not she knew it), Miriam spoke a beautiful word of encouragement to me. She reminded me that we are all on this journey together and that it matters not at what time we arrive to work the fields to bring in the harvest; it only matters that we show up to help gather the harvest. God knows and loves each of us, and it is he who will give our reward when this life is done. He will be the one to say, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant, enter in..." It will not be for anything we ourselves have done, or how long we have been serving him (what time we arrived to the harvest). We all come to Father God by one door, and that door is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! May each of us serve him faithfully and do all that we can to share the good news of his amazing love with others! ■



If you were not able to be at Multiply 2019, we encourage you to listen to the sessions [online](#) and mark your calendar for **July 31 - August 2, when Multiply 2020** will be held at Accident, Maryland! Thanks so much to each of you who served in so many ways!!

## 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](mailto:secretary@lcfweb.org). Editors: Theresa Hennis, 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.