

The LCF Connection

November 2019



Introducing Our New Neighbors

by Jim Jones

On Thursday, October 10th, the old church building was sold for \$182,500. The net proceeds (\$178,410) were applied entirely to our remaining mortgage balance (\$357,108.99) cutting it in half to \$178,698.99.

Our new neighbors will be KLC Services. It is a small assembly business owned and operated by Mark and Kay Reep. They currently have three employees who produce post-operative rehabilitation equipment (commonly used after joint replacement surgeries) as well

as runway taxi light components for cold climates. Their products are sold nationally and internationally. They have leased a building in Hilliard for the past 12 years and are excited to now expand into their own building. You can look for big changes coming soon. They plan to build a new 4,000-square-foot structure that they will use for product inventory. They plan to be fully operational there by the beginning of 2020.



With our mortgage balance reduced by 50%, our daily interest will be cut from \$44 to \$22 per day, reducing our payoff timeline from 10, down to 5 years. In the past years we were in a position financially to apply additional principle amounts to reduce our payoff. Hopefully in the future, with this light at the end of the tunnel and budget permitting, our desire is to further reduce our payoff timeline. ■



Editor's Note: Please join us in thanking God for this wonderful answer to prayer and also, in thanking Jim Jones for all the time and work he put into the whole process of showing and selling the building over these past 5 years!

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Celebrating Miracles!

by Molly Rosati

I was often puzzled what it meant to give God glory. When we experience awe while watching a beautiful sunset and say, "Wow! That's your handiwork, God! You did that!" I call that giving God glory. As I share about my 10 days in the hospital and 50 days (and counting) recovering at home, I hope you will join me in saying, "Wow, God! You did that! Thank you!" and give Him the glory.

I started a journal while in the hospital. One entry said: Thank you, God, your Word brought physical relief. I was relieved of pain several times during my illness. When I lay in pain, shaking and mentally out of it, I spoke God's Word out loud and felt relief wash over me. Wow, God! You did that! I said Isaiah 44:6: "This is what the Lord says, Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." I find comfort acknowledging God's sovereignty. God is bigger than our issues, and He rules over everything.

Another journal entry: God's hand covered me and delivered me. When I look at the MRI and see the damage and strokes, but have been spared the expression of that loss of brain—



On August 31 a staph infection in my blood made me deathly ill and caused complications. I was hospitalized for 10 days and sent home to be on IV antibiotics for 6-8 weeks. Jack has been able to care for me and work from home while I recover. I took this photo from my hospital bed of my family visiting.

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

LCFweb.org

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

How Sinful We Really Are



A Message from the Pastor *by Reuben Sairs*

Sin and regret. I've been surprised, at this time in my life, which sins from my past haunt me the most. I'll get back to that, but let me develop the idea first. One great power of

realizing how sinful we are is that it increases our love for the God who forgives our sins and heals our backsliding (Jeremiah 3:22). Like Jesus told Simon the Pharisee in Luke Chapter 7, "But he who is forgiven little, loves little."

A poorly developed picture of sin looks entirely at actions—did we steal something today? You might call that a sin of commission. A better developed picture considers what we didn't do, but should have. Did I play the role of the good Samaritan or did I piously walk past a wounded person? You can call that a sin of omission. I think a fully developed picture of sin pulls together both kinds of sins, and considers them in terms of our character.

Our character is what reveals to us how sinful we really are. Those who work with short lists of sins of commission are in danger of severe cases of self-righteousness. The seven deadly sins are an old and very good tool the church has used for teaching about sin, and they are about our character. The list is worth memorizing, and the order is significant, starting with the hardest to overcome: pride, envy, wrath, sloth, avarice, gluttony, lust. Sometimes I think the modern list of sins starts on the last item and never imagines anything beyond it.

Once I heard a Christian leader ask a gathering, "Was there ever one moment in which you truly loved God with ALL your heart, mind, soul and strength?" If you answer that question with a yes, I think you're probably in trouble. My simple answer is, "No, you haven't."

Back to what haunts me from my past. It involves particular episodes that are painful to remember, but at the heart of them is usually an inherent selfishness or self-centeredness. I was weakened, limited, stunted as a Christian because I was simply wrapped up in myself—my own interests, defending myself, advancing myself, focusing on myself, comforting myself, feeding myself. I was easily wounded, and thought that I was the victim, not the perpetrator, in most cases. The really painful part of it is that I didn't usually recognize it at the time. I thought I was just living my life and doing reasonable things, and that I was loving other people the way Christians do. Looking back now I think one of the worst things about my pride (because I think that is the root of this), is that I didn't see it in myself very well.

What are some solutions? When we are angry, offended, avoiding or ignoring others, too busy looking down even benevolently and piously on others, criticizing, or evaluating situations as though we are smarter, wiser, or more reasonable than others, let's take a moment to look deeply and honestly at ourselves. It could be that we have a healthy self-esteem and boundaries, but we might want to consider if we have a just cause for anger, or are wiser, and so on. My guess is that we will find that our responses are often tainted with pride. My free-of-charge pastoral warning is that it may come back to haunt us. ■

Elders Notes

by Rob & Doris Swartz

We met on October 8th for our monthly meeting. We began our time by sharing things that we are thankful for. We gave thanks to God in prayer for the wonderful things He is doing among us and also prayed about various concerns that were on our hearts.

We spent a time talking about how we can help various people in the church.

We talked about the questions that we would like to have included on the new teacher questionnaire we are developing—a questionnaire to be completed by anyone who teaches at LCF.

We went over the summary document that Rob put together, which combines all our responses that we have been sharing these past several months, addressing the question, "What is on our hearts for LCF?" We shared our thoughts and tweaked it a bit. We will continue to think and pray about it and work at getting it into something concise that we can easily keep in front of us and the church.

We talked about a request for missions support that we received. We try to keep the circle of missionaries that we support closely tied with our LCF family, but will continue to give some thought and prayer to this request.

We rejoiced greatly when Tasha shared with us the news that we are scheduled to close on the sale of the old church building this week!! We are very thankful for Jim and all the work he has done with this!

We ended our time with prayer, covering the many things we talked about. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12. ■

Christmas is Next Month!

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar:

- Dec. 2 - Caroling at London's Old Fashioned Christmas, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8 - RBC Chorus leads us in worship
- Dec. 22 - LCF Family Christmas



Learning More About LCF

We are always excited to see new faces among us and to have those who have been with us for awhile express the desire to become members. On a rainy Saturday morning, October 26th, five individuals joined Rob and Doris for breakfast and learned more about LCF and how they can become involved.



If you would like to participate in the next LCF 101 class (probably sometime in the spring), just let Rob or Doris know. ■

An Opportunity to Bring Comfort and Hope to Those in Prison

Marcus Freed interviewed by Theresa Hennis

If you've ever experienced the loss of a loved one, you've known grief. Grief is not just about losing someone, though. There are other types of grief people experience, and sometimes it seems there is no rhyme or reason to how and when grief affects someone. To suffer alone in grief with no idea of what to do or how to manage it is as debilitating as the loss itself.

One of our LCF members, Marcus Freed, understands grief on a personal level. He has taken what he's learned from Grief Share and become a trained facilitator for the 13-week program aimed at walking people through their grief in a support-group setting. Marcus saw a need for such support in the local prison, and he facilitates a grief group there and trains others to facilitate. Here are excerpts from letters by prisoners, given to Marcus, expressing their thanks to LCF for supplying them with Grief Share workbooks:



Pictured in the LoCI chapel (from left to right):
Jeff, Jared, and Dean.

"Like most programs introduced from the "outside," I met Grief Share with a hint of skepticism. 'How can this program be relevant to me?' and more arrogantly, 'I've already dealt with my grief.' It appears that Grief Share was not developed nor intended for a prison environment, but by the seventh session, "Guilt and Anger," it became glaringly obvious that the Christian principles included in the program are exactly what is needed and necessary for men behind bars." ~ Jeff

"I know that without the kindness, faithfulness, and generosity of you and others, I probably would not have had the opportunity to take part in a group that provides the benefits that Grief Share is providing me. Prison is not a place where a person can often open up and share personal struggles. Through Grief Share, I have been introduced to a group of people who I can share with, and be there for them to share with. I can't find words to describe what that means to me. The closest I can come up with is Thank You. Please consider donating money/materials for future groups to be able to better themselves and help others as they go through a grief of their own." ~ Jared

"I am grateful for your generosity. Through your kind gift...I have been able to grow and recover my life, lost to my suffering from the loss of my newborn son. My inability to deal with loss has brought so much turmoil and anguish to myself and others. My search for help brought me in contact with a wonderful person who brought the Grief Share class to me and several lucky others. But lack of books delayed my entry...your precious gift has brought to me the path of recovery, and so joyed am I to have received. I strive to learn and understand all that is embodied in this program, so that I will be able to impart and facilitate this program to many who are in need of its healing." ~ Dean

London Christian Fellowship is a Grief Share supporting church. To donate Grief Share workbooks for prisoners, you may give your donation to our church treasurer, Tasha Slabaugh. Workbooks cost \$15. To find out more about Grief Share and how it helps anyone who is dealing with grief, visit griefshare.org. ■

Miracles...continued

speech, motor, thought. When I read the long-term pain and loss of function (others suffer) from dissection—I feel His hand held me back from the abyss. It is a MIRACLE from God I am experiencing very little effect from what the scans show. Wow, God! That is You! Thank You!

I am still on IV antibiotics 24 hours a day and going for MRIs and CAT scans to check my progress. Recovery will take months, and I may never regain my former strength. I shared with Rob I am already wrestling with self esteem and letting go of what I used to accomplish. I laughed when he quoted my words back to me, "Better to do a little with love, than accomplish a lot with hardness." I will put that on the fridge. Rob also said, "We can be the person God wants us to be each day. That is within the grasp of us all."

So many are holding us up in prayer. We see answers, great and small, every day! In my journal I wrote, "Thank you, God for all the people bringing my name up to you! I am humbled, I am not worthy. We are blessed!" And I say, Wow, God! That is your handiwork! Thank you! ■



OMC Update

by Rob & Doris Swartz

On Sunday, October 20th, we attended church at Olentangy Mennonite Church so that Rob, who serves as their Overseer, could license Dorvan Gingerich (who serves as an elder and part of the teaching team at OMC), and Jerry Sauder (who attends OMC and was asked by Rosedale International to be licensed to aid in his role at RI).

OMC has been meeting for almost 2 1/2 years and continues to grow and change. They just moved to their 3rd meeting place, which is the new IFI headquarters on Old Henderson Road. It's exciting to see them growing and developing young leaders. Continue to remember them in your prayers as they share the good news of the gospel in the heart of Columbus. ■

Buildings and Grounds Nuts and Bolts

by Dave Wolford

THE Mr. Clete Yoder, along with Sandy Gregg, Myron Hochstetler, Merv and Linda Schlabach, Dale and Sharon Headings, and myself, make up LCF's Buildings and Grounds Team. We meet for one evening, every other month, around 6:30 (or 7 for some; yeah, you know who you are, Dale). It is formal (with an agenda and meeting notes), but also a very informal meeting setting (if this makes sense), where we discuss some issues that arise with the church building and the surrounding land.

There are fun things that are talked about—such as a request for a basketball hoop to be placed in the Fellowship Hall, and some window treatments needed for some of the windows.

There are groups and individuals who like to use our church for meetings or events, and these have to be scheduled so there is no overlapping of events. Thanks, Sandy, for all you do with coordinating those details!

There are ongoing items discussed that tend to be unnoticeable—things like getting propane gas quotes and contracts for heating the building, water testing that is required on a regular basis, and emergency lighting and exit lights that need repair. There is also this stubborn light in the front foyer of the church that has not been working for some time. A lift was on order so we could reach the light. Funny thing, though—the week before the lift was to arrive the light started working (like a miracle), so the lift order was canceled. Well, as things go, the light went dark again and now this item is back on the “to-do list.”

We also discuss some not-so-fun things, as well. I will spare you the details but it has something to do with maintenance on a piece of equipment that is associated with restrooms. No more info on this—sooooo, moving on...

HOWEVER!!! One of the biggest, and probably most noticeable, issues that we have accomplished in the past few months was the new front-entry concrete pad. There was a ton of work that went into this! Thank God that Clete was able to pull some of the knowledge out of his knowledge bank to help engineer and design the pad replacement. I was not able to be present at the actual time this work was being performed, but if you know Clete, the work under that concrete is just as beautiful as the finished work you do see on top. Thank you, Clete, for all the work you put into this project!! And thank you, too, for “taking the reins” of this group of people and leading us towards solutions for the various issues that arise with our church building and property (which sometimes seems to happen on an almost daily basis)! ■



Writers Retreat

by Theresa Hennis

Connecting with other artists, whether they are writers, songwriters, poets, woodworkers or painters, is something creative people love to do and from which they draw inspiration.

On September 26, 27, and 28, three LCF members, Phyllis Swartz, Vicki Sairs, and Theresa Hennis, attended Bethel Camp Writers Retreat. The weekend was one of sharing ideas, critiquing each other's works, and creating.

“The Bethel Camp Writers Retreat helped launch me into writing,” Phyllis Swartz said. “I first attended the retreat the year I retired from teaching, the year I decided to try writing. That retreat showed me that I had much to learn about writing and motivated me to start learning. Now I go back every year to the hills of Eastern Kentucky to find inspiration and develop skill in the company of other writers.”

Praising God through creating takes many forms: working in the garden, fashioning an intricate cabinetry piece, or teaching a child. Praising Him comes in all forms of worship, which art is—an expression of thanks to God for and through the gifts of talent He gives us.

“I'm grateful for Bethel Camp Writers Retreat,” Vicki said. “I feel it makes a space for people who are interested in art and literature, not just as an expression of who they are but as a way that they praise God. It is a very supportive space for that.”

We want to thank every artist who has poured their creative gifts of worship into our church, whether through writing, decorating, making our grounds a more beautiful place, serving our children or showing hospitality to us and to others.

You all create more space in our church for all of us to use our gifts to express thanks to God. ■

The LCF Connection

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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, 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.