

The LCF Connection

May 2020



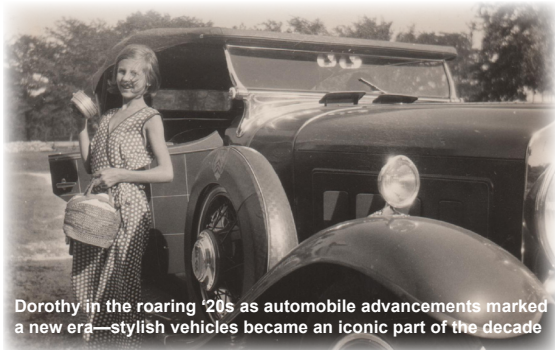
Celebrating 100 Years!

A Tribute to a Very Special Lady
by Jim Jones

On May 8, 1920, Dorothy Zaring was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was the time of silent films, prohibition and women's suffrage; it would be known as the "roaring '20s." Newspapers, telephone and a new household device called the radio would be the tools of social media. Famous names of that decade included Babe Ruth, Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart. The advent of talking pictures emerged when Dorothy was seven which was followed two years later by The Great Depression.



At the time of Dorothy's first tricycle, the Model T had just begun production and could be purchased for \$300



Dorothy in the roaring '20s as automobile advancements marked a new era—stylish vehicles became an iconic part of the decade

The Great Depression dominated Dorothy's teenage years. It was a time of learning to be frugal and doing without. Despite the times, it contained treasured memories of laughter with her brother such as watching Laurel and Hardy movies. Their family moved to Kansas City for a few years for a job for her father. One of Dorothy's favorite memories is when she traveled on a train all by herself from Kansas City to Indianapolis to see her favorite grandmother, Cora. The porter on the train made her feel very special. She loved peeking out through the curtains of her



Dorothy & Vernon with Mary Ann

sleeper car during the many stops while watching passengers board the train throughout the night. She had a very special relationship with Cora. They would often go downtown to the square in Indianapolis to people watch or get on rides together at the county fair.

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Finding Peace in the Storm

by Marsha Schrock

As I write this we are currently 3 weeks into the stay-at-home order due to the coronavirus. Has it been challenging? Yes, in many ways. I live in a medium-size house with my 3 boys (ages 27, 20 and 18) We are dealing with much disappointment over the changes in my youngest son's senior year. Will there be a graduation ceremony? Will we be able to have a graduation party, and when might that happen? (We already know the date of the party will need to be changed.) Even his orientation for college has been changed to online. None of us are working, and we are still waiting for unemployment to come through.

How do I find peace in this? Life's difficult times have taught me to look for God's hand at work. Almost 11 years ago I was on the verge of living in a women's shelter with my 4 children, not knowing if I would be able to get more than the few things we had in our suitcases. There were times I did not know how I would buy the groceries we needed or even put gas in my vehicle. Every time, God has been more than faithful. He has provided for us in so many ways—more than I would have even asked for. Maybe this has made me more quick to wait expectantly for how He will work in our lives.



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

Be a House United, Not Divided



A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

There was a time in my life, thankfully well before I moved to London, OH, and any of you knew me, that I look back on with some dismay. As I saw myself at that time, I was righteous, I was wise, I was

honest, and I hope there was a little bit of those things in me, but I also caused trouble. I was a little too righteous, too wise and too honest in my own estimation. In my own defense, I was young, but I think I might have been a “Son of Belial,” at least on bad days.

The other night in my devotional readings, I came across this little report in Second Samuel 20.

Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said,

“We have no portion in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel.”

So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

“Worthless man” seen above in the ESV, was rendered in the NIV as a “troublemaker.” The Hebrew is “Son of Belial.” I think this is used some 27 times in the Old Testament and is probably derived from words that add up to “without worth.” It gets used for various cases from idolatry to malignant foolishness. It was used for the corrupt sons of Eli the high priest, and for Nabal, Abigail’s first husband who tried to take advantage of David (her second husband) when he was on the run from Saul.

In the case in 2nd Samuel above, what was driving Sheba, and how might we have seen it? David’s kingdom was at that time a mess. It was after the time when David raped Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed. It was after his son Amnon raped his half-sister Tamar, and he didn’t react, thus leading to her brother Absalom’s starting a civil war. There was lots to find fault with. David’s source of loyalty was mostly in the tribe of Judah and maybe the Levites. Sheba calls away the 10 other tribes, and on the surface of it, I can see why. There were multiple good reasons. Yet he was wrong, he was “worthless.” How do you apply such a story to our life in the church?

I don’t think we should make excuses for David. The text doesn’t. I don’t think we should ever use these examples as models on which to base ideas in modern politics—we live in a vastly different time, and, as Christians, under a new and different covenant.

I think we can think about what it means to be a divider, a splitter, a faction boss, and think about the idea that whatever legitimized or de-legitimized Sheba’s reaction, we have less excuse in the church. We have the Holy Spirit. We are a spiritual house--1 Peter 2:5. Whatever might be said for or against our opinions, judgements, or frustrations, when they turn us into troublemakers in God’s kingdom, something is wrong with us. Figuring out how to get out of that trap should become our sole focus for a while. The world will keep spinning, and God’s church will keep going while we take a breather and figure out what’s driving us. There is a proverb I try to keep in mind. It is Proverbs 6—you’ll have to fill in the missing 5 items.

“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ...one who sows discord among brothers.” ■

Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

This past month, the Elders team has pretty much had a constant, ongoing meeting via digital communication as the pandemic caused things to close down. Over the last few weeks we have had discussions about when and how to switch to online services and how to best format the services and communicate with our LCF family. This has led to multiple platforms and events, including live services on YouTube and Zoom, discussions on Whatsapp and Facebook, notifications via email and text, and others! We are continuing to process ideas for helping LCF maintain fellowship and worship, including special calls to personal and corporate prayer.

On Tuesday, April 14, we had our first formal Elder’s meeting held via Zoom. We began with a reading of Psalm 121, then spent an extended time praying together (especially for people among us who are more vulnerable during this time of crisis and asking the Holy Spirit to do his work in us and in our church) and finished with Psalm 124.

We spent a large portion of the rest of our meeting talking about the online service format: what we like about it, what challenges we have come across, where we can improve. For example, we liked the fellowship that happened on Zoom after the Maundy Thursday service; we will try to provide a similar opportunity for people to connect and hang out after the Sunday service, a “Virtual Foyer.”

We talked about our desire to see LCF be a church family in the true sense of a family: to know each other deeply, discuss our spiritual struggles and growths, meet together often, hold each other accountable and speak into each other’s lives (without becoming offended), etc. We want LCF to be a fellowship where we can involve more and more people in the various parts of ministry. This is a challenge, especially in these days. We discussed possible avenues to promote this kind of fellowship and growth. We will continue to think and pray about this and the ideas that were shared and will revisit this subject again. Our next scheduled meeting will be on May 12. ■

Council Update

by Jim Jones

A dramatic increase in internet speed has been offered by our current provider. This will give LCF the capability to live stream services. The upgrade can be made relatively quickly with an additional monthly cost of \$15 per month. Equipment requirements will need to be explored. When services resume, we intend to continue having streaming available for folks who cannot attend or who elect to stay home.

Bob Zachrich (Welcome Team Coordinator) discussed areas of consideration when the building is reopened for services. The discussion included attendance, Sunday School, nursery, coffee, communion, potlucks, mask wearing, children, seating arrangements, cleaning and disinfecting. We continue to look to the State of Ohio for guidance.

The Building & Grounds Team is saving close to \$877.00 per month by not having the building occupied for services. This includes cleaning, electric, trash, drinking water and coffee.

Rosedale Bible College is offering us a scholarship/grant for winter term (January-February) 2021 which includes housing and meals. ■

Celebrating 100 Years...continued



Dorothy with her three daughters in Alaska

By the end of the '30s, Dorothy would grow up to marry Vernon Jones and become a mother. Her life would quickly change as she would be separated from her husband as America entered WWII. After the war, Vernon made a 20+ year career in the Army. His many assignments would take her to live in several places around the world. Her favorite was England where she learned to play golf with Vernon. In addition, they were able to travel much of Europe with their three girls, Mary Ann, Jo Ann and Susan. Her least favorite assignment was Alaska as they lived in an austere cabin in the wilderness. During that time, Susan, just a toddler, wandered off in the wilderness just before dusk. Their faithful Husky dog came through as he led Susan safely back to the frantic family. Another time, Dorothy was driving back to the cabin with her girls, on an old mining road at night. She lost control of the vehicle in the snow and it hit a snow bank and overturned. Thankfully, they were all OK. She got the girls out of the car and made it home to the cabin on foot.



In the mid '50s the Jones family was stationed on Guam following Dorothy's recovery from polio



In the early '60s Dorothy took on her new role as a pastor's wife

In the early '50s, Dorothy would face one of her biggest challenges. While they were stateside in Virginia, she was diagnosed with polio while pregnant with her first son, David. She would go from a wheelchair to a lifelong leg brace as she permanently lost strength in her right leg and arm.



Dorothy - Junior Choir Director at Zion Lutheran Church

In the early '60s, Vernon retired from the Army and felt called to become a Lutheran Minister. They moved to Central Ohio so Vernon could attend Seminary. At that time their last child, Jim, was just three years old. Little did they know they would end up settling in Ohio. Their daughters were, for the most part, grown up. It's almost like they had two separate families—the girls were their army children and the boys were their ministry children. Vernon received a call to Zion Lutheran Church right out of seminary, and he would stay there throughout his ministry.

In the early '70s Dorothy's faith grew deeper in Jesus. It was during this time she was baptized again as an adult. Dorothy enjoyed being the pastor's wife, serving as the Jr. Choir director, and other church roles. In the early '80s Vernon retired and they enjoyed traveling to visit family. By that time Dorothy had numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. In the early '90s Dorothy fell and broke her hip. That did not slow her down. After she healed she continued to drive, along with her other activities. Her passion has always been traveling. She never wants to miss an opportunity to go somewhere.



Dorothy with her son, Jim

In the mid '2000s they moved to London and began attending London Christian Fellowship with Annette and me. A few years later Vernon passed away. Dorothy has been a widow for over thirteen years. Always the champion of positive attitude, she has faced many challenges and changes throughout her lifetime. Her most recent has been her adjustment living at Bluebird Retirement Community. Dorothy's positive attitude and faith continue to leave an impression on those she comes in contact with. ■



Dorothy & Vernon at their home in London

Happy 100th Birthday, Dorothy! Dorothy will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 8th. We invite you to celebrate with her via Zoom and/or send her a card.

Finding Peace in the Storm...continued

I have chosen to be thankful for the blessings of this time at home. My life has been very busy, especially in the last few years. There have been times that I wished for a day when my children were young and I was a stay-at-home mom. The pace of living was much slower. I have those days now, and I don't have young children to care for. I have time to relax, read, work on a list of projects, teach my boys more about cooking and so much more. We have ways to connect with others...Facebook, video chats, phone calls, church services online, email, etc. Even 15 years ago many of these things would not have been available to us. It's springtime, and we at least have had some nice, warm days. This would be much worse if we were in the middle of winter!

While we don't know how long the stay-at-home order will continue or what it will look like when they lift it, we can trust that God has a plan. He is always faithful. We often hear that joy is a choice, but I challenge you to look at peace as a choice also. We can choose to be fearful and worry or we can choose to trust that God will provide. I know from experience that life is much easier when we choose peace. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Today, I will cling to this promise and know that my God is more powerful than this virus that seems to be controlling our world.

The words to the song "Your Hands" by JJ Heller are especially meaningful to me right now. "When my world is shaking, Heaven stands. When my heart is breaking, I never leave Your hands. Your hands that shaped the world are holding me. They hold me still." ■

Special Celebrations in 2020!

by Elisabeth Yoder and Candice Mast

All of our lives have been unfortunately changed and affected due to Covid-19, but a group who is feeling these effects especially hard are high school and college seniors who not only lost their final weeks in school but are also missing milestone moments such as graduation ceremonies and celebrations. And yet, this



disappointing end does not negate the value of their accomplishments.

At LCF, we have one high school senior to celebrate and we shall do so with gusto! Jacob Schrock is graduating from Jonathan Alder this spring. Although he misses his classmates and teachers at school, he is looking forward to attending the University of Pikeville in Kentucky with a bowling scholarship and is planning to study accounting and business. Until then, he is passing this time of isolation by watching Netflix and playing video games. Let's all pray for Jacob as he navigates these tricky times and sets off into his future.



In the spirit of celebratory disclosure, I also reached the milestone of graduation in December when I graduated from Regent University with my Bachelor's degree in English with a Writing concentration and Psychology minor. I have been looking into potential job opportunities as well as weighing

possible graduate studies options and enjoying the chance to catch my breath after several years filled with full-time work and school. I would appreciate your prayers as I do my best to discern what God has for me next.

The Thailand Missions Team has two graduates this year and an upcoming wedding! Congratulations to both Anna Rosati and Tom Mast as they finish their Master's degrees this spring! We asked them to update us with details and following are their replies to several questions.

What are your degrees in and how do they apply to your current work?

- Anna: My degree is in Literacy with reading and ESL emphasis. So, it's teaching kids how to read with a special emphasis on teaching students with learning struggles or who are ESL. It should help me better



serve my current students who have other struggles that are not ESL related. It also gives me more career options in the future like being a reading specialist.

- Tom: My degree is in Intercultural Studies and it's very applicable to our work in Thailand, especially classes dealing with intercultural communication, contextualization, and leadership. It helped me to think about my cultural biases and how we can communicate more clearly.

What is a standout takeaway from your studies?

- Anna: It's amazing how God made our brains to work and process language and written language and how we have these innate mechanisms that help us to learn new things and make sense of language. It's so cool!



Tom: It was a good reminder to pay attention to cultural differences. After being in Bangkok a long time, it's easy to become less curious about culture. Learning about anthropology, contextualization, and communication and leadership theories helps me think why people believe what they believe. It's a good reminder to keep making an effort to look below the surface and understand more deeply.

Congratulations, Anna and John, on your upcoming wedding! How has the pandemic affected your plans? What are you learning?

- Anna: It's pretty much changed all of our plans, and we don't really know what is happening! All we know is we are getting married this summer! We don't know who's going to be there or what country it's going to be in (Thailand or Korea). When you are a cross-cultural couple, you learn a lot about the purpose of marriage and that God has a plan for us. Even when we don't fit the norm or other's expectations, it's our unity and faith in him that fulfills his purpose for our relationship.



How can we pray for you?

- Anna: Please pray for protection for our families' health and that our marriage would be glorifying to Christ!
- Tom: Now that I'm finished, I'll continue my work for RI and hope that I can find a job teaching English in a Thai university. It will be good for me to have regular connections in a classroom setting with opportunities for mutual learning and as an avenue for forming relationships. As I start this job search, pray that God will lead me to the right university and that I can find a balance between maintaining my other mission work goals but also that ministry can happen in that new setting.

We are reminded through graduations, weddings, birthdays, and special days like Mother's Day that life moves forward—coronavirus or no coronavirus! God is good, and we have much to celebrate and be thankful for! ■

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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, 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.