

The LCF Connection

October 2020



Praying for Your Spouse

by Alice Jenkins

Recently, I prayed “40 Prayers for My Husband” and my husband, Nathan, prayed “40 Prayers for My Wife.” We purchased these two books by Selena Frederick to help us grow closer to God and learn how to pray for each other better. It has been a wonderful experience!

No matter what stage your marriage is in you can never go wrong seeking God and praying for each other. In these books you will find a scripture verse and a short prayer to pray for your spouse. The prayers cover many different areas; some of which you might have never thought to pray about before. These books will not only help you see your spouse more clearly through God’s eyes but will also strengthen your own relationship with the Lord. We found that they helped us as individuals, and as a couple to grow in God’s grace.

When we started reading these books and praying the prayers they contain, I could tell right away the days when Nathan would pray for me. God’s Spirit would just change

my entire attitude along with my day. I felt more happy and relaxed. It was not dependant on my circumstances so I knew it was God working in me.

We highly recommend these books to every married couple. They are available for you to check out from LCF’s library. May God bless you as you spend time praying for your spouse and your marriage. ■

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Our 1st Small Group

by Martie George

My husband, Randy, and I have joined our first-ever small group. We have really enjoyed this new experience. I invite you to join a group, if you want to join a fellowship of Christians who lift one another up with friendship, prayer, and teaching.

We were new to LCF, so a small group helped us get to know LCF and new people on a deeper level. We are not from a Mennonite background, so we have gotten to enjoy a different perspective, a diversity of believers, and different styles of worship, leadership, and prayer.



We have been able to freely participate in our group and contribute to the teaching and understanding of God’s Word while enjoying the fellowship, caring, and support of fellow Christians. Consider joining a group and may it bless you as it has blessed us. ■



Be sure to check out LCF’s Fall 2020 Small Group flier which lists the various small groups and contact info for the leaders. All of them welcome new people.



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

Equipping the Saints

A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

I'm not exactly sure where I am in my ministry journey, but I would guess that I am somewhere on the last half or third of my journey. 😊 I've been thinking a lot about what I should be doing and where my energy should be directed. I want to equip the saints. It's time for me to equip others for the work of ministry; to train and give opportunity for others to do what I do—both young and old alike, but especially young people. We want LCF to be a place where every believer has the opportunity to develop and fulfill their calling and use their gifting in the body of Christ.

As you have probably noticed in our recent Elders notes, our leadership team has been talking about how we can spread leadership responsibilities over a broader group of people. Currently, I have way too many people and teams reporting directly back to me. 😊

I am happy about a new team of "Service Coordinators" that we formed recently. It currently consists of Vicki Sairs, Youngmi Oh, and myself. We each will take a month being the coordinator for the Sunday morning service. Now that we livestream the service and use pre-recorded videos of people reading scripture, moderating, etc., there are a lot more details that need to be coordinated and communicated to a wide variety of people every week. So if you are scheduled to help out in any way on a Sunday morning, you can expect to receive an email from one of the 3 of us (early in the week) that will include a link to the google doc with service details (which will be updated as the week progresses).

Another way of equipping the saints that I am very excited about is a preaching class that Reuben and myself are leading right now. We have five young men who have expressed interest and are participating in the class. They include: Jeremy Hisey, Zach Freer, Shepherd Ndungu, Chris Conte, and Peyton Miller. (Pictured below was our first meeting on September 24.)

They will participate in four classes (once each month from September through December), and then each of them will be scheduled to preach twice in 2021.

This is a great opportunity for LCF to help these young men develop and discern what it is that God may be calling them to and

also for the church to benefit from young leaders that we have among us. This is a sizable class for the size of our congregation, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to help in preparing these young men for future ministry and see how God is going to use them.

I'm thankful that Reuben and I are able to lead this class together. Reuben brings great wisdom and teaching ability and both of us will be able to share our preaching experiences with these young men. It's a great partnership that I believe will bring much fruit at LCF and beyond.

What can you do? First, I ask that you would encourage and pray for those who take on new responsibilities here at LCF. It takes a lot of courage to step out of your comfort zone and grow in a new area of ministry. It's not easy to deal with challenging situations or stand in front of others and handle the Word of God.

Secondly, be thinking about how God might want you to move out of your own comfort zone—to learn and grow in Christ, and actively serve in his kingdom. A healthy church is where each person is engaged and connected with one another, using their gifts and abilities to serve God and one another. May we each be willing and ready to be stretched and respond in obedience to however God calls us to serve. ■

Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

We began our time together by sharing prayer requests and praying for each other and the church.

We spent most of our time discussing our services. As far as our children's ministry, Sunday School, etc., we want to do whatever we can to minister to children during this challenging time. For example, the worship team will be trying to add a children's song each Sunday. We are also looking to get some feedback from parents and those who work in childcare and then come up with some ideas of what we might be able to do that most parents and maybe teachers would feel relatively comfortable with. We received the prepackaged communion cups and wafers. We spent time working out some of the details for the communion service planned for October 18th.

We are excited about the small groups we have this fall. We will let each small group decide how they want to handle COVID safety as they meet. We will encourage the leaders to be considerate of the needs and comfort level of each person in the group...and to clearly communicate what their plan of action is with anyone who expresses interest in their group so that people will know what to expect.

As we have for quite a while now, we continue to work on a plan to delegate leadership responsibilities over a broader group of people, skilled in management. We discussed another revision of a possible restructure plan. This one has a lot of similarities to our current structure, which would allow many of our teams to continue to function as normal. We like that it allows the elders to continue in their current role of giving spiritual leadership to the church without expecting them to have managerial skills. We think this looks like a good possibility and are in favor of giving it a try and tweaking it, as needed, as we go along. It was noted that, obviously, with all of the current restrictions, not all of these teams are currently active and functioning; thus, we are working on this in anticipation of when things get back closer to normal. We closed our time with prayer. ■



Getting to Know...Sarah Landis

Interviewed by Doris Swartz

Some of you may have noticed there has been a new face on our worship team lately. Sarah is not completely new to LCF but we thought we would take this opportunity to introduce her to those of you who may not know her.

When did you first attend LCF and where have you been for the past several years?

I first started attending LCF in 2014 when I started attending Rosedale Bible College. I was at RBC for 3 years, and made LCF my home church during that time. In the fall of 2017 I moved to the state of Delaware to teach K-12 music at Greenwood Mennonite School. That's where I have been for the last 3 years! While I was out there, my home church became a small home church called The Well.

What did you enjoy most about teaching music?

I loved interacting with the kids—elementary to high school! Some of my favorite moments with them were while we were working on class projects, brainstorming for upcoming concerts, or being with them outside of class. I was a regular attendee of most GMS events and sports games, and could be heard screaming from the bleachers for my kids. 😊

What did you find most challenging?

Planning for the classes was definitely the most challenging. The music program at GMS had fallen apart over the years, and my main job was to build the curriculum back up. I didn't have any previous experience at this, so I very much learned as I went! While I really enjoyed this challenge most of the time, creating and teaching a K-12 curriculum was certainly overwhelming!



We are glad to have you helping out on keyboard.

Did you take piano lessons for very long? Do you play other instruments as well?

I took piano lessons for about 10 years growing up, and have continued to play beyond that, whenever I can. I can also play guitar, clarinet, and ukulele, but piano is definitely the instrument I'm most comfortable with!

What are some of your hobbies?

I enjoy painting, reading, and all things theatre!

Tell us about your family and where you were born and raised.

I was born and raised in West Liberty, Ohio, and am the middle child of three. I have an older sister and younger brother, and we are all really close. My dad is an itinerant pastor, and travels around to help out whatever church needs it. Being around Jesus has definitely shaped me in a big way.

Tell us about your dreams that include a camper. 😊

I have always wanted to travel around the U.S. in a camper or converted camper van. When I decided it was time to leave GMS, this seemed like the perfect time of my life to prepare for that trip. Right now I am working, saving money, and doing some research so that hopefully in early 2021 I can begin a more nomadic lifestyle and travel. I plan to work remotely, and I'm not sure if this is something I will do for a couple months or longer. But I'm trusting the details will all get sorted out!

What is one of your favorite books or scripture verses in the Bible and why?

Psalm 42 has been special to me since Rosedale. It's so raw and real—I appreciate reading something I can relate to when I'm in a difficult place. But, even as it is relatable and comforting, in its all-despairing imagery, it also offers hope and a reminder that God is the light in the darkness.

How can we be praying for you?

I would love prayer as I am figuring out what's next. This trip seems to be the next thing, but I've learned to keep my plans loose and my heart open, as things rarely happen the way I think they will.

Welcome back to LCF! It's great to have you around again! 😊 ■

Jesus Loves Me!

by Doris Swartz

“Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so...” When we sang that song recently at LCF, I thought back to when I would sing this simple song as a young child and then years later, how I would sing it to my children when they were little. It has laid a great foundation for me to know that I am loved by God. But I wonder...do I *really* know and understand how MUCH he loves me? If I truly did, I don't think I would be so tempted to worry and stress so easily. I am discovering that when I ponder how much God loves me, I find it easier to trust him—regardless of how I may feel or how my circumstances look. When I know without a doubt that he loves me, then I can be sure that he will take good care of me and will always have my best interest in mind.



So, how do I grow to know and understand how much God loves me? I think the song has it right when it says, “*the Bible tells me so.*” I learn more about God and his great love for me as I spend time with him and reading his Word. I like to try to read through the entire Bible at least every other year, in various ways, with different reading plans,

translations, etc. This year I am reading straight through from the beginning to the end in the New Living Translation. As I read and journal each morning, I look for ways that God reveals his love, and listen for what he wants to say to me specifically.

As I do that, I've found several books to be helpful. One is “66 Love Letters” from God to You by Dr. Larry Crabb. It's “a conversation with God that invites you into His story.” When I begin reading a particular book of the Bible, I read the corresponding chapter from Dr. Crabb's book about that “Love Letter.” He puts into words some of the questions that I, too, wrestle with and allows me to “listen-in” on his conversation with God. Even though our understanding here on earth is limited, I like when I can fit things together and understand better how the pieces of God's story connect—both in the scriptures and in my own life. I look forward to the day when that knowledge will be made complete in heaven!

Another book I appreciated is one that I checked out from LCF's library, called “66 Ways God Loves You.” Jennifer Rothschild, who has been blind since the age of 15, writes about how God expresses his love for us through each book of the Bible. For each of the 66 books, she writes about 4-6 paragraphs about the general message of the book, highlighting a few scripture verses. She adds a practical suggestion for how to make it personal, and wraps it all up in a simple summary phrase. It's an easy book to read and helps you think about how God communicates his love through the Bible. (Note: the flowery design probably appeals more to ladies, but content is applicable for everyone. 😊)

The Bible is just the beginning of how God shows me that he loves me! He shows me his incredible love in many different ways every single day—if only I take time to notice. I see it through the love of others, in the beauty of his creation, little reminders that he sends to let me know that he sees me and that he cares, and so much more!

I love the verse in Zephaniah 3:17, where God tells his people: “*The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.*” May each of us rest securely in God's incredible love and find joy in sharing it with others! ■

The Joy of Learning

by Kelli Dean

The times we are living in are difficult, uncertain and strange. Thankfully, we serve a God who goes before us, knows what lies ahead and faithfully walks with us through it all. As we all learn to navigate the various changes in our lives, we can find peace, joy and comfort by trusting in our Heavenly Father.

Below, I have listed some fun/free resources to help keep the kids in our lives engaged, learning, and having fun while we continue to get through these challenging times.

Fun Biblical activities
www.biblestoryprintables.com

Storybooks brought to life!
www.vooks.com

History lessons and videos at home
www.history.com

Animal/nature activities, videos and science experiments!
www.nationalgeographic.com

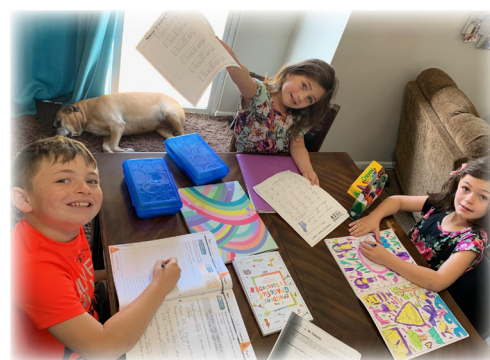
Theater-making classes for kids, at home!
www.lionkingexperience.com

Math activities and games
www.mathgames.com

Free stories!
www.stories.audible.com

Fun interactive activities
www.marcopololearning.com

Supplemental educational activities/
worksheets
www.teacherspayteachers.com



I hope you will find some helpful activities as you explore those resources and that you have fun making memories with your kids! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. ■

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