

The LCF Connection

November 2020

A New Adventure in Utah

by Justin Scheffel

Most of you know I've been dabbling in flying helicopters over the past several years. I moved to Florida in January of 2019 to work on getting my private license and ended up finishing up in Ohio several months later in September. After finishing, I decided I enjoyed it enough to make the jump (a very expensive jump, mind you) and try to make a career out of this interest. This meant me getting my commercial license which led to me searching for the best place to finish the rest of my training. Long story short, I ended up choosing Southern Utah University.



One of the biggest reasons I chose Southern Utah University is because of the size and quality of the program. SUU has one of the biggest rotor-wing programs in the country with around 500 total students, 200 of which are helicopter students. Typically, becoming a flight instructor will be your first job you get as a helicopter pilot, so it's recommended that students go to a program where there's a good chance you'll get hired on after you finish.

Due to the size of the program, SUU goes through a lot of instructors, so there's a decent chance there will be a job available once you finish. Another reason I chose SUU is for the networking. I've talked with several pilots within the helicopter industry, and they've both told me that networking with other people within the industry is very important. The helicopter industry is very small, so getting that next job often simply comes down to who you know. SUU is really good for that due to the amount of students who come in and out their doors. So getting to know as many people as you can within the program can really play to your advantage down the road.



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A Very Special Friend

by Molly Rosati

My friendship with Dorothy goes way back. She graciously hosted our ladies bible study (pictured at left on an outing) for many years. A woman of tenacity and deep faith, she's one of my favorite people.

Two years ago, at 98 years of age, Dorothy moved into Bluebird Retirement Community. Leaving one's home and independence, and transitioning to living among strangers had to

be hard. Dorothy was an example of being positive, especially with residents and staff. You may have seen the Bluebird van dropping Dorothy off for the worship service....before.....our world was put on pause.

As you know, Covid is especially deadly for the elderly. Bluebird was in lockdown for months, following the governor's requests. When the rules relaxed some later in the summer, I was able to see Dorothy a few times outdoors. Jack and I visited along with Dorothy's son, Jim. One visit I brought my horse, Whinny, and another time joined in a pumpkin painting activity Bluebird hosted. My favorite way to end our visits is to pray the Lord's Prayer together. Dorothy knows it by heart.



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

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Apocalypse Now— Will the Church Survive?

A Message from the Pastor
by Roger Hazen, LCF's Overseer

I just turned 59 years old in August. So while I'm not yet as old as dirt, I'm at least as old as some compost piles. Maybe it's just my age and pursuant memory loss, but I can't remember when I've heard such apocalyptic language thrown around by so many folks. Depending on the outcome of the election (and this from both sides of the political aisle), it may be the end of society as we know it. And while the church has survived many collapses of societies, this time round it could even mean the end of the church as we know it. Can it be? Will the church in America be crushed out of existence by the weight of the electoral college?

From what I know about church history, I'd have to answer, "No." Godless, atheistic, violent leaders down through the ages have made several attempts to eradicate the Christian faith. From ancient emperors to modern dictators, all have failed. When the dust settles after the downfall of these tyrants, the church is found to always have been there—underground, perhaps, but always alive and even thriving. In fact, I've heard more than a few seminar speakers remind us American Christians that even though we assumed the church was non-existent in this or that country, it was in fact doing quite well. And no small number of church leaders have been known to suggest that when the church gets too comfortable with the society around it is when it's truly in the greatest danger of being rendered useless to God. Beyond that is the saying attributed to the old church leader Tertullian—"The blood of Christians is seed," meaning the more Christians are persecuted the more the church grows and thrives.

The Scriptural witness is similar. There's no doubt in the minds of any of the apostles that when the end of time arrives, marked by the return of Jesus, the church will be here waiting as His bride. That same church will, until the very end, continue the witness of Jesus and the apostles. *"Our kingdom is not of this world."* *"We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."* *"We must obey God rather than men."*

We who are the church know that Jesus promised us life and joy beyond measure, but also persecutions. *"Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life."* (Mark 10:29,30)

But I also recall a somewhat enigmatic statement of Jesus as He taught about how God will bring about final justice for His elect, even as He delays His coming. It's in Luke 18:8b—*"However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"* We must continue to strive to be the faithful church, so that when Jesus does return we are ready for Him. That striving toward faithfulness should transcend any election, any persecution, and even any prosperity.

So will the church survive these apocalyptic times? Yes. Will the church thrive in these times? I suppose that's up to all of us. Let's continue, no matter who is elected and no matter what's going on around us, to confess with the faithful down through the ages, "Jesus is Lord!" ■

Council Update

by Jim Jones

The Council met on October 20th via phone. The technical team is working with the building and grounds team to enlarge the AV booth, and after years of service, the library computer is obsolete and is going to be replaced.

Due to social distance concerns, understandably some small groups have shifted their meetings from their homes to the church. It's the council's recommendation that after the groups pick up after themselves, they should sanitize tables used and frequently touched areas with the disinfectant spray that's available in the cleaning room. If, for some reason, the nursery is utilized, surfaces and toys used should also be disinfected after their use. The logic for these measures is that the church facility is being used more frequently and there is less time for germs to die between Sunday services and the additional small group meetings.

Throughout the remainder of the pandemic, the council unanimously agreed that we should restrict individuals and organizations outside our congregation from using our facility. Currently there is nothing scheduled by any outside organizations. ■

Library Link

by Linda Schlabach, LCF Librarian

We encourage you to check out the newly-arrived books, audiobooks, and DVDs in LCF's library! Thanks to gracious donations combined with a purchase from LCF Library funding, we have received 132 new items in the past couple of months. Items can be checked out for a one-month period.

"The audiobook about D.L. Moody is so good and encouraging," my mother cheerfully informed me. Because of particular health histories, my parents practice careful Covid precautions which means a limited lifestyle. Our LCF Library proves to be a blessing as I drop off reading and listening material for them. Will you join me in spreading blessings from our shared collection of library material? I invite you to do the same for neighbors, friends, or family—or even for yourself!

As LCF Library consists of four leveled collections (Children, Junior, Youth, and Adult), together we can spread a bit of cheer and encouragement to all ages by use of library loans. Anyone can browse our LCF Library online catalogue (found through the LCF website) without logging in, but log into your library account to track loans and reserve items. If you have questions, experience challenges in borrowing library items, or if you wish to make arrangements for in-person browsing, please contact myself, Theresa Hennis, or Sammy Waweru. (Our contact information in the LCF church directory.)

Pictured below are some of the new items you will find in the library. Happy reading! ■



Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

We began our meeting on October 13th with a time of prayer for each other and for the needs of our congregation. In this uncertain season, and the many needs we are aware of, we are feeling the need for increased, focused prayer. The elders are committed to spending time regularly to pray for LCF and the needs among us. We will try to use online communication more often to update each other on requests and specific needs as we become aware of them, so we can support the church well in our prayers.



We are excited about the new people God continues to bring to our church family at LCF.

This fall we have had quite a few people express interest in participating in LCF 101. This year, due to Covid restrictions and concerns, Rob and Doris have been having multiple meetings with smaller groups and family units. Pictured here are their 1st two meetings.

They plan to have another one or two in the next couple of weeks. (Interesting to note: the 2nd LCF 101 meeting was hosted at the home of a couple Rob and Doris had not met until then, who had seen our sign and have been joining our livestream service every week since mid-July. They enjoyed the opportunity to finally get to know each other in person.)



In addition to LCF 101, we talked about our small groups that are starting. We have several, and hope that they will continue to be able to manage schedules, health concerns, and other challenges in order to meet for fellowship and discipleship. We talked about the ongoing challenge of connecting our 2 churches: those who meet at the building and those who meet online. We talked about ways to encourage this, via the Zoom foyer and the livestream, among others. We also spent some time talking about details for the communion service on October 18th, and how to handle the logistics of that while maintaining social distancing.

We are excited about the possibility of re-launching our Children's Ministries with a very simple structure for preschool through 5th grade in the fellowship hall during the sermon time, and possibly a Sunday-school class for junior high. We spent a good bit of time thinking through safety recommendations consistent with our current policy.

We have been continuing to discuss ways to improve the leadership structure at LCF and are looking to start a trial phase. Talks continue about the process and details for how we could select managers to oversee the various areas. We see this transition taking place in 2 stages:

- Stage 1 will be the trial process. We want to be very clear with everyone that this will be a time of figuring out what and/or who will work and what doesn't. It will require the ability of all to flex and make changes as necessary.
- Once we figure out a good structure that seems to work well, we will proceed to Stage 2 where we will refine the details of the process such as figuring out the length of terms, how new leaders are selected, etc.

We will begin now with Stage 1 and will see if we can get a few managers in place by the time we present the structure to the congregation at our Celebrate the Church Sunday in January. Our vision is to see how we can get every person engaged in ministry in the body of Christ.

We closed with prayer, remembering the things we discussed. Our next scheduled meeting will be November 13th. ■

When I Have Trouble Loving...

by Phyllis Swartz

I usually can't control my feelings. Not if I go right at them, at least. I've found that, instead, I need to come in by the back door. My best chance, I've discovered, is to start with action.

Let's say I'm having trouble loving someone. If I try to conjure up feelings of fondness, I'll fail. I'm just not strong enough. But I have a chance if I start with action. I do something kind for this person I'm trying to love—listen well or give a compliment or say a prayer.

This action changes my thinking. I begin to see that person in new light. When I lead tours at the Columbus Museum of Art, I talk with visitors about what they see in a painting. For a while we focus on what's inside the frame.

Then I ask, "What might be happening outside the frame? What can't you see? What might be the larger context?" When I do something kind for someone, I often discover what is beyond the frame I have been using to see this person. My perspective on this person aligns more closely with what God sees.

And, just as my actions change my thinking, I find that my expanded thinking almost always changes my feelings. To my surprise, I actually begin to feel sympathy and compassion and even love.

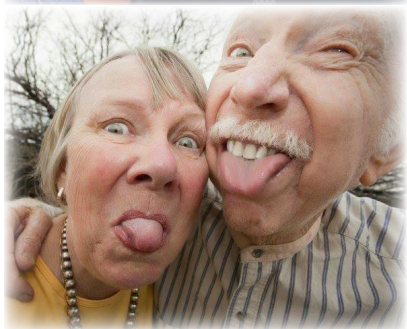


Paul told the Philippians to work out their own salvation. Paul doesn't mean the Philippians can earn their way into heaven. They have already trusted Jesus for that. He's not telling them to work for their salvation. He's telling them to live out—to demonstrate—the salvation they already have. Notice that he calls them, not to feeling but to work. Start with action, he's telling them.

And that's my best chance—to let action change my thinking and then to let thinking change my feelings. ■

In Appreciation of Our Overseer

by Doris Swartz



Do you see the resemblance between these two pictures? The first one is one I took of our overseer, Roger, and his wife, Sharon, at our elder's retreat in November 2016. Since that picture is 4 years old, I asked Roger if he could send me an updated picture to go with his article in this month's Connection. The 2nd picture is the one that he sent to me. His comment with it was: "We have changed a lot in the last little while." If you don't know Roger, that gives you a little idea of his personality and sense of humor. ☺

Roger and Sharon are a wonderful couple and are a special blessing to our church, our elders team, and to Rob and I as a couple. Roger has been serving as LCF's Overseer since April 2007. We have enjoyed learning to know them and working with them over these past 13 years. They pastor a church in Vassar, Michigan and have 3 grown children and 2 adorable grandchildren. Sharon (who is Keith Scheffel's sister) works as a nurse.

Often we ask Roger to preach at LCF in the fall when they come down to join us for our elders retreat. Since that didn't happen this year, we are thankful to be able to hear from him via this month's "Message from the Pastor." Thanks, Roger and Sharon for the blessing, example, and encouragement you are to all of us!! We love and appreciate both of you dearly and can't wait to see you again! (Hopefully, we will recognize you then! ☺) ■

Utah Adventure...continued

People often ask me, "Why helicopters instead of airplanes?" Helicopters and airplanes do very different types of flying, and I just really enjoy the type of flying that comes with helicopters. Typically airplane pilots are flying from point A to B spending several days away from home at a time. Helicopter pilots have such a wide variety of jobs to choose from and most are what I would consider a much more fun type of flying. Jobs can range from crop dusting, utility work (working on powerlines), tours, oil rigs (flying people to and from), EMS, search and rescue, and aerial lifting, just to name a few. There are so many unique jobs out there. My goal at this point is to end up back in Ohio doing EMS. Typically, EMS flying requires a lot of experience, so I'll have to build experience for several years doing other types of flying before I would be qualified for a job like that.

The move to Utah has gone relatively well. Moving to an area where I don't know anybody and that's so far away from home has definitely come with its challenges. It's been good for me, though, and I'm slowly making friends and building relationships as time goes on. The program itself has also been very challenging. They typically tell students to expect a minimum of three hours of studying for every hour you fly. I'm planning to fly close to 150 hours over the next year, so as you can imagine the majority of my free time is spent studying. This is in addition to the classes I'm taking on campus that also require a decent amount of my time. Hopefully, if things go as planned I'll be finished with the program around August of next year. Then it's on to wherever I can find a job to start building flight time.

Looking into the future is both exciting and terrifying at the same time. There's a lot that could go wrong but there's also a lot that could go right! There are so many "unknowns." One thing that this adventure has forced me to do is to trust God with my future. I like to make my own plans, and I like to tell God what my life should look like, but God has plans of his own. I can find peace in that. ■

A Special Friend...continued

Dorothy isn't as talkative as she used to be. Finding words and answering questions is difficult, but she remains positive. If you would like to support Dorothy, here are some ideas for you to consider:

- Pray for her to feel God's comfort and love
- Pray for the hard-working caregivers
- Send her a card or flowers
- Join Dorothy's Posse—the private FaceBook group created to support Dorothy
- Consider visiting Dorothy. If you are interested in doing so, contact Molly for Bluebird's policies and rules ■



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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, 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.