

The LCF Connection

June 2022

The Ups and Downs of Adventure

by Dave Wolford

Boy, do I have a story for you!!! A few of you may know that I am always looking for something new and exciting to do. Well, I found out that this search for and doing adventurous stuff has its ups and downs. (You will understand the “downs” after reading further.)

My adventure started after watching video after video on YouTube of people flying these machines called Powered Paragliders. Typically, paragliders are the crazy ones who run (to inflate their wings) a type of parachute that is designed to glide off cliffs and then glide down to the ground or find thermals in the air that help them gain altitude so they can fly longer. Powered Paragliders (or PPGs which is short for Powered Paragliders because I’m tired of typing it all out) have a motor that moves them forward to rise above the flat ground. The more forward speed you have, the higher up you go. Two types of PPGs are foot-launch and wheeled-launch. I was trained for foot-launch first, then decided that I should probably get trained to do wheeled-launch to save my knees and back from injury (because apparently, I’m no spring chicken anymore).



I bored you with the above to tell you this: I finally received all my equipment and put it all together. Checking, double-checking, double-guessing myself if things were where they all needed to be. It (my equipment) and I were finally ready to take to the sky. On St. Patrick’s Day, about 6:30 p.m., winds were calming down and the sun was coming in and out of the clouds—which usually makes for a beautiful sunset. I was very excited to be able to see the sunset from the air. I got all set up and strapped in with all the safety gear on, and I was “ready” to fly. I started rolling and the wing came up on one side of me, so I tried to correct it. It went too far to the other side, so I corrected it again and was where I thought would be good to go for a full throttle to take off.

When the wheels left the ground I was immediately swung (is that a word?) to one side. I over-corrected the wing, and I swung to the other side. This went on for about 11 seconds until I noticed I was not climbing anymore and was flying directly toward the ground. Forty-five(ish) feet in the air and headed straight toward the ground is not a peaceful feeling. I hit the ground facing almost straight down and

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It Takes a Church to Raise a Child

by Theresa Hennis

Usually, parents dedicate their infants or toddlers at LCF’s child dedications. This year, on Mother’s Day Sunday, I dedicated my 2 grandsons, Logan, age 4, and Luke, age 8, to the Lord. It brought to mind the saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” I think it takes a church.

As Christians, we know that it is important to come alongside families to support and encourage them as they raise their children in the Lord.

But, what does that look like, in a tangible way? I’ve been so blessed to see our LCF family interact with my grandsons. LCF’s recent intern, Quinton Miller, has poured countless hours into taking the boys on outings and investing in their lives by being a much-needed positive male role model.

Recently, I witnessed another young man, whom Luke looks up to, take my grandson aside and gently correct him for saying something inappropriate. When I asked what had been said, the young man smiled and said, “It’s ok. We settled it.” His genuine concern for and consideration of Luke’s feelings, were very much appreciated. Sunday School



teachers guide my grandsons in the basics of who Jesus is, the worship team inspires them with music, and all of you play a part in their development, and I am grateful for you. ■



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

What's the Experience of God Like for You?



A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

Thoughts from Colossians... Colossians has to be my favorite New Testament letter. Christian fellowship changes us. That's what it is meant to do. This fellowship is more than the sum of our human parts. The Holy Spirit brings God's own energy and will into the picture. God works in us individually, but also collectively.

In fellowship we learn to love one another, and then everybody else, too. As we grow in love we come closer to godliness and understanding what it means that God is love. In fellowship we confirm our beliefs. We get confirmation by learning as the Bible is opened up and looked at with many eyes. We also get confirmation by hearing how other people believe that Jesus is Lord, and learn that we're not alone with a peculiar belief. Another way Christian fellowship changes us, and confirms faith in us, is hearing how each of us experiences the presence of God in our lives. This last item is particularly important to me.

I really want to hear from everyone at LCF what it is like to be born again. I can answer that question Biblically, theologically and objectively, but describing the personal experience is another matter.

- What is it like to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit?
- What is it like to have the Holy Spirit interceding to God from within us?
- How does God give us peace and fulfillment through the hardships of life?

These experiences of God's presence are deeply personal, and very hard to describe. They are, though, the reality of what it means to be a believer. Struggle as we might with expressing our deepest personal experiences of God, it is certainly worth our fumbling efforts.

If you are like me, and experience these things as I do, then they are often cloudy. Sometimes God feels close, but sometimes God seems far away. I assume that cloudiness is the nature of a life of faith. I am aware of God's presence, and I believe in it, but at the same time I know he wants me to live my life, make my choices, live in the world without being a remote controlled robot. Frankly I'm a little skeptical of Christians who claim to hear from God every moment about everything, "the Lord told me this or that..." I'm going to guess that in spite of their expression of it, they find their way like the rest of us, and discern God's will more often looking backward than looking forward.

Once again, both individually and collectively, prayer and Bible reading are an important part of drawing near to God, and they help us to keep a bigger picture of God's presence in our own life, but also of God's love for the whole world. In a sense, the Bible is doing the same thing fellowship does—helping us see the experience of God in different lives and situations.

It takes a bit of energy and vulnerability to bring these things up. On a Sunday morning, in the casual conversations of the lobby and over coffee, it's much easier to talk about the weather or happenings in the news, but it would be worth it to get past all that. Small talk is an important part of communication, but if we can't ever seem to move on, we're cheating ourselves of a great opportunity.

What's the experience of God like for you? I don't think I can answer the question well on my part, but I'm going to be working on it, and paying very close attention to those passages in the Bible that describe God's presence in my life. Colossians is a great place to start. ■

Elders Notes

by Jesse Diller

We met on Wednesday evening, May 4th, and began our time together with prayer.

We spent most of our meeting talking about the need for providing pastoral care to all of our church family. Pastoral care being defined as touching base regularly with each person at LCF to see how they are doing, asking how we can pray for them, helping new people to feel welcomed and get connected, checking in on people who we have not seen in a while, etc. With so many different people and needs, sometimes it can be easy for people to "fall through the cracks." Rob recognizes that he can miss people and would like to have a team of people to help with this. It would be nice if help with pastoral care could come from the pastors and elders team but we recognize that is not everyone's gifting. However, it was noted that in many ways the elders team does need to have strong involvement since they are helping to shepherd the congregation and give Biblical council and support—especially with delicate situations.

We talked through some of the requirements for forming a team, the possible complications and advantages it would bring, ways it might be organized, and how it would interact with our members; after much discussion, though, we did not come to any clear decision or conclusion. We will continue to think and pray about it and will revisit the discussion at our next meeting.

We finished our time together by talking about and praying for a number of updates and situations, including several people moving on from our local body, upcoming events, and situations needing prayer.

As always, we closed our time by praying about the various situations and issues that we discussed. Our next meeting is planned for June 13th. ■

Council Update

by Jim Jones

The Council met via phone on May 17.

Jesse replaced the drum on our copier. It resolved the issue of the copies streaking.

A member brought to council's attention that a fire hydrant was recently installed close to the church. Our insurance agent was notified. There is a process that will be reviewed by our carrier to see if there is any change in our premium.

Good news from Eastern Mennonite Missions (our mortgage company). Our mortgage interest rate has been lowered from 4.0% to 3.75%. We are going to maintain our current payment of \$2938.00 to pay off the principal early. Our balance is currently \$81,062.96, which will be paid off in two years.

Our next meeting will be on June 21st. ■

Congratulations Class of 2022!

We want to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the high-school and college graduates that are among us. We asked each of them to share a brief update with us. As you read about their graduation and future plans, we encourage you to take a few minutes to pray for them (and their parents) in this time of transition and big decisions.

High School

Reid Gates

After graduating from London High School and Tolles Career and Technical Center I will further my education at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. I plan to attend MVNU to study Exercise Science, Minor in Youth and Family Ministries and be on the esports team. Other plans I have are to intern for Aim Right Ministries in Phoenix, Arizona, this summer. Once coming home from that I will head to Kentucky to be a camp counselor at Bethel Camp for the month of July.

My biggest highlight from the last year is getting baptized last summer. It was a huge choice I got to make to really commit myself to Jesus. This decision took lots of thought but ultimately ended up being the best choice I could make.



College



Jada Baker

I am graduating from Rosedale Bible College with an associate's degree in Biblical Studies. In June I'll be getting married, and in the fall I hope to continue towards my bachelor's in Elementary Education at Ohio State College.

God has been so faithful to me this past year, and I'm so grateful that I was able to study more about Him while at college. I hope to take all I have learned and continue to apply it to my life after I graduate.



Chris Conte

I am graduating from Ohio State with a bachelor's degree in social work.

I plan to start the master's degree in social work at Ohio State near the beginning of June.

Long term, I am interested in being a therapist, as well as doing church work in some capacity.



Jeff Yoder

Hello, I'm graduating from Columbus State Community College with my associate's degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Right now I'm continuing to work at the cabinet shop where I've been working while I look for an engineering job—and enjoy being a new dad!

(We apologize that we missed recognizing Jeff Yoder during the graduate recognition at LCF on May 22.)



Audrey Miller

I graduated from Marion Technical College with a degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. I plan to pursue a career in OBGYN and pediatrics sonography, specifically with mothers and newborns. I became interested in this field during high school when my mother and I attended fundraisers for a nonprofit organization called Pregnancy Decision

Continued below...

Audrey Miller...continued

Health Center. I'm so thankful for the way God has guided me through my schooling and provided for me along the way.

There are two verses that have been an encouragement to me, especially during the tough moments through my schooling:

- "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" Colossians 3:17
- "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and future." Jeremiah 29:11

I have always had a passion to work in the medical field and hope to be able to be a light and reflector of God's love to the people I reach through my career. ■

Reading Though the Bible in a Year (Is it worth it?)

by Audrey Maust

To be honest, it has not been easy to take a half an hour each day to read the Bible. There have been so many distractions that demand my attention, and those distractions are not all bad. Too many times I come home from work and would rather watch Master Chef Junior than read through the census in Numbers. I know what my soul needs, but it is a battle to take care of it.

This reminds me that I also need to take care of my body, but why is it so hard to get off the couch and take that walk on a beautiful trail? There are times I ignore the couch and take that walk, and I never regret it. If I would have decided to ignore the

trail, I would have missed the monarch butterfly migration, the pileated woodpecker searching for insects, and the redbud trees which reminds me of Ann of Green Gable's enchanting forest. Was it worth it sacrificing relaxing time to experience the beauty outside my backdoor?

Is it worth it to take care of our soul by sacrificing a few minutes of our day? For me the benefits are enormous and life changing. The journey through the Bible allows me to sneak a peek into the past. I get to see heroes of the Bible make mistakes and then see their journey back to God. I get to see God's unconditional love receiving them back every time. I also get to see how God wins over evil—every single time—which makes me want to be on his side no matter what I have to go through.

Reading through the Bible shapes my thoughts, and it helps me learn to recognize lies. Most importantly, it brings me closer to Jesus. I find that the closer I get to Jesus, all other desires become less important. ■

Ups and Downs...continued

the machine (with me still strapped into it) rolled three times before coming to a stop. (This is where the "down" comment from above comes into the story.) In a matter of just 13 seconds I did manage to fly, but I also managed to destroy my brand new equipment and part of myself, and some of my pride. Being a paramedic myself, I knew what needed to be done and why it needed to be done; but I had never been the one that the procedures were being done on. Believe me, being on the other side of the ambulance ride was very different.

End result? Well, I am not quite to the end of my journey. BUT...I did, however, manage to dislocate my left foot, dislocate my right ankle, and break both bones in my lower leg. That's not all, folks! I also have a compression fracture to my T-12 vertebrae. So, since March 17th I have been non-weight bearing on both feet and have had a back brace on (I look like a turtle). I have to get around in a wheelchair and have others help with everyday things. I'm an independent person who likes to do things for myself, so this has been very challenging for me. Patience is something I really don't have much of, but boy, this slapped me in the face (HARD). One thing I cannot wait for is to be able to ditch this wheelchair and walk again! This has been tough. Being told "MAYBE at your next doctor's appointment we will let you start to put weight on the right foot"...and then to have the doctor's office call and push that appointment back a week, or going to a doctor's appointment hoping that you can throw the turtle shell back brace away—it's hard!

Here are some questions people are often curious about.

- **Were you alone when the accident happened?** No, I had a friend there with me to see my first flight.
- **Were you in a lot of pain?** Not that much, believe it or not.
- **Did you know that you messed up your feet?** Yes, I was on my back with my feet in the air. I was staring right at them.

- **What now?** I wait. I do know I am never going to fly a PPG (remember what this means from above) again. I still love flight and have radio controlled airplanes that I am going to start flying again. It seems safer to me now to pilot from the ground.
- **Is there anything that you need or what can we do to support and/or encourage you (meaning me) while you heal and recover from this mess?** YES! As cliché as it sounds, the biggest thing you can do is remember to pray for me as I trudge through this healing phase. It does make a big difference. If you want to chat, feel free to call or text me (just identify yourself so I know who it is). The days can get long.

Thank you ALL for your thoughts and prayers for me. They are very much appreciated. Just knowing that friends are praying means more to me than anything. I was informed by a physician's assistant that this is not a sprint to the finish line. It is a marathon, and I am still pretty close to the starting line. (I don't even like running.) "Be patient. Healing takes time." That's a tough thing to hear when all you want to do is get back to "normal." Whether you are hurting physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually—healing does take time! May God give us grace to be patient. ■

A Praise Update:

Since this article was written, Dave has continued to make progress in his recovery. What a joy to see him up and walking again!! Pictured here with his children, Amber and Ashton, on his first Sunday back to church at LCF on May 22!



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, Kelli Dean, and Doris Swartz. If you prefer that we not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us.