

# The LCF Connection

May 2026

## Where Is the Village?

By Jodi Traverse



We've all heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." As a mother to two young children, I feel that in my core! But most of the time when I hear people talking about the village, it's to wonder where the village is. Many young parents lament how their parents won't lift a finger to help them raise their kids even though they remember spending many days or weekends with their grandparents growing up. Or they talk about how they played outside until the streetlights came on, but it's not safe to let our kids out of our sight these days with all the dangers lurking around every corner. We parents, especially the ones who are the primary caregivers at home with our kids every day, would love to be able to share some of our responsibilities with others around us. But it just doesn't seem to be possible when you see how terrible we have it these days.

Or is that really the case? Is the presence of a village to help support families in raising their children no longer a thing? Or is that something that we parents can work towards building? I know my parents aren't perfect. I'm sure most of us could probably even find people who would tell us we should cut our parents out of our lives and not give them any access to our kids (not that they've done anything that seriously wrong, just that people are very eager to advise others they know very little about to take such drastic

measures). But if we are so quick to cut out anyone who doesn't measure up to our perfect standard, we'll quickly find ourselves standing alone wondering where the village we are somehow entitled to is.

Now, this does not mean that we should not be at least a little selective in who we keep close to us in our village. There are real dangers around us. We need to do our part to try to protect our kids. And we simply don't have the ability to maintain a lot of friendships that involve far more "give" than "take." But I think the current trend of cutting off absolutely anyone who is hard to get along with or isn't able to reciprocate well, for whatever reason, is way too harsh and not at all conducive to growing a village.

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## The Good Old Days

*A Message from the Pastor*

By Reuben Sairs

Do you hear people longing for the good old days, the way it used to be? I've been seeing that on social media. I'm amused when I see younger people talking about how things were and how good we all had it. Many weren't there, and I could tell them things about how wonderful it all was. Not a cloud in the sky! Right? We can have an exaggerated sense of change, especially bad changes, and then we compare our world to a past that didn't really exist.

Of course, on the other hand, some things don't change, according to casual conversation. We have various expressions that affirm that very little actually changes— "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Did you know that one started in France in the 19th century? One saying attributed to Ben Franklin cuts both ways—almost everything changes, but there are a couple of things you can count on. "In this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes."

Hopefully Christians can add a few actual truths to those rosy fibs about the past and the alleged certainties of things that don't change. Matthew 28:20 for example: Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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

One of my biggest complaints about my generation is that we seem to expect everything to just be handed to us on a silver platter. We can be very entitled and think we deserve things just for existing. I obviously don't know how it was to grow up in the Great Depression or experience childhood as a baby boomer or even to be a young adult in the 80s, but it seems like people back then were taught to work for what they got. They knew that it was possible to reach their dreams if they *worked* to reach them. They didn't expect to just float along through life and have their dreams fall into their laps. I could be wrong, but it very much seems that many people my age and younger think they deserve to have all the necessities of life, plus many extras, just be provided to them. And that includes a village full of supportive people who will help them raise their children whenever they could use an extra hand.

It takes work to pack up the kids to go to church, hang out with friends, or spend a day at a babysitter's house. It takes work to go to small group every week. It takes work to babysit other people's children. But it is so worth it! I love seeing how Theo gets excited to go to his friends' houses and is learning to make friends. I love knowing that I have more people I trust and can ask to babysit than just my mom. And I love being able to talk with others about their experiences and be reminded that I truly am not alone. And yes, I love both my mom friends who can relate to my life and current struggles as well as my friends without kids who remind me of a life not directed by the needs of young children.

So where is the village? I think the village is out there, and it's probably even within reach. You just need to reach out and grab it. We can't expect a village to just magically grow for us while not putting in some effort ourselves to be part of the village for others around us.

## Glimpses of Our LCF "Village"



Annika, Harmony, and Janae counting down the days to the arrival of LCF's three newest babies. They gave birth within several weeks of each other from March 21st to April 29th.



Becky reading the Easter story to all the children before they separated for their individual Sunday School classes.



A fun ladies outing to Groovy Plants Ranch on Friday, April 24th.



# Needing God

By Pam Stanforth

There's a quiet lie many of us were handed, that being "put together" is the evidence of strong faith. But Scripture never says that. It says dependence is strength, weakness is where grace shows up, and trust matters more than control.

Even Paul the Apostle didn't boast in having it all together—he boasted in his need. So when things fall apart, it's not failure. It's often the very place where God becomes most visible.

If we had it all together, where would be our need for God? For in the midst of our "all together," we often find our deepest lack.

*"Apart from Me you can do nothing." – John 15:5*

Wisdom is His to give, and understanding is ours to ask—so even our "togetherness" is only whole because of Him.

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God..." – James 1:5*

For whether we live or whether we die, we are His. He knew our days before they were numbered. He saw every step before our feet were formed.

*"Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." – Romans 14:8*

*"All the days ordained for me were written in Your book..." – Psalm 139:16*

I tried life on my own. There were moments that looked like joy—laughter that sounded right on the outside, but something was missing on the inside.

*"Even in laughter the heart may ache..." – Proverbs 14:13*

Then someone asked me, "What makes you happy?" And I reached for answers—my work, my home, my children, my vacations, my husband, the things I had gathered along the way. But as I held each one up to the light, a quiet sadness came over me. If I were to leave this world tomorrow, would it have been enough?

*"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world..." – Mark 8:36*

I had checked every box I knew to check, walked every road I thought would satisfy, yet something in me still whispered, "There is more." Not more to achieve—but more to know.

*"That I may know Him..." – Philippians 3:10*

Because happiness can be gathered, but joy... joy is given.

*"The joy of the Lord is your strength." – Nehemiah 8:10*

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# Parking Lot Lights

By Doris Swartz



We have needed lights in the parking lot ever since we moved into our new building 13 year ago. Thanks to your generous giving, the LCF Council was finally able to initiate the process of getting them installed. We are very thankful to Justin Scheffel for helping us to figure out exactly what lights we needed and where to purchase them, and to Jeremy Troyer for giving leadership to the installation process which was completed with the help of several other guys on April 18th.

Thanks to each one who helped this these wonderful lights become a reality! May they be a reminder to us of Jesus, the Light of the World, and how He has called each one of us to shine brightly for Him wherever we are!



*The Good Old Days... continued from Page 1*

A darker truth can also be counted on. Romans 3:10-12 speaks of another universal and timeless truth,

*There is none righteous, no, not one;  
There is none who understands;  
There is none who seeks after God.  
They have all turned aside;  
They have together become unprofitable;  
There is none who does good, no, not one.*

The Bible indicates that human sinfulness is in something like a steady state in world history. I suppose one era could be thought of as less sinful than others, but I'm not sure we're competent to make that evaluation—it belongs to God. Probably even in what are to us our golden eras, human sinfulness had lots of examples—sexual immorality, cruelty, greed, ignoring God. The Bible only affirms that we are all sinful, and that the Christian is probably always going to be out of step with a sinful world.

*If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. – John 15:19*

The takeaway is “don't fall for it” when someone wants to go back to a past that never really existed. We have our own world and time to live in, and the timeless truths in the scriptures will always be ours. A verse in Ecclesiastes often comes to mind, and might help us keep our balance.

*Do not say, “Why were the former days better than these?” For you do not inquire wisely concerning this. – Ecclesiastes 7:10*

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*Needing God... continued from Page 3*

And it isn't found in what we hold, but in Who holds us.

*“Underneath are the everlasting arms.”  
– Deuteronomy 33:27*

So I began to see—my need was never a weakness, it was an invitation.

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” – 2 Corinthians 12:9*

Because a life full of things can still be empty of peace, but a life anchored in Him—even in loss, even in waiting—is never lacking.

*“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”  
– Psalm 23:1*

So whether I live or whether I die, let it be unto Him because in the end, it was never about having it all together—it was about knowing the One who holds it all.

## Council Update

By Russ Hauge

Attendance: Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, Zach Freer, and Russ Hauge by Google Meet video conference.

March income was \$19,519 which was more than our expenses of \$12,807 by \$6,712. Our YTD income is \$54,337 compared to our YTD expenses of \$39,080, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$15,257.

All individuals that previously had debit cards for church use, have now been issued credit cards. Besides the added security that a credit card has over a debit card, the church is also receiving a percentage back on all purchases made with the cards.

Thank you to all that participated in the acquisition and installation of the parking lot lights. The lights have been something that were needed for a long time and will provide a level of security for those attending functions at the church during the evening.

Sarah received a short list of changes that Mennonite Mutual has made to our insurance policy. The council discussed those changes and determined that they would not negatively impact London Christian Fellowship.

The majority of the meeting focused on the review of the playground proposal that Zach put together based on feedback from our membership meeting after church, input from the decorating team, and fantastic coordination by Shannon Scheffel. The council approved the purchase of a new tower, slide, and swings made out of poly-wood for low maintenance. We will also be purchasing two benches to be placed inside the fence and a round picnic table for outside the fence. Timing for delivery may be as soon as the first part of June. We will ultimately need help from those that can to assist in removing the old playground equipment and clearing the current mulch for the new playground placement. If you are willing to help, please contact Zach or Russ, and we will keep you posted on when the help would be needed.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12th, at 7 pm by video conference.



### The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship.

We would love to hear your feedback. Email us at [secretary@lcfweb.org](mailto:secretary@lcfweb.org).

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