

The LCF Connection

July 2026



Advance Discipleship

By Micah Baker

Hello my church family! As you all know, I spent my gap year in a nine-month program called Advance, three months of training in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and then six months overseas in Central Asia! For me, leading up to Advance was short notice. I had no clue I was going to do Advance until four weeks before training started. However, after being a part of the Advance program, I had numerous confirmations that it was where I was supposed to be. There were so many scenarios that were complete God moments. God moments that would have only worked out if I did Advance. Thank you all so much for supporting me whether financially or through prayer. It means the world to me knowing that you all were here supporting me.

I shared briefly in church about my time overseas, but truthfully, there is so much more I could talk about. My day-to-day life was crazy and fluctuated based on what day of the week it was. I was busy most of the time with either language lessons, Coffee Zone (which I shared about onstage), helping at a local youth group, being a teacher's assistant at an international school, or meeting one-on-one with different students I bonded with. The only free time I had was on Mondays or in the morning. Mondays were our mandatory Sabbath days, and on those days, we had

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

H.E.L.P. House: The Church Beyond Its Walls

By Pam Stanforth

In every community there are people quietly carrying burdens few ever see—empty cupboards, disconnected utilities, children without coats, families sleeping in cars, elderly neighbors choosing between medicine and food. In Madison County, one ministry has been standing in that gap for years with open hands and the love of Christ: H.E.L.P. (His Eternal Loving Purpose) House Community Outreach.

What began in 1999 as a small outreach to youth and struggling families has grown into a vital ministry serving countless individuals across our community. Under the leadership of Delores (Dee) Heilman and many faithful volunteers, H.E.L.P. House has become more than a food pantry. It is a place where people are seen, heard, prayed for, and treated with dignity.

Families receive food, clothing, household items, emergency assistance, school supplies, winter coats, holiday support, and guidance toward additional community resources. But perhaps most importantly, they

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receive compassion. H.E.L.P. House does not simply hand out necessities—it walks alongside people in difficult seasons.

Years ago, Dee felt God stirring her heart to reach across denominational lines and invite churches throughout the community to pray together for the people of Madison County. From that burden came an ecumenical prayer effort where pastors and believers from different churches gathered with one purpose: to love people the way Jesus did—not divided by labels or traditions, but united as the body of Christ.

Today, that same spirit continues. Pastor Rob joins other community pastors and leaders in supporting this outreach because H.E.L.P. House reflects the very mission Jesus modeled—caring for people in body, soul, and spirit. Scripture reminds us in James 2:16 that faith must move beyond words: *“If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?”*

Today, after years of faithful service and many challenges along the way, H.E.L.P. House has relocated to the Buckeye Community School campus in the former Kmart building. What first appeared to be a difficult transition has become another testimony of God's provision and direction. The move has required enormous effort, faith, volunteers, financial sacrifice, and countless hours of labor, but Dee believes God is opening doors for even greater ministry opportunities to children and families in need.

As churches throughout Madison County continue working together, this ministry remains a living example of the Church beyond denominational walls—meeting practical needs while sharing the hope, love, and peace of Christ.

How can we help?

- Pray for wisdom, provision, and unity.
- Volunteer time and practical skills.
- Donate food, supplies, or financial support.
- Share information about community needs.
- Continue supporting the ongoing work and transition of H.E.L.P. House.

Every act of kindness becomes part of a much larger testimony of the church being the church beyond its walls.

To learn more about H.E.L.P. House or to support the ministry, visit helphouseoflondonohio.org.

As Jesus said in Matthew 25:40: *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.”*

Council Update

By Russ Hauge

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

May income was \$34,190, which was more than our expenses of \$14,342 by +\$19,848 (which was due to a large donation during the month). Our YTD income is \$107,511 compared to our YTD expenses of \$78,488, giving us a YTD balance of +\$29,023.

The new playground equipment consisting of a tower, slide, and swings made out of poly-wood for low maintenance was delivered and installed on June 6th. Zach Freer and Russ Hauge had previously dismantled and removed the old equipment. A large thank-you goes to Zach for coordinating this effort along with Shannon Scheffel for assisting with the actual layout and purchase. In addition, a new climbing dome has also been purchased and will be installed during early July.

Dave King is continuing to work with the Summerford Fire Department to schedule CPR and AED training for those that may be interested. By late May, there were 15-20 people who had expressed interest in the training. Additional information will be posted on BAND.

The remainder of the meeting focused on discussion of possible maintenance projects both within the church and on the church grounds. A separate email is being sent from the council to the grounds and decoration teams for additional review and discussion.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14th, at 7 pm by video conference.



Getting to Know the Mast Family

Many of you know Tom and Candice, but for those of you who don't, we asked them to introduce themselves and their family to us and to share an update about their current big transition. We hope you have the opportunity to get to know them better and/or reconnect with them sometime soon.



Hi! We're Tom and Candice Mast. We attended LCF back in the early 2000's and then were sent by LCF as Rosedale International missionaries in 2006 (thank you for all these years of support and care!). We worked in Columbus at the RI office from 2013-2015 before returning back to Thailand (we also attended LCF during that time). Tom is RI's regional director for Asia and Candice provides staff care for mission workers. Tom worked as a Bible teacher in an international school and Candice was an ESL tutor for adults and worked with refugee kids in home education. We are currently entering the empty nester stage as we relocate back to Columbus to work in the RI office again.

What are your immediate plans for this next summer and year as you move back to the states?

In July, we will live at the Rosedale International Center and will be searching for a car and home (and hopefully see you at church!). In August we will attend Multiply Conference, have debriefing in Pennsylvania, and visit our families in Virginia and Delaware. Then, we will get Silas settled at college in Kentucky before returning to Columbus in late August and starting in our new jobs.

What are your children up to currently, and what are their plans for the next few years?

All three were with us in Thailand for part of May and June. We enjoyed some special times of togetherness—closing out our years in Bangkok, celebrating what God has done, saying good-byes, and enjoying all the “lasts.”

Claire, 23, just graduated with a biology degree from Berea College, is renting a home in Berea Kentucky and job searching in that area (she has a part-time job in a forest school and is looking for more). Eliza, 21, is headed back to Messiah College for her final year as a social work major. She plans on an internship in Baltimore before continuing on to masters degree studies. Both she and Silas will be working as counselors in a Christian summer camp in Virginia this June and July. Silas, 17, will be attending Asbury in Kentucky this fall, studying Worship Arts.

After living in Thailand for so many years, what do you think will be your biggest adjustment?

Thailand is a whole other world so there will be many adjustments. The biggest will probably be leaving close friends and dear students here as well as our home churches (Thai and International). Eighteen years is a long time, and we felt very settled in our home in Thailand, so we're gearing up for major change.

What looks big to you about this move?

It's a bit overwhelming to think of starting over again after being in Thailand so long. Just re-learning life in America, which is so different from Thailand. There are many cultural differences to adjust to and many logistics to work through with an international move and repatriating. We would like to keep our focus on God and His provision so that He is the one who looks “big” and not the challenges. They are nothing to Him!

Are there any traditions you picked up in Thailand that you plan to maintain?

We love how Thai people care for their parents in older age, we love how they respect everyone's personhood and demonstrate care and respect in the way they address people and through their body language. They practice amazing hospitality and gift giving. We also love holidays like Thai New Year (city-wide water fight every Spring). And of course we will continue to eat amazing Thai food at home.

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family night with our host family. My most "normal" night by far. ;) One of my favorite things about being in another country was seeing how passionate the young people were for their culture. They all wanted to get back in touch with their roots, and it was beautiful to see.

I also really love a dish from over there. It is called Kuurdak, and it is literally just meat and potatoes. I know that sounds super basic but it is amazing. The meat and potatoes are doused in oil and dill and just melt in your mouth perfectly. I will probably dream about Kuurdak. Another thing I learned was I had never seen true mountains until I saw the mountains in Central Asia. I fell completely in love with the mountains. God's creation makes me in awe. I always think of the song "Indescribable" by Chris Tomlin. When my parents picked me up after reentry, we passed the mountains in Pennsylvania, and I said to my parents, "Aww, look at these little hills!" Central Asian mountains have spoiled me.

As summer approaches, I will be working down at Bethel Camp for three weeks in June, and then during the month of July, I will be in and out of town. I plan on visiting family while I can still have a manageable drive, and I am volunteering at a retreat in Pennsylvania. Then...the big move! At the end of August I will be moving to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to attend Lancaster Bible College. I will be studying Intercultural Studies, and the eventual hope is to be a travel journalist! To be honest, I'm kind of terrified to go to college, but a good terrified. I trust the Lord with every step that I take. I'm also excited to be back in the city I trained in for Advance. I know where all the cute shops are now! If any of you would like to keep up with my adventures, check out my blog: micahsmeanderings24.wordpress.com. I'll try to keep it fairly updated! Thank you all again for everything!

Elders Notes

By Brandon Wenger

The elders gathered together on June 3rd at Rob and Doris's home. We started our time off with prayer. We enjoyed eating a meal together and fellowshiping with one another. We spent time sharing the cares and praises of the church, along with those of our own, with the Lord. Then Corin led us in a time of devotion reflecting on some verses from Isaiah.

Multiply Conference - Multiply will be hosted at Rosedale Bible College next summer, August 6-8, 2027. The conference takes many volunteers to make it function. LCF and other local churches in our conference will be looking for potential volunteers to help lead and be a part of various committees.

Prayer after church - We have been discussing how to provide individuals the opportunity to be prayed for after church if they desire. Coming soon, each Sunday a couple of individuals will be available to pray with you for anything that you might want prayer for after the church service is over.

Closing Prayer - We talked about the many things there are for us as a church to be praying about. We would like to see us be more thoughtful and intentional in giving leadership to praying for these things during our prayer time at the end of the service.

Community Help - We talked about how LCF could be better informed about and more involved with needs in the London community. We will continue discussing how to better facilitate this. Stay tuned for further information.

Getting to Know... continued from Page 3

How can we be praying for you in this transition?

- Pray for God's comfort as we acknowledge our losses and feel those sad emotions and the painful disconnecting.
- Pray for the ministries and friends and teammates we are leaving behind and for kingdom growth and abundance of God's provision in Bangkok!
- Also pray for us to deeply invest in our new life and to meet our new friends and neighbors with an open heart and desire to learn and grow and adjust.
- Please pray for housing for us in the area of Columbus where God wants us to be.
- Pray for our adult children as they adjust to many changes too, especially as Silas adjusts both to life in America, and college/dorm life.
- Pray for us as we enter the empty nest era, for continued good connection to our kids and for new routines and good support and communication between us as a couple.



The LCF Connection

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We would love to hear your feedback. Email us at secretary@lcfweb.org.

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