



Offer Life-Giving Experiences so that all may know Christ and be conformed to His Image.

The Harvester

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September-October 2023

Women's Retreat

The only way to get past our spiritual walls in life is to go through them, and that is what leads us deeper into dependence on Christ and intimacy with Him. But sometimes we hit the wall and turn back, or beat our heads against it, or try to surmount it in our own effort, or blame others for putting it there, or give up altogether. There are trials, sin, and desert periods in the Christian walk and how we respond to those walls either sickens or strengthens our faith. This month thirty women made it over a Thrive-constructed wall as a physical representation of this process. For most, that experience and the ensuing conversation was keenly eye-opening as they identified their own walls and resulting need for Jesus and others.



A helping hand over "the wall"



Journey

The women's retreat focused on walking together on the Christian journey from new birth to deep abiding in Christ. "I really felt the presence of God on that mountain and was so moved by all the (activities) you had us do!" said one attendee.

Autumn Adventures

Fall has traditionally been the best time to connect with college students, many of whom are new to university life and trying to build friendships and discover who they are as independent men and women. For Thrive, fall coincides with some of our best canoeing and hiking weather. As such, Keith and Dan have been taking students on canoe trips, night rappels, and hiking excursions in an effort to build community and lead people deeper into relationship with Jesus Christ. Most of the students we connect with are leaders from various Christian groups on campus at the University of Maine.

I have been discipling one of the grad students whose fall has meant a new season of navigating relationships, comparison, academic pressure, and questions about future direction. It is easy to forget all the unknowns these students face—very little in their lives is stable. That is why pointing them again and again to Christ, our Rock, is so crucial. Please pray for these students and for our November

student retreat:
“Orienting your
Life to Christ.”



A Week of Prayer:

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”
—Romans 12:12



Night Rappel

Pitch black. Cool breeze under your feet. Suspended in mid-air from a rope. Seventy feet from an overhang and seventy feet from the ground. Isolation.

The other night Keith stopped students halfway down a rappel at Eagle’s Bluff and asked them to reflect on what is it like to be all alone verses in community. After this activity, these leaders definitely identified a felt need for fellowship. As on campus, apart from the Body students are surrounded by darkness, assaulted by fears, and can feel out of control, like they are at the mercy of others who are maneuvering their rope.

Being with Christian peers is grounding and together their light is brighter.

1. Pray for our team: Shawna’s dad suddenly passed away and Angie has had kidney stones for weeks.
2. For a media/publicity person to join our team
3. For November’s college and marriage retreats
4. For God to raise up staff for our New Mexico team
5. For the planning of two spring mission trips
6. That Thrive would live by the Word & glorify God
7. For our home church that is in conflict and at which our pastor just resigned.