

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 4

the

Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield serving with Thrive Maine so that people will know Christ and reflect Him to the world

New Staff!

I continue to praise God for our growing staff team.

Leading our recent women's retreat with four staff women was absolutely life-giving. And we can now host multiple events at once (see the Feb 23 prayer requests.) We are thrilled to report that Jessica Loose has raised her support to join us as part time staff! Jess hails from New Hampshire and is married to Jason who teaches at Mirus Christian Academy. Together they have Margot and a second baby on the way. Jessica joined us this weekend for our moms' retreat and it was such a delight to lead alongside her. She is also an excellent chef, which is a true blessing to all those who come on retreats. ☺ Please pray for God's provision as the Looses pursue buying or building a home.

Two are better than one,
because they have a good
return for their labor; if
either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
—Ecclesiastes 4:9,10a



Moms' Sleepover

"Very restorative and encouraging. Helped me to sort out a gameplan for parenting," one mom responded at the end of the weekend. Moms were refueled through extended time with the Lord, a spa night, and breakfast in bed. We also played and encouraged each other and brainstormed ways to respond to our various parenting challenges. While making cards to give to other moms, Shawna shared about how encouragement is really giving courage to someone else. That fit perfectly into my Bible study about how the Proverbs 31 woman could laugh at the future because she feared the Lord. We too can have courage and peace because God is with us and responds to every prayer. Busy moms especially must present requests to God, drawing on His strength!

Your prayers are a vital part of this ministry!

February 9-11

Please pray for our marriage retreat. We are preparing a marriage 2.0 retreat for repeat attenders

February 23-24

Please lift up the twelve men on our annual Katahdin ascent, focused on biblical manhood

February 23-24

Women's retreat for my church—pray for spiritual refreshment and zeal and deep unity



Costa Rica Team Training

Sixteen of us, mostly young adults, will be heading on mission to the mountains of Costa Rica in March. We will serve in Guarari, a huge slum where many immigrants have settled in makeshift houses. They have connected their water illegally by hand, causing leaks and exposure to many impurities. New people, largely from Nicaragua, are coming every day to the area and the need for hope and health is great. We will be joining up with one of the thriving churches in the area to partner with Filter of Hope by bringing water filters and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to some of these impoverished families.

After last year's successful trip to Panama, three of our own kids are going on mission with us again, and this year's team includes young adults from

around Maine, many of whom have not been out of the country but are eagerly taking this step of faith. At our team training last week we offered a variety of foreign foods for everyone to try in preparation for this new cultural experience (we are hoping Costa Rican food is better than what we tried!) and learned how to assemble the filters and use them to share Christ. By God's grace, most of our team is already fully funded! Please pray for us as we continue to form as team, and for God's protection as we travel and for our boldness and the power of the Good News to change lives in Costa Rica. We will depart from Portland on March 10th.

Thank you for supporting us!



Litchfield Life in 2024

Happy 2024! We have started our new year strong, determined to work out and eat better in order to serve God for the long haul! We have also begun a new semester of homeschooling, teaching co-op classes and coaching basketball.

At church Dan is part of our pastoral search committee and I am our new community-building coordinator—something I am super passionate about. Aliza is in the middle of Driver's Ed. She and I are taking a free online Old Testament Literature course from Cedarville University, which I highly recommend to you all! It is taught by Dr. Miller, Emma's favorite professor. Tonight we host our weekly marriage group, working through Tim Keller's excellent book, "The Meaning of Marriage." Dan and I are more and more aware that our marriage needs attention if we are going to eventually transition well to empty-nesting. Lastly, we are blessed to have new staff and friends who are having babies (and I look forward to holding one tonight!) ☺ May God bless your new year!