

J U L Y 2 0 2 3

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# Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield serving with Thrive Maine

**Offering life-giving experiences so that all may know Christ and be like Him.**

## Calling Leaders

At the Global Leadership Summit, (a conference we attend annually in August) speaker Liz Bohanna said that 58% of Americans are lonely and over 70% of Generation Z is. "We are designing a culture for convenience and independence that leaves us isolated," she said. We see that lack of relationship and poor relationships all the time, so building Christ-like community is a huge part of our ministry. God designed us to be together. He exists in a triune relationship, and He calls us into His family to be built together like a house, connected like a priesthood, and interdependent like a body. Increasingly loving hospitality stands out and it is what the world craves. As believers, we have the perfect guide for that! But, Liz urges, it means we have to initiate, commit time to others, and listen well. Please pray that we, the church, will be a loving light in this lonely world.



## Life in White-Water

This month we took two groups white-water rafting: dear friends and supporters one day, and teens the next. Thanks to our exceptionally wet summer, the Kennebec was raging, water gushing in from every bank. We flipped two rafts on a towering wave called Maytag. Suddenly, instead of cheering and playing, I was fighting to breathe through an onslaught of rapids. It strikes me that often I am riding above the waves, joyfully cruising and instructing others how to navigate the turbulence, and sometimes I am in it. But being in the water, pulled in every direction, is what helps me relate to other swimmers. It makes me empathetic and teaches me to be more grateful for the days when I am floating. I remember my "humble state" and my need to be saved.

## We are Grateful for your Prayers

### College Students

Sept 4 Thrive leads a canoe trip for UMaine students. Pray that many join Christian groups.

### Ladies' Retreat

Sept 29-30 We will emphasize journeying together in faith & scaling walls of challenge.

### Community

Please pray for our church, which is in turmoil, and for the 20 kids taking my Bible class at co-op.



## A Meeting of the Minds: Thrive National Base Camp (our annual national conference)

Forty-five people living together for five days. As we adults gathered in the living room trying to talk over the roar of the kids downstairs (they outnumbered us, 24 to 21,) I harkened back to living in the dorms on a college campus—people everywhere! We had traveled from all over the country: our Thrive teams in New Mexico and North Carolina, our new staff from Kansas, our Operations team-members from Virginia and all of us from Maine, to spend a rowdy week at our camp, like a chaotic crash course in fellowship. Our purpose was to seek God's direction together, to pour into each other's lives, support and learn from one another, and move forward in faith as a ministry, unified in heart and mission.

Together we redefined our ministry values of transparency, courage, growth, and creation as

they relate to the Gospel. We had sweet time in the Word, singing in worship, and praising God and celebrating what He has done in the past year. And we tackled hard subjects like how to be more involved in ongoing discipleship as a retreat-style ministry. We discussed the Biblical response to homosexuality, knowing that “while all sins are equally damning, they are not all equally damaging,” as Pastor John Kidd, one of our board members said. He also added that it is Ok to think sin is way worse than we think it is because we have Jesus—a big Savior.

We also played... we swam, rock climbed, hiked, toured Bar Harbor, and had a huge kids vs. adults soccer game. We had fun. In answer to prayer, people left feeling refreshed, encouraged, and hopeful about what God will do next. Amen!

## August. Phew!



Immediately following the GLS conference, many of our Thrive staff arrived days early for Base Camp and stayed days later to visit. A friend of Emma's had also come early in the week to drive back to college together in the middle of Base Camp. Additionally, Aliza finished horse camp the week that everyone arrived. Three days after our teams all left we packed up for rafting, returning for Micah to start soccer followed by the beginning of the homeschool year. August has been wonderfully and tiringly full. And today the Ketters, our new staff team members from Kansas, fly in to make Maine their HOME! We look forward to September. ☺