

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022

the

Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield serving God with Thrive Maine so all may know Christ and live for Him



*Happy Thanksgiving!
We are thankful for you!*

Pass It On

“Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.” (Psalm 102:18)

We have a burden for families to pass on their faith, and it is a huge challenge in our anti-Christian culture. Yet as I read through the Bible, God is clear that His command does not end with us. We are responsible to leave a Christian legacy—that means giving our kids a vision for the generations after *them*. Dan’s family came on our last women’s retreat: sister, aunts, cousins. At one point we created a family tree, recording the faithfulness of our roots and praying for the youngest “branches.” Below is a photo from that weekend of a canoe train reaching a disconnected boat. Likewise we must work together to reach the ones who are drifting away.

Our Panama trip in April is one attempt to redirect our teens and help parents pass on the faith. As our pastor said Sunday, “God has given you to steward His Gospel through your life so that the generations might know Him.”

Night and Day Hikes

Keith and Dan have been leading biweekly events for UMaine students over the past month. On one night hike they focused on hiding vs being real and the importance of being known. “Where are you most misunderstood?” was a question that brought honest and deep conversation and really bonded the group. A night repel on fear added to that camaraderie. On their own the students decided to each repeat a different verse about courage on their way over the cliff. Even the nonbeliever participated in reciting verses and shared about fears she faces. And, on this Saturday’s hike, the group focused on seeing God’s qualities in Creation and developing our awareness of His presence. Eating ice cream at our house afterward made us even more aware of His goodness! ☺

Please Pray With Us

College Students

It has been a joy to serve students at UMaine again. Pray that their faith is steadfast and for the lost to believe.

Mission Trip

April 15-21 we will partner with Filter of Hope to take Maine teens and parents on mission to Panama. The trip is full!

New Staff

Please pray for the Ketters and Hunter Poole to finish raising support, and others to join our NM team.





Marriage Retreat

A weekend away to play and focus on each other. A weekend away to rest in God's creation and the blazing colors of fall. A weekend away to realign with the heart of God. "It was absolutely awesome... everything I ever wanted out of a weekend," said one of the husbands in the group, "I appreciated the hands-on components that engaged both our bodies and minds; they were pointed and meaningful and relevant."

The hands-on experiences included a confession hike, a repel over a cliff, a canoe trip that brought up ways that we try to control each other, and an "I see you" couples walk. We addressed our sinful tendencies toward hiding, blaming, and controlling, and fought against those through actively walking in the light and

taking risks to be known, taking personal responsibility, and lovingly giving freedom to one another. The couples were honest about real pain they had been through and about current struggles. What a blessing to be able to grow together with the support of other believers who want to make marriage work, no matter how hard it can be. Some "A-ha!" moments included one wife admitting, "It is not my job to think for my spouse." And another husband confessing about his headship habits, "It feels like leading, but it's not." Following a session on communication, one couple was able to clarify and flesh out action steps for an issue they'd been plagued with for years.

Praise God for the work He does when allow it! Please pray for godly marriages that reflect Him and come join us for a future retreat!



From Pit to Peak

"How do you set your mind on things above when you are living daily here below?" That was the questions we asked in the gravel pit at the bottom of the hike. The women had to find their way through the pit to the gate (representing Jesus) and then follow the trail up the mountain. It was the perfect parallel to life. Along the way we addressed the need for the Body of Christ and how we can motivate each other to press on when life is hard. Right now life *is* daunting. We need to help each other stay on the trail, hope in Jesus rather than the world, and see the big picture beyond our trials to His triumph. We are not alone!