

Thrive Maine

THE HARVESTER

Dan & Heather Litchfield

February 2024



Who is the center of your affection? Yourself? Your spouse? If it is anything less than God you will eventually experience defeat, despair, indifference, and sin. This month we hosted a new second-level marriage conference for couples who had attended our "Journey to Oneness" retreat in the past. Using a tool Dan developed around putting on "the armor of light" (Romans 13:12,) we worked through faith vs. sin, love vs. indifference, and hope vs. despair as it applies to marriage and life. One spouse commented, "I didn't realize how far into isolation I had put myself." What a privilege to invite her into grace and truth and deeper relationship with her husband.

One activity that hit home involved carrying buckets of water with holes that represented the responsibilities in life. As couples lost water at different rates we addressed the stress of differing responsibility at home and how we tend to compare and set unrealistic expectations on our spouse. Participants were invited to refill their buckets at the spigot just as we must continually refill on the One who is our true Source of life. The important thing was not the race, but the water. Likewise, being filled with the Spirit and abiding in Christ is more important than worldly winning.

At another point, hiking up a mountain to sled down in the snow (representing despair vs. hope,) a wife pointed out a card from her last Thrive marriage retreat two years earlier. "I always keep it in my hiking backpack and look at it at the top of the mountain," she explained. Later, her husband added, "Being here and being honest about our marriage makes it seem more manageable." Praise God!



Prayer Requests

Costa Rica Mission Trip

March 10-16 Pray for our courage and love in proclaiming the Gospel, and for many to turn to Jesus.

Father-Son Weekend

March 1-2 Pray for dedication in following Christ and for God to raise up generations of godly men.

Expectant Moms

Please pray for teammate Jessica Loose who is expecting a baby girl in March and for Shawna Ketter who is due with her 5th in August. We are so excited about our growing staff team!



Rolling out Roles

As Thrive grows, we are continually creating new roles and structure to support our staff and make the ministry more effective and efficient.

Human Resources Director

Kelly Kidd, our current fund development trainer, has agreed to also take on the role of HR Director. She will be responsible for ensuring Thrive policies are followed and that staff members are cared for. She is a perfect fit for this position. We are grateful for her expanded service!

Leadership Development

I have agreed to take on the LD role, establishing, executing, and assisting the training and ongoing development of our staff. I am passionate about the training and growth of our staff, but will begin in a limited capacity until I finish homeschooling. My current focus will be on training new staff and launching an internship program.

Marketing Director

Although we continue to pray for a marketing director, we have found help for our website and Shawna has brought publication skills to the team to help us get the word out. Hooray!

Financial Manager

We are sad to lose Jenn Blanche, who has faithfully served in this position. She is resigning from Thrive to center her energy on church. We praise God for her and for our teammate Keith, who has jumped into this ever increasing role and is doing great.

Weekend Whirlwind

He hit a brick wall... Craig was describing one of the men on last weekend's Katahdin hike. The winter ascent in high winds with a wind chill of -40° was a brutal trial. "The Lord is your fortress! We are going to get there together," Craig encouraged the flagging hiker. Craig admits that he himself was ready to call it quits. But, he recounted, they both put one foot in front of the other and the Lord carried them forward.

That was our new Thrive staff man, Craig's, account of his experience. Others agreed that the theme of "Contentment in the Lord" kept them surging forward and gave them much to consider in their everyday lives. Dan led a group of nine men to summit the mile high Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest peak. Despite having every surface covered, he has some frost bite on his cheek bones, souvenirs of the ascent. "There was a whole lot of contentment when we descended to reach tree line again and took off the ice cleats and there was sun on the trail!" Craig laughed. The memory of being carried by God to do something they felt powerless to do in their own effort will last. Being empowered by God and finding contentment through Him is a mark of spiritual maturity that comes through dependence. For these men the hike up Katahdin was just one step toward living more faithfully in that way every day. Please pray that they will continue to walk humbly in His strength in their homes, communities, churches, and jobs.

While the men were up on the mountain, new Thrive staff, Jessica, and I led a women's retreat on "How to Thrive in 'Winter.'" Needless to say, our winter thriving revolved more around a wood fire in our slippers, but it generated deep connection and reliance on God's goodness in every season in life nonetheless! ☺ As one woman said, it was a place of "Being real and feeling safe." Many are facing hard, "winter" challenges, but God has a purpose for our growth in every season. The retreat reminded us of that.

