

The Harvester



Dan & Heather Litchfield

May 2022



An Act of God

As the preteen girls worked together to pass each other through the web of ropes, some were fully engaged, others were swearing and complaining, and one refused to participate. I silently prayed, wondering how we could bring these girls together and if they would open their hearts to each other or to the Lord. Of the 12 girls, only two of them were believers, and most had recently joined the youth group that we were hosting from southern Maine. The topic for the three-day retreat was truth and identity, a good subject for girls who did not know the Lord and were already identifying as bisexual, non-binary, and generally questioning. As I got to know each girl and hear their stories, my compassion grew. I was reminded that *God* brought them to our home on

purpose to work out His plan in His timing.

And that is just what He did. How awesome it was to watch the girls grow together and open their hearts to the Lord right before our eyes. The same girls who were using Jesus' name in vain on the first day were pointing out how they could see God in their midst on day three. Likewise, on the first day, a few responded to the question of *who is Jesus?* with "Jesus is a woman," and "Jesus is confusing." But over the course of the retreat we had multiple opportunities to share the Gospel message and everyone engaged in the discussions about Heaven, Christ, and God's authority. Please pray that the seeds planted will bear fruit in the lives of these young women.

Thank you for praying with us!

Please pray for our National Thrive Meeting May 28-31 in New Mexico, that we would connect as a staff family, be encouraged, and discern God's direction for the future.

Pray for the Ketter family, who will be visiting us June 5-9, and for God to fully raise their support

Pray that our Small Group Leader Training June 11 in Ellsworth will be well attended, meet needs, and will further equip churches as they impact their communities for Christ.



Sweet Dawning

One of the programs we led for the girls' youth retreat involved them collecting rocks and then adopting them as pets by painting and decorating them, then writing information cards about their name, hobbies, likes and dislikes, etc. This was a huge risk because they could have found the activity silly, but they got really into it and made some hysterical and creative pets. In fact, by the third day, when I handed out letters to each of them from their pets, they were super excited to read them. However, when they began reading the contents there were shouts of "No!" and "What? No way!" The letters written from their pets told their owners that they had decided to exercise their independence and change their appearance and character. Some rocks wanted their feathers torn off, others wanted to gouge out an eye, or be rolled in ketchup or brown paint... The girls were aghast-especially when I broke out the ketchup and brown paint for them to follow through on their pet's wishes. "I made my rock and I know what's best for it, and there is no way I am allowing it to do that!" one student emphatically declared. Did the rock have the right to choose a new identity? Some said no. Others said, "Well, it is their life, but I would not recommend it." This led to a fantastic conversation about God's Sovereignty and how His ways are best even though He loves us enough to let us exercise free will. They experienced the point for themselves without me ever having to tell them that they belong to God and His design for them is best. I love it when a program hits the mark! Praise be to God, our Great Teacher.



Welcome Kelly Kidd!

It is our joy to have dear friend and former Lifelines co-worker, Kelly Kidd, join Thrive part-time from Virginia. Kelly has years of experience and a huge heart for the lost. She will be coaching our new staff in raising support and overseeing fund development as our Ministry Partner Director. Kelly will begin June 1st. What a huge answer to prayer! Please pray for her transition to Thrive.



Congrats to Emma!

We are proud to announce that our sweet 17 year old, Emma, graduated on May 14th. Big brother Caleb was home from college to participate in the celebration. She will be joining him at Cedarville University in the fall. Tomorrow she begins a job waitressing at the Lucerne Inn, so if you are in the area, stop in for dinner! ☺