

The Harvester

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PRAYER

New staff

Please pray for the Letters as they raise support to join us, and for more new staff to join our Thrive teams

Public school trip

Pray for this evangelistic climbing and paddling trip with a local public school: for our witness and for kids to seek Him

Speak at churches

We will spend three upcoming Sundays speaking at churches and connecting with supporters

Father-Son trip

19 guys and over 200 fish... sort of like Jesus telling the apostles to let down their nets; experiential learning at its best!

Last weekend Dan and Joe took a group of dads and their sons on an overnight canoe trip to talk about manhood, bond, and grow in three areas of being a man of God: submitting to God's authority, setting one's mind on the things of God, and caring for and leading others. Using the apostle Peter as their example, they read about his walk with Jesus through the Gospels. Just getting away to be with their sons without distraction was a big win, and spending hours together in a canoe led to deeper conversations. Around the fire, Dads shared what they were proud of in their sons, and sons shared one thing that they wanted to emulate in their dads. Swimming, tenting, and by God's grace, catching boatloads of fish further enriched the Peter-like manhood experience!



Family News

This past month we celebrated Micah's baptism, Aliza finished horse camp, Emma was accepted to Cedarville University for fall of 2022, and we drove Caleb out to Ohio to drop him off at college (we all cried, but he is loving it!) We cannot thank you enough for your prayers and support of our children.

Also, my mom had a successful cardioversion to put her fluttering heart back into rhythm, for which we praise God. In addition, we hosted a family reunion, and had dear friends visit from VT and another from GA. Now homeschool has begun!

“The right choice is not often the easy choice.” -Craig Groeschel, Global Leadership Summit

Early this month we attended the Global Leadership Summit as part of our ongoing development. It was an insightful conference and useful in evaluating the ministry and our leadership.

This summer we have felt stretched to the breaking point. God spoke through one of the speakers by reminding us that we have the power of choice. This woman asked us how we picture our life in ten years and twenty years. All I could think was that in just ten *months* I would be toast. Many of the speakers highlighted the need for leaders to have space to recuperate and reflect and reconstruct. A. R. Bernard said, “Knowing what to change and what to continue is the most difficult challenge.” That has been our biggest question. None of us are willing to let go of the outdoor activities we are doing or to limit ourselves to working with just one people group. We love the variety of the ministry and believe we are called to serve the whole community, but we are wearing thin. As Edgar Sandoval, President of World Vision, warned, “The biggest enemy of

break through is ‘good enough... don't lower the bar.’” So, our question was how do we practice excellence, lead to Jesus, love well, and have significant impact without burning out our staff?

After prayer and deliberation, we agreed that Thrive's greatest impact in people's lives is through retreats, when we can build relationship, stop performing, earn trust, and invest in people over time. But, with so many one-day events we lack the capacity to run multi-day retreats. Either quality suffers, or we do. So we are reorganizing to prioritize retreats in the coming year.

As for the young adult nights, parenting adventures, unfinished programs for ages 60+, etc, we will invite those communities to attend a retreat that will be scheduled well in advance. Rather than scores of options, we will invite people to a few (marriage, leadership, life stages...) that require deeper investment and that, by God's grace, cause greater life change.



Parenting Adventures

This summer we offered six day hikes as part of our “Parenting Adventures,” an opportunity for moms to adventure with their kids, connect with other moms, and grow together in our love for Christ and in Christ-centered parenting. Our final program focused on parenting teens, taking lessons from how Paul fathered the church in 2 Corinthians 10:1-6. Paul focused on God and not himself, and he recognized that the battle is spiritual, and so too his weapons. When it comes to taking every thought captive, that applies to both us as parents, and our teens. “How can we remind ourselves that the challenging situation our kids are facing, or the parenting trial, is an opportunity to point our kids to Christ and turn to him ourselves?” This question and others like it have helped us reconsider our perspective on parenting, value our kids, and see the significance of leading them to God. My hope is to host parenting retreats and parent-teen mission trips in the future.

John 6:37

“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”