

J U L Y - A U G U S T 2 0 2 6

the

Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield serving the Lord with Thrive Maine, that all may know
Jesus Christ and live like Him

Coming of Age

It is a joy that kids outnumber staff members in the Thrive family, and that they love being together. The older kids maintain a text thread throughout the year, and the oldest are now serving in ministry themselves. Our HR director, Kelly's, daughter has been on a missions trip this past summer, and our coworkers, Joe and Angie's, daughter is leaving for a 6 month mission with YWAM next month. Our daughter, Emma, has joined Thrive full time and our son, Micah, has been a Thrive summer intern. He even co-led a rock climbing trip for the kids during Base Camp, addressing, "How to trust God for yourself, not just because your parents do."



Cliffside Courage

"This is the highlight of the summer," one mother gushed after climbing to the top of the cliff. The rock-climbing trip for families was about demonstrating courage, and this woman who was scared of heights, modeled that for her kids and all of us. It was super inspiring. "Be strong and courageous" because God was with him, God told Joshua in Josh 1:9. Rom 8:31 adds, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" That is the lesson we want these families to apply at home, at school, and in their community. Please pray that they will be a light.

Thank you for praying...

For our August trips with youth on the 7th, families on the 15th, young adults the 23-24th, and couples the 29th.

For our faithful witness, that we would pursue the Lord, boldly proclaim Him, and rely on the Holy Spirit to shape lives

That our family would have peace, fortitude, and wisdom as our busy Thrive season collides with school start up





The Basics of Base Camp

Every two years Thrive staff from across the nation get together for a five day conference that we call Base Camp. We live and eat together, play, plan, and pray. We hosted this year's event here at the Pond House, got in a lobster boat trip and lobster bake, hiked, rock climbed and swam, and ended with our new raft guides taking the rest of us rafting down the Kennebec River. Fireside evenings were a time of sharing deep joys and pains from over the year, and praying for and encouraging one another. Co-worker, Austen, led us in song, and I led us in extended times of prayer. Our Ops director, Abby, and HR director, Kelly, gave us updates on new systems and we celebrated our teammates who have recently graduated from

new staff to "senior staff." Dan, as president, did the bulk of the work. He cast vision by naming our mission, "adventure discipleship" and inspiring us to think through better ways we can help bridge the gap between knowing the Word and living it out. "We create spaces for that practice to happen," Dan explained, "We take people from whatever they know to living like Jesus." We do that by helping people BE who God created them to be, to TRUST God and His Word in their everyday lives and to GO live out the Gospel in their communities and beyond. He also introduced the idea of having outposts like our home in Maine across the country and, God willing, in Pucon, Chile. More to come on that in the next newsletter!

Glorifying God in Humility



I silently cheered as the athletic young man confessed his rudeness toward his mom while paddling together. Our kayak trip was about our glory compared to God's, and he was answering a question about how he responds when he doesn't look good in front of others. His boat had lagged behind, and in frustration, he had blamed that on his mother. He admitted that he wanted glory and it stung when he appeared less capable. "I do try to cover my weakness rather than remembering God has the glory; not me," he admitted as he apologized. We had paddled with cups full of water representing our glory, then compared that to the ocean we were floating in. Like the cup, our glory is drawn from God and is a pittance that we put a lot of effort into protecting rather than just reveling in the glory of God around us. This son humbly put that to practice. Praise the Lord!