

# HARVESTER



## Team Play

*The Litchfields, Cousins, and Blanches at the sledding hill!*



January has given us some down time to connect and play with our Thrive family. We are grateful to be part of this ministry team. Jenn is still raising support while developing systems, sorting through tax policies for Thrive. Joe and Angie continue their house search in

the hopes of moving closer to us (they are over an hour away right now.) Dan and I are creating publications that we can use to introduce people to various events and opportunities with Thrive. We thank God for a quiet season to lay this groundwork.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Feb 12 we will be doing Thrive activities for the youth at our church. Please pray that God will use us to help them apply the Word to their lives.

February 15 we will be hosting a father/child ice fishing day trip, to help Dad's and their kids connect with God. Please pray for safety, God's glory to be revealed, spiritual fruit, and fish!

We praise God for the fun turn out at our recent movie night. We invited the church and neighbors to watch "War Room," following up the viewing with prayer for God to enliven our hearts and impact our community. Please pray for our next movie night Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please pray for Beth, Jay, Joe, Kelly, and Sharon: neighbors that we are befriending. Pray that we will be witnesses for Christ and that He will open doors to share the Gospel.

Pray for our humble readiness to serve, and our joyful proclamation of Christ.

*"To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." -1 Pet 4:11b*

## Loving our neighbors

"We really have to start going back to church" our new friend confessed during a conversation with Dan. Their family was over for dinner and their teens and ours had moved from chicken to an intense game of Uno. The family is so much fun, but also riddled with the confusion of previous marriages on both sides and ex-spouses that live in town. Dan had asked

about his spiritual background and his interest in growing spiritually. He was very real and open about some wounds that have left him questioning God. We pray for him and hope that the kids and parents will come to our upcoming movie night, and that God will open their hearts to His message. Please pray for this growing friendship and our faithful witness.

## Kids on Mission

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

This semester I am teaching two classes at our homeschool co-op. My *Kids on Mission* class is designed to practice acts of service related to weekly Scripture study. While most of our service projects will meet local needs, we will also emphasize world needs, writing letters to missionaries, and raising money for clean water in Africa. My hope is to increase students’ awareness and concern for the needs of others and encourage them to be the hands and feet of God in and outside their homes. I want them to see that they can serve right now, using their gifts to make an

impact on the world for Christ. This week I have 19 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders visiting the local rehabilitation center. Last week they made cookies and crafts for firefighters and the police department. Next week they will be sending care packages to soldiers and beginning a clothes drive for the homeless shelter. In preparing for this class I have been amazed by all the ways there are to serve, and all the needs around us. I have also been brought to tears by the enthusiasm of the kids and their real desire to demonstrate love and care.

I am also teaching a *Foundations of Faith* class to the high schoolers. We are beginning with Genesis and ending in the

Gospels... giving students the theological reasoning that forms the foundation of their faith. A panel of moms will pose questions challenging the kids’ faith. Students will also create a group video answering the question: “Where is God now?” Please pray for the heart and head equipping of these future leaders.

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*This edition of the Harvester is dedicated to cousin Evelyn “Snookie” Wheeler- a compassionate friend, generous supporter, and faithful correspondant, who is now exalting in the glories of heaven.*

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“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”



*Caleb, Emma, Heather, Aliza, Dan, and Micah*

Tonight Dan is hiking and camping out on Mount Katahdin with co-worker, Joe, and some non-believing friends. I have been praying for safety, for spiritual conversation, and for warmth! Upstairs, Aliza and her best friend are practicing a worship song they plan to use to introduce the Bible study they are organizing for their 10-13 year old friends. They have planned the study, the food, and the name of their group: Bloom. Emma has been planning for discipleship; she is excited to be meeting weekly to disciple a younger girl. Caleb just received mail from a Christian college where he is considering going to study history and ministry. And Micah recently told me he wants to get baptized this year. Sometimes life is a hot mess, and other times it is a joy, and we are just resting in the hands of God. Today I am reflecting on the peace of following Christ. I pray that by God’s grace, He will cause my family and yours to seek Him.