

S E P T E M B E R - O C T O B E R 2 0 1 9

the

Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield serving Christ with Thrive Adventures



Ever since Adam & Eve

“We have talked about so many things that I’ve known have been a problem,.. thank you for giving us tools to work on those issues,” said one participant following last month’s Thrive Marriage Adventure. The five couples were diverse in age, ability, and faith, but they shared a common desire to have a healthy marriage; the weekend provided practice space to do the hard work of getting right with God and each other. As one husband said, “The practical application of each lesson is huge. You listen, but then you get to try it, and you show me how to apply it. The whole things is really practical...I appreciated the realness you displayed; marriage is and should be messy.” Please pray for these couples, and for all marriages, which are under daily attack.

Pray that God be glorified and lives be redeemed.

October 26

Training day for our volunteers.

We praise God for them and pray for more laborers!

November 8-10

Girls’ youth event on body image.

Pray the 14 girls will know God’s truth & tender care

November

Pray for wisdom as we visit churches, write publications, and develop new material.

Public School Day

“Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?... ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’”

These are the opening words of the parable of the Good Samaritan, which Joe shared with the more than 20 middle schoolers who had come for a day of rock climbing and kayaking. Although we were not openly allowed to share the gospel on this public school sponsored trip, we shared this parable as “background information” for the Good Samaritan Law. Throughout the day, we engaged kids in discussion about what it takes to be a good Samaritan: care for others, courage, and commitment. Please pray that the seeds we planted will bear fruit.





Women's Retreat

God is so good. We are never beyond His concern, nor are we too fixed for His power to change us.

We recently hosted a women's retreat for a church in southern Maine—I am grateful to be related by marriage to 11 out of the 15 participants that came and bunked up in every room of our house. My boys left for the weekend. 😊

One of the main goals of Thrive is to help communities connect and live in dependence on God and in real relationship with each other. But how do you help women grow who have known each other and been relating in certain ways for a lifetime? How do you help people draw nearer to God when they are already walking in faith? These were the worries I was praying about and giving to God in the weeks leading up to this event. I was praying that God would just change

hearts and that I would not get in the way.

We focused on living in grace and truth, being vulnerable, moving from judgment to humility, and edifying the Body of Christ. It was an even bigger risk for these women to be real with those they have known all their lives. One matriarch said at the end of an activity, “I had no idea that people valued me so much.”

“Without risking rejection we cannot have closeness with others...I need a closer walk with God and others,” said another. By God's grace, people shared pain that they have been carrying on their own. As a group they began to see how much they needed each other and how steps of faith in their relationships could yield big rewards personally and for the church. I am so blessed to be part of this amazing group of women who live for the Lord and want to honor Him even more.

A Mission to Us

We have been utterly blessed this past month to have supporters Vicki and Amado come up from Virginia to spend a week “on mission” with us, using their talents to serve the ministry of Thrive and loving our family. We owe much thanks to Amado's tireless work on the house, helping Dan finish the siding before winter comes. I am especially grateful to Vicki for helping to facilitate the women's retreat. I could not have led the weekend without her. We thank God for their skills, faithfulness, and generosity!!

