



Providing experiences for people to know Christ and live for Him.

# The Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield, Thrive Maine

September 2024

## Women's Work

*"Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" (Psalm 96:2,3.)*

We recently led a women's retreat focused on evangelism—both the praise and proclamation that is born out of the **overflow of our love** for God, and our courageous **obedience to His command** to be witnesses. We prayed for the former and strategized ways to work together toward the latter. How can we as the church be a more intentional witness? The women came up with great ideas: from rotating where they sit each Sunday to offering meals to school kids. But so much more happens on a retreat. God always does more than what we have planned! Our challenge was to involve all age groups— from 16 to 76— in programs on land and water (Hopefully my last swim of the season!). In the process, many women met their younger or older sisters in Christ for the first time. One of the great outcomes of the retreat was building friendships across the decades... an important step toward unity and passing the faith generationally. And then won't our light to the world be even brighter?



*A cold day on the water!*

## Prayer

- Please pray for our Asheville team who are ok but displaced by the flood and devastation.
- Pray for Dan to rightly handle God's Word as he preaches at multiple churches this month.
- Pray that God will use us to build healthy, God-centered, Christ-reflecting communities.

## College Students Climb High, Aim High

“I want to be bold in representing Christ on campus,” said one student. This young man is a leader in his campus ministry at UMaine. He was part of a group of students that had come rock climbing with Thrive the first week of school. We were talking about stepping out in faith on campus—answering the question, “What steps of faith haven’t you taken that are hindering you from knowing God more fully?” He admitted that he gets wrapped up in studies, forgets to invest in his relationship with other believers, and begins to believe he is alone in the spiritual battle on campus. “I need this,” he said, indicating the time away in the wilderness with believing classmates. Our co-worker, Keith, has been our main link to serving students at UMaine. We are happy to announce his recent engagement, and we are also sad that he has moved to Georgia where he will begin married life. The students are also wondering where that leaves them. Please pray for our team to stay connected and to be able to support these young adults from a distance. Pray for their faith, witness, and friendships with other believers to grow.



### A Biblical Perspective

Every social issue we discuss is rooted in the question of authority. Who is the authority: God or man? Are we going to live by the Word of God or the word of men? That is how we began the Bible and Social Issues class I am teaching to 21 high school students at our co-op. The second week was on abortion, and as you can imagine, kids came down adamantly on all sides of that issue. Please pray as I try to lead these kids to God’s view on these issues from the Bible, and as we try to align our views to His. Pray that we will learn to address contrary opinions with love and respect while still standing firm on God’s Truth. Upcoming topics include equality, race, and gender.

## Pass It On!

We are currently filling our calendar for 2025. If your church, family, or friend group would like to book a retreat or training this coming year, you can do so by emailing Dan at [Dan@ThriveNational.org](mailto:Dan@ThriveNational.org). We are especially emphasizing marriage, church leadership, and men’s retreats as these groups are particularly under attack today. Dan and I are also hoping to offer more family mutli-day canoe trips next summer, and we intend to lead another teen-parent mission trip with Filter of Hope in the spring. We are so grateful for your prayers and support, and we would love to serve you!



**Dan turned 50 this month!**