

J U L Y 2 0 2 2

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# Harvester

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

## Worth the Work

Our marriages are not founded on our love for one another, but on our love for God. We continue to care, give, help, submit, encourage, protect, serve, and persevere in marriage because of our trust in God's work in us and in our spouse, and because of His promise that marriage is good (Gen 2:18, Pr 18:22, 1 Cor 7:9.) He alone is our hope for salvation, joy, and reconciliation—in every area of our life and especially in marriage. Our marriage retreats are meant to reorient couples to God and to each other through the hard work of confession, prayer, communication, service, and cooperation. The activities are fun and the environment is breath-taking, but it is work. Was it worth it? Every person said yes, and four gave an emphatic "Absolutely!"

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Rom 15:13)**



## Hope in the Darkness

Around the campfire the first night when we asked the question "Why did you get married and why are you still married?" One couple responded flatly that they made a commitment. Their tired response spoke volumes about the trough that their relationship was in at present. And they were not alone—the seven couples on the beach were all over the place in the state of their marriages. Over three days of ocean kayaking, camping on islands, and participating in lots of programs and conversations, this same couple moves to a place of hope for the first time in over five years. "We grew a lot just in hope for good things to come." Praise God!

### Prayer Requests

#### Women's Retreat Aug 5-7

This wilderness retreat will focus on the adventure of following Christ

#### Emma starts college Aug 19

Emma will major in Biblical Studies at Cedarville University this fall

#### Fayette Youth Aug 25-27

Pray for God to use us to build spiritual leaders in the next generation

## The Journey to Oneness

Based on principles in Genesis, the marriage adventure focused on moving from the sin of hiding, blaming, and controlling to loving by being real, taking responsibility, and giving freedom.

### A Pain in the Neck, Back, Arms...

Shelby grinned as she taped a bag of rocks to her paddle blade. The rocks represented sins committed against our spouse, and no one was laughing by the time we arrived at the next island, sore all over from the added weight. A time of confession ensued, first privately and then with our spouses. For some this was a pivotal time in the retreat.

### Serve and Submit

On the second night husbands had to serve and then feed their wives dinner. For most of us we had not done this since feeding our spouse cake at our wedding. Husbands were challenged to think of their wives needs and wants while wives were challenged to humbly receive. Try it yourself—it brings up a lot of emotion and discussion!

### Rafting With the Boys

On a recent father-son rafting trip with friends of ours, the boys fought for kingship of a float on the lake where they were camping. Dan led a conversation about Joshua fighting for the Lord and asked questions like, *What are some of the battles you will need to fight in the next five years? Who will fight beside you?* Please pray for these young men to become spiritual leaders.

### Personal Praise

This month both my mom and Dan's dad have been facing big health challenges. We praise God for the chance to spend time with them all and for my mom's recent successful surgery. We are thankful too for their faith. At home, we praise God for an anonymous donor who paid for our youngest two, Micah and Aliza, to attend basketball week at Living Waters Bible camp. They had a great time at their first ever summer camp! We praise God for you too. Thank you for your love, prayers, and support.

