

J U L Y 2 0 2 1

the

Harvester

Dan & Heather Litchfield, *creating experiences for people to know Christ and live like Him*



Parenting

This month's parenting adventures addressed "Parenting in Grace and Truth" and "Letting go of Guilt in Parenting." In the latter, we discussed the difference between false guilt and real guilt, and we confessed sins against our children as well as our feelings of unworthiness that come from self-judgment, comparison, and fear. As the moms piled rocks on their laps with each burden, it was clear that parenting well from that position is impossible. Through laughter and tears the moms poured God's grace and truth into each other and prayed together before rejoining our kids on the beach. What a relief to have the support of the Body of Christ as we parent!



Shaping the Future

Thirty participants met us at the river to do more than just raft. Over two days we practiced setting our minds on Christ and not ourselves, learning about faith, hope, and love, even as God infused us with these spiritual blessings. Students experienced faith while rafting and doing trust lifts, they demonstrated love by serving each other meals, and, like life, they lived through bouts of hope and despair during an arduous hike to a spectacular ending. "I learned that the best is waiting for me in heaven," said one student. Others commented, "I don't want to default to self-centeredness," "I want to love people no matter who they are," and, "I want to have a higher willingness to serve." Pray that these youth will press on in faith, hope, and love, as lights to the world.

Please pray that God will change hearts:

At upcoming parenting adventures (Aug 9, 24) and the next Unfinished event (Aug 25)

For our 1st event bringing young adults together (Aug 16) and the father/son trip (Aug 20-21)

During our marriage retreat (Aug 27-29) and women's canoe overnight (Aug 18). Join us!

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone,” (Titus 2:11) Read verses 12-14; they are awesome!

Simpsons

This month our Thrive staff teammates from New Mexico came to Maine for vacation and fellowship. Adam and Tracy and their four kids spent ten days with us like a giant family playing and serving God together. They are alone in Taos, NM, and the prayer, encouragement, and fun was refreshing for all of us. Please pray for God to add others to their team.

Co-op Water Fun Day

I am blessed to help lead a Christian homeschool co-op in Ellsworth, which serves between 40-70 kids and parents each year. We truly love these families that seek to honor God together and bring their children up in the way of the Lord. We recently hosted a fun day filled with a variety of water games that culminated in a massive water fight. It is a joy to involve all ages in outdoor play and see them including and building each other up. Hope for the future!

Bloom Camping

Aliza, our youngest, leads “Bloom,” a Bible study group for her peers. Last week I took the group camping (in a downpour.) My favorite part was the conversation in the car about boys—what to look for and how to communicate and get to know them without giving the wrong impressions. These candid 12-14 year olds had good questions and want to honor the Lord. The discussion naturally flowed into stories about God’s goodness. Rain did not dampen the Spirit. ☺

Unfinished

“I have really been struggling with feeling critical when I wake up in the morning. This is just what I needed.” These were the words of one of the participants of our recent “Unfinished” program, geared toward those ages 60+. We focused on the good in aging, specifically in taking time for and listening to others, which other generations struggle with. Designing programs for those older than ourselves is a new challenge, but the event was restful, informative, and by God’s grace appeared to meet needs. Dan and I loved it, too!

