

THE HARVESTER

FEBRUARY 2022



Dan & Heather Litchfield
Using the outdoors so that
people will know Christ and
live like Him

SOMETIMES YOU CATCH AND SOMETIMES YOU JUST FISH

Our goal was to offer a fun, evangelistic ice fishing day that would also build deeper relationships within families. This year we opted for creating a course that families could follow on their own with activities and relational question cards at each hole. If people followed the challenge course they would find themselves carrying each other or creating unique fish calls or asking a Thrive staff member to share their faith, while those on the question course would be

talking with their family members about favorite memories and future goals, what they admire in each other, and how they experience God. Before leaving they would receive give away bags that included copies of "More Than a Carpenter" and information about upcoming Thrive events. We were ready for the non-believers we invited and prayed would come.

In the end, only 15 people or so attended, all church-goers and

friends. Although we enjoyed seeing people, we were disappointed. We want our activities to be adventurous, memorable, and significant in moving people toward Christ. Did that happen? Was it of value?

I am reminded that in fishing it is God who brings the fish. Those who came seemed encouraged; they enjoyed fellowship and time with their families. God knows what is needed; I must trust He is at work. Our job is to be faithful and just keep fishing.

PLEASE PRAY FOR FRUIT FROM UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4-5 Dan and Joe lead a group of men on winter overnight and ascent up Mt. Katahdin. Please pray for their safety and their spiritual growth.

March 18-20 WFR Medical Recertification class for Dan and I.

March 25-26 Thrive Leadership Retreat for Imago Dei pastor and elders.

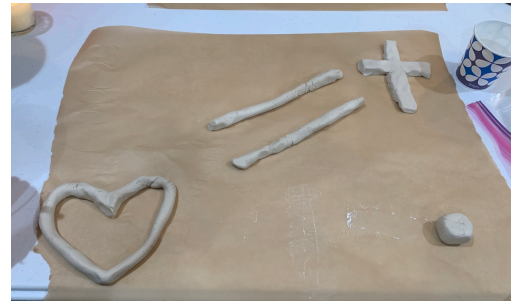
April 8-10 Women's Rest & Renewal Retreat. There is space available!



GOD MAKES THEM GROW

"I have no idea why am I talking so much," marveled one participant on our women's retreat, "I am usually silent at group events." I grinned. This young single mom had been invited by the friend of a friend and she had become increasingly real and vulnerable over the weekend. We learned that she had put her faith in Christ as a child but now only attended church when she was visiting her mom. We witnessed a remarkable transformation in 36 hours. At one

point she pulled me aside, Bible in hand, to ask if the Bible permitted a divorced woman to remarry. Her question was not accusatory; rather, it was that of a woman struggling to do what is right. That led to one of many deep discussions. "This is the most welcomed into a group of strangers that I have ever felt. This experience was amazing to connect and learn," she said in thanks. I pray that she will attend one of the churches we recommended and will continue to grow!



"This weekend was wonderful. Being with women with so much positivity and talking about not just their relationships with their family and each other, but how that impacts their relationship with God...I found that very powerful and inspiring," wrote one of the non-Christian women who came on our recent *How to thrive in Winter* retreat. Invited by a co-worker, it was apparent that the Lord had been pursuing this woman and her heart was

opening. On Saturday night we did an activity using clay to describe our relationship with God. She created the design above: a heart symbolizing herself on a path toward Christ. It was a perfect lead-in to the Gospel. Using her



clay we shared the Gospel message to show why Christ came and how he brings reconciliation through the cross. She was moved to tears and remained teary through the following morning. She is afraid to accept Christ because her husband is not into church. Please pray for her salvation and for the ongoing witness of her co-worker.

WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM?

As war rages between Russia and the Ukraine, our own fears rise: fears for the Ukrainians, fears for the world, fears about the future. Our interim pastor, Jacob Hansen, told us Sunday that "Gospel!" is what the Roman messengers would cry as they ran into town with the news of another Roman conquest. "The Gospel is victorious news to be heralded." While this world is at war, the Gospels bring us assurance of certain, complete victory under King Jesus. Need hope? Read Revelation 4 and compare that King to those of this earth. No contest.