

The Harvester

That All may know Christ and live in His likeness

“Be fruitful and multiply” – Genesis 1:28

It is our desire to help others become multipliers. This fall we are emphasizing evangelism training and creating witnessing communities. We also praise God for the two new babies born to thrive staff this past month!



Canoeing the Croix

For Dan and I, one of our greatest joys is leading Thrive trips together. With Dan's achilles' surgery and so many men's or women's events, we have not had much of an opportunity for that until July when we led a four day canoe trip for families. "Prioritizing What Matters" was the theme. Christian leaders tell us that God, family, and work should be prioritized in that order, but we struggle to live by that sequence. This was a chance to get away into the wilderness, unplug, and practice those priorities of intentionally connecting with God, spouse, and kids. It was not easy- anyone who canoes with a partner for the first time or battles 80 degree nights in a tent can attest to that- intentionally carving out time for God and working through conflict and fatigue with your kids is never easy. But, it is worth it. Just going into the wilderness as a family to focus on one another speaks volumes in terms of your commitment to each other, and the shared experiences alone are unifying. Over 50 miles and 20 caught fish, nightly campfire games, two waterfalls, 1,000 mosquitoes, and gorgeous sunsets... like life, there was good and bad. Half the kids wanted to add more days to the trip and one wanted to stop the first day. What a reflection of real life and what a perfect training ground! How do we trust in God when it is hard? How do we come to group decisions and allow everyone to be heard? How do we believe the best in each other? These were just a few of the issues we addressed. And that post trip dinner and ice cream never tasted so good. Would they do it again? Yes! Come with us next year!

Pray With Us

Please pray for co-worker,
Shawna's, full recovery

Pray for this month's men's event
and women's retreat to inspire
believers to share the Gospel

Pray for those who have attended
Thrive events this summer to
continue to pursue Christ

Pray for wisdom as I teach two co-
op classes: *CS Lewis Literature* and
the Bible and Social Issues

Pray for our local young adults as
we strive to build godly community



Night Hikes and a Sunset Paddle

We have been leading monthly evening events for young adults this summer, addressing decision making, priorities, and how to become who you want to be.

Desperate Prayers. Divine God.

Tragedy. Fear. Hope. Rejoicing. This month has been a whirlwind for our team, and particularly for our new staff family, the Ketters. Shawna was admitted to the hospital on July 17th to induce labor three weeks early. Five days later, swollen with preeclampsia, a healthy baby girl was delivered by C-section. The four older Ketter kids had been living with us since Shawna was admitted and we had no sooner dropped them off to see the baby than I got a call from Elliana, the oldest at fifteen, asking me to pray because Shawna and Craig had gone to the ICU. They were alone in the room with their new sister. Dan and I raced back to the hospital for one of the most harrowing experiences as Shawna descended into volume shock from uncontrolled internal bleeding. In the fight of her life, she was intubated, ventilated and Life-Flighted to Bangor. There she immediately underwent a six-hour surgery, the first of three over the next week. She went into cardiac arrest during the surgery as surgeons struggled to control bleeding and everything was complicated by the preeclampsia. But praise God who hears our prayers, she has survived! She spent a month in the hospital, coming home *this week*. Yesterday she was readmitted for an infection that is causing intense pain and high fevers. Please pray for Shawna and for Craig and the kids in this ongoing fight. Fortunately, Shawna's mom flew and the kids have taken amazing care of the baby. Many have stepped in to help with so many needs. If you would like to help financially, you can give directly to the Ketter's staff account online at thrivenational.org/donate.

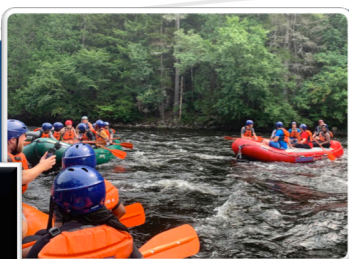


Home and Church

In July Dan tore a muscle in his back and spent a week prone in our living room.

That was quite a blow following the Achilles's surgery in April. Fortunately he is back on his feet and rafting. I have been busy at our church as the community coordinator. We hosted our first ever

Blueberry Festival this month as a community outreach and tonight we are following it up with an outdoor movie showing of "Courageous." Currently we can't find the remote... Emma is back at college in OH, Caleb's business, *Brrr!* Harbor, was in Downeast magazine, and Micah and Aliza (and I) start soccer and homeschool next week. May God bless you and yours in this changing season. Please let us know your prayer requests!



Paddling Trips

Intern, Carley, and new staff, Jess, created a great young adult paddle program which put us on the pond at night. It was eerily beautiful. When told to just paddle wherever they liked they were aimless. When they chose their own endpoint they quickly separated. By the third round, they were doubled up on boards with a single destination. Much laughter and encouragement ensued. How like life that is! We need people going in the same direction with us... We urged these kids to invest in the Body of Christ.

Speaking Life

"I can speak French." And by that, I meant, *I was a French major and at one point was pretty fluent but now remember next to nothing*. Even so, that was the catalyst that helped me connect with quiet Victoria, a high schooler who recently moved here from Africa, and whose native language I came to discover, was French. In truth, we are constantly trying to "speak the language" of those we serve. Early last week our staff guys were speaking into the lives of fathers and sons and later that week we were trying to connect with leaders and students from the Root Cellar, an inner-city mission. At the end of the week it was young adults on a sunset paddle trying to sort out who God is calling them to be. On Victoria's rafting trip, some of the group were Christians and some were Muslim. We focused on sacrifice and integrity as defining qualities of a good leader. Jesus is the prime example. Pray that these kids would follow Him.