

Thursday Night Prayer and Praise

By Andrew Sharp

The fourth Thursday night prayer and praise meeting was held Thursday, August 7 at LCF. Rob got part of the inspiration for the meetings from a prayer conference at Rosedale Bible College. He liked one of the models of prayer that was presented there. It integrated prayer and praise and promoted the use of scripture as a foundation for prayer, in a more casual and less structured environment.

“The idea was, I really wanted to have our church spend some time praying as a group, not just focused on individual prayer requests, but praying about the ministry of LCF. I just feel if we’re not asking God to work in what we’re doing, we’re sometimes kind of going out on our own,” Rob said.

So far, numbers have been low, with a few families represented at each meeting. The meeting usually starts with worship, and



then moves into prayer. The format varies, from confession, to splitting into small groups to pray, to scripture reading. “There are a variety of things we end up praying for, and praying to, God,” Rob said.

He added that despite the low attendance, he feels really good about the meetings. “I really do feel like the more serious we are about prayer the more effective our ministry is going to be.” These meetings are not the only place to pray for the church, he said, but he thought it would be good to start them and see how they go.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on Thursday, September 3 at the church.

Inside this Issue	
Thursday Night Prayer	1
Highlights from Conference 2009	1
Refreshed, Renewed, & Revived	2
Strength from Young Life	2
Getting to Know Tyler Knief	3
Fantasy Football 2009	3

Highlights from Conference 2009

By Elizabeth Diller

Every year member churches of Conservative Mennonite Conference come together for a weekend to reflect, reenergize and report on the past year. The theme in Kalona, Iowa this year was the providence of God.

Rosedale Mennonite Missions kicked off the weekend on Thursday evening with the Taste of Missions program. After an evening meal of beans and rice, RMM presented a fundraising project for their new building, reported on their current missionaries, and challenged CMC to be missions-minded. Those who biked in the Ride for Missions fundraiser were also recognized, among them LCF’s Marcus and Brenda Freed.

Women gathered together on Friday for a creatively written reader’s theater, “Poetic Reflections by Four Women of the Word.” Phyllis Swartz narrated and Sarah Miller, Joyce Helmuth, Lynette Showalter and Ardis Diller retold stories of Rebekah, Ruth, Elizabeth and Martha. Once each individual’s story was told, the four women came together Friday afternoon to weave the providence of

Continued on page 4

London Christian Fellowship
215 US Rt. 42 NE, London, OH 43140
(740) 852-4268

www.lcfweb.org

London Christian Fellowship seeks to develop authentic and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

Refreshed, Renewed, & Revived

A Message from the Pastor

By Rob Swartz



In July several of us from LCF had the opportunity to attend two conferences—Xenos Summer Institute in Columbus and Conservative Mennonite Conference in Kalona, Iowa. On the surface that may not sound too exciting, but I have found conferences like these to be places of refreshment, renewal, and revival.

Our ministries can be challenging and draining work. We can become tired, losing our vision and enthusiasm for what God has called us to do. Our creativity wanes and we settle into a mode of “just getting by.” Our views of what God is doing become quite narrow and we forget that He is doing great things all over the world.

What can we do about this fatigue? I have found that attending a good conference can be a great antidote. Elizabeth did a great job in her article describing highlights from Conservative Mennonite Conference, so I will share some about Xenos Summer Institute which I have attended the past several years.

Xenos is a church located in Columbus. The cost of their summer institute is low for a conference (only \$50 for three days of teaching). They bring in great speakers who speak to a wide variety of issues. The theme of this year’s conference was “The Call to Joy and Pain.” Joni Eareckson Tada and Ajith Fernando were the main speakers and they did an excellent job of tackling this challenging topic. There were also talks on outreach, youth ministry, fighting pornography, and leading small groups, among others.

The significant amount of input at a conference can make you feel like you are drinking from a fire hose. Even so, I have found such times to be invigorating experiences. I come away with a renewed passion and vision for what God has asked me to do. I am challenged to grow in areas of weakness. I am encouraged by the amazing work that God is doing through other people around the world. My vision is stretched with new ideas from other people and ministries.

I have often gone to the Xenos institute alone, but this year it was great to have several from LCF come with me. We had a good time together and discussed what we were hearing and how we should respond.

I encourage you to begin making plans now to attend a conference next year like Xenos Summer Institute (July 21-23, 2010) or Conservative Mennonite Conference (July 29 – August 1, 2010). If you’re up for a challenge, go to both! Take some friends and soak in some great teaching, awesome testimonies, and new ideas. I believe that you will come away with new strength to carry out the ministry that God has given you.

Strength from Young Life

By Andrew Sharp

Life in high school and college can be like whitewater rafting. One minute it’s great and the next minute there are sudden and urgent challenges that can’t be ignored. In both cases, any helpful resource can be very welcome. For Cole Schrock, an organization called Young Life has been that kind of a resource, helping him stay strong in his faith at Jonathan Alder High School and providing him with support and friendship.

Young Life is a ministry that seeks to introduce young people to Jesus in high school and college, when they are facing big questions about who they are and where they are going in life. Leaders in the program, often college students, mentor the participants and provide teaching in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. At Jonathan Alder, Christian students in Young Life meet on Monday nights for a bible study. On Wednesday evenings, the members invite their friends, Christian and non-Christian, to hang out in a park for fun and a time of teaching. There are also various weekend trips.

“It’s been really good for me, especially last year,” Cole said. One benefit was that it connected him to friends who could support him. “I have a lot more friends now,” he said. “I think it’s brought a lot of us closer to each other.”

Another advantage is having a resource for timely advice. Cole said they talk about things that happen at school and in teens’ lives. “It helps us to see what we do wrong so that we can fix it.” Another benefit, he said, is that it helps in reaching out to nonbelievers at school. A couple of students come to faith in Christ last year through the program. “That was really cool,” Cole said.

He plugged into the program through an act of kindness from one of the members. On the first day of his junior year, he accidentally left his car’s lights on all day. Not surprisingly, his car wouldn’t start. It just so happened that another student had left her lights on, and a guy was helping her jump her car. He offered to jump Cole’s car as well. When that didn’t work, the student gave Cole a ride home. As they talked on the way, he invited Cole to come to Young Life.

Now Cole plans to continue with Young Life at college, too. “So I can keep growing in Christ and everything...it really helps with that,” he said. “And it will help introduce me to new people and make friends in college once I get there.”

With that kind of resource, maybe the challenges of college will be less hazardous and more of an adventure.

Getting to Know... *Tyler Knief*



What's your favorite food?

I'm simple. Just a regular pepperoni pizza.

What event do you look forward to the most every year?

The Ohio State-Michigan game. Spending time with friends and ordering pizzas or something, trying to get a couple of Michigan people over there in case OSU whips up on them.

What are some of your hobbies?

Hunting—deer, squirrel, rabbit. Sports activities, like golfing, softball, and basketball.

If you could take a trip anywhere, where would you go?

To a warm beach where the water is clear and I can see all the way to the bottom.

What was your favorite subject in school?

Math. I'm really good with memorization and arithmetic...I didn't really necessarily like geometry and trigonometry, more algebra.

What's something you've always wanted to do?

Take a year and just travel. To help with missions or do some volunteer work all around America or other countries. Just to be free for a year to just do whatever.

What kind of music do you like?

I'm not really picky. It just depends on the mood I'm in. Country.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Hopefully settled in my career, maybe getting ready to start a family...all the good stuff. Maybe in five years, maybe in ten years, I don't know. Five years from now I'd like to see where my lawn-care business would go. I would like to eventually have some employees, or do more of the business side than some of the menial labor. I'd like to expand it into a decent-sized company where I could support myself.

Fantasy Football 2009

The LCF fantasy football league on Yahoo begins soon. If you want to join, the league ID 261883, and the password is ohio. The draft will be held sometime in the upcoming weeks before the season, although an exact date has not been set. If you have any questions, contact Richard Troyer.



Here's how the teams finished last year:

1. Brian Rauch (HarleyOwner)
2. Kevin Swartz (The Real Ftball Team)
3. Steve Swartz (London Killer Bees)
4. Phil Elfrink (DawgPoundcominsoon)
5. Richard Troyer (Stones of Bethlehem)
6. Phil Hostetler (BAHT man)
7. Ryan Freed (airgrizzlys)
8. John Reninger (The Justice League)
9. Charley Gregg (Darby Paydirt)
10. Gary Hoffman (Fantasy Crushers)
11. Tyler Knief (UnderDawGs)
12. Justin Helmuth (The Big Chalupa)
13. Joe Grady (JOEGRADYPROMISES16-0)
14. David Swartz (S. Bend Wrath of God)
15. Jeff/Cody Helmuth (Benchwarmers)
16. Chris Grady (YOUR ALL JOKES)

God throughout scripture's history. While the women were meeting, Jay Shetler addressed the men on the topic of "Hurried Sickness."

At the youth sessions, about 200-300 youth gathered in the auditorium for energetic worship and speaking. Phil Weber, a faculty member at Rosedale Bible College, gave several talks. These included "Peace: Trusting in the Mystery of God's Providence," "Purpose: Taking up our Mission in God's Providence," and "Praise: Turning in to the Majesty of God's Providence."

Several times throughout the weekend everyone met together and heard messages from Dr. Timothy Erdel, Brian Hershburger, Adin Miller and Dan Byler. Every session was laced with music—a hymn sing, string music, chorale music, or quartet songs. At each session there was also a dramatic vignette on the life of Joseph. Each vignette brought a clearer picture of the providence of God through Joseph's life.

New to the CMC weekend was the "Café" group. The Café was for college-aged people and featured discussion tables, worship times, sharing and games in a coffee shop setting.

Another new twist was live art. Mark Gingerich used his artistic gift to create a visual picture of the providence of God. All Saturday Mark painted on a raised platform to the side of the main stage. People watched during sessions, worship, announcements and free time as Mark continually depicted the life of Joseph on canvas. To close Saturday evening's session the painting was auctioned off, with the proceeds going to CMC, RMM, and RBC.

On Saturday there were workshops on topics ranging from "Mining Biblical Treasures" to "Church Planting in Uganda." Those who attended "Matthew Parties: Hospitality with a Purpose" with LCF's Rob and Doris Swartz walked away with creative ideas for reaching out to the people around them.

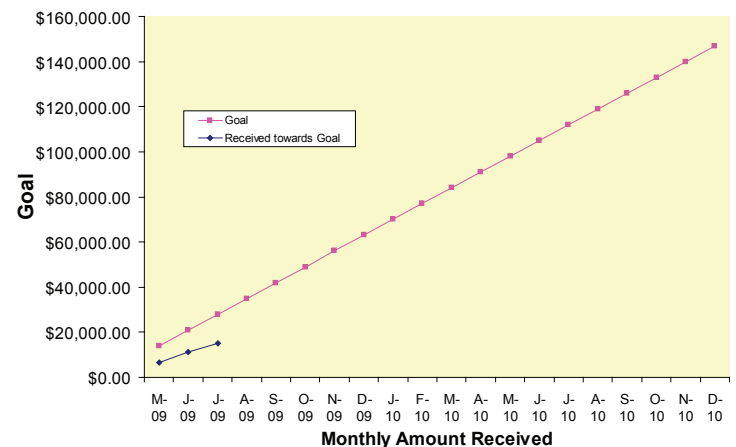
Next year's conference will be on the campus of Cedarville University near Xenia, Ohio. Put the date on your calendar to join in as CMC celebrates 100 Years of God's Faithfulness July 29-August 1, 2010.



Thicker Fuller Hair: Part of the new marketing strategy to improve the church's image in the community.

Building Fund Goal Update

\$150,000 needed by December 2010 in order to break ground



Thank you for your gifts so far to the building fund. As you can see from the graph, we are not where we'd like to be but the line is climbing. Pray that God would continue to provide the necessary funds in His way and time.

The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship

If you'd like to make comments on any of the stories or "LCF Connection" in general, email us at: connection@lcfweb.org.

Editor: Andrew Sharp; Layout: Doris Swartz