

*“I have come that
they may have **Life**
and have it more abundantly.”*

John 10:10

Pursuing Your Purpose With a Passion

By Sam Gingerich, Administrator



Recently while hiking with my son in the Colorado mountains, we made sure to stop at a castle situated alongside a national forest called Bishop’s Castle. Completely built of stone gathered in the nearby area, it is a huge structure with the highest tower at 160 feet. What began as a house for the Bishop family turned into a project that has taken decades to build—all by one man, Jim Bishop. Today at 77, he sits and enjoys watching the crowds come to admire his work. What motivated him to keep building all these years? He wanted to show the world what one man can do, all by himself.

Leaving there, I reflected on what motivates me. Where do I get my purpose? What on earth am I here for? The acrostic ALIVE—“Always Living In View of Eternity” came to mind.

Having a purpose is one of the core longings God has put into each of us. God said to Adam, “Be fruitful, take dominion, be responsible with what I have given you.” God’s Word gives me perspective of what matters to Him. Perspective influences my response to the everyday challenges and decisions that come my way. And my response to any given situation always influences the outcome, regardless of circumstances.

When we do not live our lives with clarity of purpose, we flounder, we find motivation lacking, and we tend to get into mischief. But when I see individuals with purpose, I see motivation. I see empowered people who become movers and shakers in what matters in life.

When I pondered this question out loud at home the other day, Matthew, who continues his healing journey with a brain tumor diagnosis, immediately said, “To bring glory to God.” In his struggle for survival, his

perspective of life and what matters has crystalized.

Never take your eyes off the big picture—“ALIVE.” When we encounter difficult situations, our tendency is to focus on what is in front of us. I have been on these paths before and, yes, it is hard for the moment—it could even get worse—but we will get through this. Ultimately, it’s going to be okay. If we reframe and contextualize the situation into a larger narrative and bigger picture, we live with much more hope.

When I sit with people who have the larger picture in view, who have a history of working through the hard things and have learned problem solving, I see deep levels of trust, great faith, and emotional regulation—a steady calm in the midst of the storm.

Jesus calls us to resilience and hope: “In this world you will have tribulation, but take heart, I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33 NLT). The Apostle Peter also reminds us: “There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while” (1 Pet. 1:6 NLT).

Jim Bishop was passionate about his purpose to show the world what one man can do. What motivates your purpose?

THANK YOU For your prompt and generous response to our matching fund challenge! Our fund challenge has been met in full. The matching fund challenge helps significantly in a season when donations are generally down and allows us to continue investing in the lives and hearts of our clients. We are very grateful to you, our faithful supporters. God bless you!

Night of Music

Ephrata Business Center
400 W Main Street, Ephrata, PA

Sunday, October 17, 2021 | 6:00 PM



Amos Raber Family



Amberson Quartet



Daryl Petersheim Family

Come enjoy an evening of instrumental gospel music. No registration required.
A freewill offering will be received to benefit Life Counseling Ministries.

A Faith Walk

By Elaine Yoder, Counselor



I hear a lot of weary voices in my world – many people feeling weary of COVID-19 and all the mitigation efforts that the virus has brought to us. Strong opinions for or against efforts to minimize the virus swirl around us in our conversations. One seeming certainty is the un-

certainty of so many things about this pestilence, including the origins of the virus and the responses we as believers in Jesus need to follow.

It is easy for me to assume that the people close to Jesus during the time of the gospels would be aware of God's presence in their world. A recent study of the life and experience of John the Baptist reminds me that uncertainty about the presence and actions of God isn't new to the people of God.

We meet John the Baptist in ministry in the first chapter of the Gospel of John. A careful reading of the passage reveals subtle glimpses of his uncertainty about Jesus' identity. "I did not know Him," John says, but he was told that a sign of the dove descending and resting on Jesus would reveal Jesus' messianic identity to him. John needed to see and believe.

John certainly would have known the family stories about his own miraculous birth, how his father was unable to speak when he doubted the angel's message announcing the birth of a son. The account of Mary spending time with his mother and the movement of the Spirit in his prenatal fetus adds to understanding the works of God in his life story. All these miraculous signs, while providing a sense of the presence of God,

required faith to believe these acts were ushering in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah.

I remember the morning I was moved to tears as I read the account of John the Baptist in prison. He sent some of his disciples to question Jesus: "Are you the One, or do we look for another?" What a stunning question! Here was the man with a miraculous birth who identified himself as the prophetic "voice of one crying in the wilderness." What a brave, courageous question to pose to Jesus. John wanted to know with certainty. It seemed like life was not proceeding as he had expected. His faith wavered.

Was Jesus' response satisfying to John? Jesus did not give a forthright answer. He replied by recounting the prophetic miracles he had done, thus calling John to lean into faith. Shortly thereafter, John died a martyr's death.

Today we are called to the same walk of faith. We feel the uncertainty in our own humanity as the world darkens. Many in our culture are shifting away from the biblical ethics that, I believe, have sustained and brought prosperity to our nation. I believe Jesus is not chiding us, just as he did not chide John for his questions, but is calling us to walk in faith.

God is at work, calling us to listen with spiritual ears and see with spiritual eyes. Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus identified the "burning" in their hearts when they recognized the presence of Jesus, so we need attunement to the ways the Lord shows us His presence.

The coronavirus requires us to live carefully, responsibly, and purposefully while inviting us to look beyond the here and now. It draws our hearts to reaffirm God's faithfulness as He invites us to participate in the grand story of redemption He is telling. Often, in unexpected ways, our hearts burn with the knowledge of Jesus' presence with us. We can be sustained through our faith as we trust a faithful God in uncertain times.

Rocky Mt. Men's Retreat



I thank God for this amazing experience at the Rocky Mt. Men's Retreat.

We left the Spokane airport and drove two hours to the trail head in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. There we met some wonderful men who did an excellent job setting up camp, packing our supplies, cooking really good food, supplying horses and tents, and sharing devotions and stories with everyone at camp.

Sam Gingerich has been a part of this retreat for approximately 15 years and had two topics per day on the man's heart. I really appreciate Sam for teaching, counseling, and encouraging men to be followers of Jesus.

Twice we rode our horses to the top of the Rocky Mountains. It was amazing. As Sam was having sessions with us on top of the mountain, my thoughts went to the song, "For the God of the mountain, is still God in the valley... Don't lose faith, 'cause you are never alone."

It was also special to spend a few hours alone with God on top of the mountain. As we were rode on the trails, through mountain streams, across the valleys, among the fir trees, the song "How Great Thou Art" came to my mind often.

The sharing times with the men were great. I was with men from all over the United States and was reminded that we need to have Jesus Christ #1 in our lives, then our families, children, and church. We need to be an encouragement to those we meet and not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The most impactful part for me on this trip was on the last day before we left camp. We took the opportunity to honor each other. We did not know each other before we came to the retreat, but I left there having made new friends.

- Wish you God's blessings, Sam I. Fisher

Father/Son Retreat

"Praise God for this wonderful event. I really appreciated the unity of oneness in the Holy Spirit and all the father/son connections and the father-with-father sharing and encouragement that I experienced. Keep up the great job with coordinating the event." - (a dad)

"A good place for fathers and sons to build a relationship." - (a son)

PRAY FOR...

- Physical, spiritual, and emotional strength for staff as they care for clients
- Matt Gingerich's ongoing health journey
- The upcoming seminars and Counselor Training Workshop (Core 1, Lab 1)
- Clients struggling with depression and anxiety

PRAISE GOD FOR...

- His faithfulness in providing all we need
- His Holy Spirit that quietly, yet deeply, changes people's hearts
- Our faithful supporters who pray for us and give financially
- Good connections, safety, and lots of fun on the Father/Son Retreat and Rocky Mt. Men's Retreat

Letting Go: A Portrait of a Woman at Rest

offers married women practical biblical tips for life and marriage. This course involves daily interactive emails, one group Zoom call per week, and journaling homework. Coaches: Cathie Gingerich and Sharon Kuepfer.

Next Class: Oct. 11 - Nov. 22, 2021

For more information contact Brenda at the office.

Email: bhershberger@life-ministries.com

Phone: 717-871-0540

"I love the course, the ideas, and being in a space with other ladies who are struggling in the same ways with two wonderfully encouraging coaches.

Most of all, I love the results! This is the type of thing I have wanted for awhile." - Class Participant



Ten-Course Subjects Offered

- **Core 1, Lab 1** – Nov. 18-20, 2021;
Jan. 20-22, 2022; Mar. 17-19, 2022
- **Counseling the Sexually Abused***
Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2021
- **Marriage & Family*** – November 1-3, 2021
- **Biblical Interpretation*** – February 2-4, 2022

Contact the office if you wish to sign up for any of these courses.

*Prerequisite course: Core 1, Lab 1

2021 Upcoming Events

- **Night of Music** – October 17, 2021
- **Appreciation Banquet** – March 28, 2022

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Do you want to help reduce our costs? Those with email can receive the quarterly newsletter as a pdf. To make this change, email us at bhershberger@life-ministries.com. Please include name and mailing address.



Life Counseling
MINISTRIES

250 Meadow Lane
Conestoga, PA 17516

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1746
LANCASTER, PA

CONTACT US

Address: 250 Meadow Lane, Conestoga PA 17516
Phone: 717-871-0540
Fax: 717-871-0547
Email: info@life-ministries.com
Website: www.life-ministries.com

Spring Garden Office
5207 Old Philadelphia Pike, Kinzers, PA 17535
(GPS Only. Do not mail to this address.)

Life Counseling Ministries is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established to provide counseling for individuals, marriages, families, and church leaders. LCM also offers training and teaching through workshops and seminars. This newsletter is published quarterly and is available to interested persons at no cost.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lynn Zimmerman, *Chairman* Glenn Hoover, *Treasurer/Director of Development*
Titus Martin, *Asst. Chairman* Kevin Hahn, *Asst. Treasurer*
Nevin Beiler, *Secretary* John Fisher, *Board Member*
Ken Kauffman, *Asst. Secretary*

STAFF

Sam & Cathie Gingerich, *Administrator/Counselors* Michael Hochstetler, *Counselor*
James Mast, *Counselor/Maintenance/Hospitality* Dave Myer, *Counselor*
Norma Martin, *Office Manager* Amy Wagler, *Counselor*
Brenda Hershberger, *Office Assistant* Elaine Yoder, *Counselor*
Katrina Driver, *Receptionist* Naomi Zimmerman, *Counselor*
Hannah Beiler, *Counselor* Joshua Strickler, *Internship Leave*
Darla Hackman, *Counselor*