

## God's Whisper

*Sam Gingerich, Administrator*



As we come to the end of another calendar year, we reflect on the many people that have come to Life Counseling Ministries. We have been granted the privilege to walk alongside individuals as they look at their story and process events in their lives. People need care, support, and counsel.

But our greatest call is helping people move into spaces in their heart where they can hear from the Lord. Weary and exhausted, what they deeply long for is beyond what man has to offer.

We get glimpses of this in Scripture—men like David pleading to hear from the Lord and then proclaiming, “The heavens declare the glory of the Lord.” Moses on Mt. Sinai, completely worn out in his leadership role, telling God, “Unless I see your glory I cannot continue.”

Elijah, in an epic story of great faith in action, calls for a showdown on Mt. Carmel between the false prophets and their god and Elijah and his God. All in just a few days, this scene unfolds in 1 Kings 18-19. First he proclaims to the people, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” By evening, God showed up by sending fire onto the altar and then sent rain to end the 3 ½-year drought. Because of his great faith, Elijah’s role as God’s voice gave him a front row seat to seeing God’s power.

But the next scene to this story shows Elijah running for his life after receiving a message from Jezebel. In debilitating fear and depression he ends up on Mt. Sinai, alone and in desperate need of hearing from the Lord. While Elijah was in the cave, in need of a touch, God sent a strong wind, an earthquake, and fire; but Elijah lingered in the cave. It was a gentle breeze, a quiet whisper, that drew Elijah out of the darkness. Here Elijah had his moment with

God – the only One who could revive his faith and bring him back into the battle.

Several truths from this story frequently play out in hurting people’s lives. People often feel alone and abandoned in their valley, but also tend to push away friends and loved ones who can actually help them. As caregivers, some of our best work (like the angel with Elijah) is helping clients prepare for an encounter with God. Hurting individuals need a special touch, a word from God; and too often I have thought they need to hear what I have to say.

Reflecting on my current grief journey, I see depths of pain and sorrow and anguish that no word from another individual can ever cure. It doesn’t minimize the incredible gift the presence of my friends have been. It is simply the awareness that only a word from God will be sufficient to meet the searing pain and the questions that surface.

As a lad, I often heard my mother singing while in the kitchen or at the sewing machine: “I need no mansion here below...” In her teenage years, she lost her father and a sister in tragic accidents and later an older brother when she was in her early twenties. The first stanza reflects her testimony and left an indelible impact on her son.

*When burdens come so hard to bear, that no earthly  
friend can share,  
Tears drive away the smiles and leave my heart in pain.  
Then my Lord from heaven above, speaks to me  
in tones of love,  
Wipes the tears away and makes me smile again.*

The questions counselors must ask is this, “What is God about in this person’s life? How can I participate in what God is up to in this person’s story?” We do fill an important role as we sit and listen and help guide the conversation. The most important is simply to invite God into our time together and then to listen for His quiet whisper.

# PEACE AND JOY *from our hearts*



**Back Row L-R:** Joshua Strickler, Dave Myer, Adam Lehigh, James Mast, Sherilyn Mast **Middle Row L-R:** Elaine Yoder, Norma Martin, Lonita Wise, Naomi Zimmerman, Cathie Gingerich, Sam Gingerich, Amy Wagler, Hannah Beiler, Michael Hochstetler, Brenda Hershberger  
**Front Row L-R:** Abby Lambright, Katrina Driver, Darla Hackman, Lorinda Newcomer

## Fare Ye Well, Norma!

*Elaine Yoder, Counselor*

*Norma Martin has served in the LCM office since its inception in 1989. Over the past 30 years, she has worked under 3 different administrators, served multiple counselors and innumerable clients, and navigated the changing technology. She plans to retire from LCM by the end of the year. We are deeply grateful for her invaluable contribution behind the scenes. May God fully reward this faithful servant!*

Norma, how can it be more than 2 decades ago that you were giving me a ride in your trusty little car to an unknown part of Lancaster County to scope out the new site for Life Ministries? Life was changing for Life Ministries, but it was changing for you too, working and living down in the 'river hills.' You have ridden the wave of change so well many times in your tenure of service to Life Ministries.

The words faithfulness, steady, and trustworthy are fitting description for your life of service to Life Ministries. Over the decades, when the doors were open for clients, you were there, rain or shine. Your face behind the front desk, your voice answering the calls characterized Life Ministries presentation to the world. It was your confidential and steady presence that offered assurance to uncertain clients.

You have been the anchor that has kept the mechanism of Life Counseling Ministries running smoothly. As the ministry grew and technology became a more essential part of the office, you learned the skills needed to master the ever-increasing demands of a growing ministry. You taught me many things about navigating the technology skills I needed. I am so grateful.

Not often, but every now and then, you would take one of your exotic trips to distant places in the world, and of course, your camera went with you. You came back with these fantastic and beautiful photos that documented the loveliness of the places you visited. I hope you will find ways to share the beauty you captured.

Thank you, Norma, for your faithful service that has supported and assisted all of us to flourish at Life Counseling Ministries. I pray and hope for the Lord's faithful direction in your life as you move on to other ventures.



arts to yours! .....



**Executive Board**

**Back L-R:** Titus Martin, Nevin Beiler, **Front L-R:** Kenneth Kauffman, Glenn Hoover, Lynn Zimmerman, Kevin Hahn; **Not pictured:** John Fisher

**PRAYER & PRAISE**

- Thank God for Abby & Lorinda who have joined the office team. Pray for them as they adjust to this new role.
- Pray for Sam & Cathie in their ongoing grief journey.
- Thank God that Sam, Cathie, & Amy could travel to Bogota, Colombia to teach the Core 1 material to GTO staff. Pray it will impact in good ways.
- Thank God for the current Core 1/Lab 1 student group and pray this experience could be a means of growth for all involved.
- Thank God for Norma's 30+ years of service at LCM and pray for His continued blessing and provision for her.

**Meet Our New Staff**



**Abby Lambright**  
*Receptionist*

I was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the second to youngest of ten children. In July of 2022, I married my husband Aaron and we now live in East Earl, PA.

In my relatively short life, I've completed several terms at Bible school, participated in kids' ministries, traveled, worked in market stands, cashiered, been a nanny, and worked as an executive assistant. I've loved all these opportunities to grow and expand my skill set!

When I was 6 months old, my family moved to Romania where we lived for 10 years. Reflecting on my family's time in Romania, I am grateful for the unique opportunity I was given to experience life with people from a different cultural background than mine. Although I was young when we returned to the US, I know this experience laid a foundation for my world view.

At 19, I went for counseling because I was desperate to find freedom from the depression and anxiety that was part of my life for many years. Through my experience, I learned to begin embracing and processing my emotions instead of stuffing them. I realized I was believing many lies about God and began the slow, painful journey of replacing those lies with truth – a journey I am still on.

I enjoy engaging in a variety of activities. From an early age, my parents instilled in me a love for travel and reading. I also find fulfillment in spending time with my favorite people, organizing, doing office work, playing word games, babysitting, and serving in kids' ministry. I am privileged to be on staff at a Bible club that takes place in a local elementary school once a week for about a semester each school year. Spending time with these kids brings me incredible joy while stretching my patience and making me cry out to God for wisdom.

I feel very privileged to be joining the team at Life Counseling Ministries! I look forward to learning all that God wants to teach me during this season.



**Lorinda Newcomer**  
*Secretary*

Hello! I'm Lorinda Newcomer, the newest staff at Life Counseling Ministries!

I grew up in the beautiful state of Maine. When I was 20, I moved to Northwestern Ontario to serve with Northern Youth Programs. While working in domestics, the First Nation's people found a deep

spot in my heart. After four years, I sensed God leading me back home to Maine.

In 2018, I returned to Ontario to serve with NYP again, this time as a youth worker. I enjoyed that role for three years and then moved out to a small reservation called Slate Falls where I lived for a year. To do life in that setting was a dream come true. While building relationships was a highlight, I found myself wishing for more tools as I heard deep stories of pain. And that is how I found myself moving from Ontario to Pennsylvania to take LCM's Counselor Training Workshop. In God's providence, at the same time I was looking for a job, LCM was also looking for a secretary. You can probably figure out the rest of the details! I am excited to work and learn in this setting!

## Ten-Course Subjects Offered

- **Core 1, Lab 1**

January 12 - 14, 2023 - FULL

March 2 - 4, 2023 - FULL

- **Core 2, Lab 2**

April 10-21, 2023

Registration now open. Prerequisite: Core 1/Lab 1

## 2023 Upcoming Events

- **Annual Banquet** - March 27, 2023

Registration opens January 2, 2023

- **Father/Son Retreat** - Date TBA

Registration opens March 1, 2023

- **Rocky Mt. Men's Retreat** - Aug. 5-9, 2023

Registration opens March 1, 2023

- **Core 1, Lab 1 for 2023-2024** - Dates TBA

Registration opens April 1, 2023



**Life Counseling**  
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250 Meadow Lane  
Conestoga, PA 17516

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## CONTACT US

Address: 250 Meadow Lane, Conestoga, PA 17516

Phone: 717-871-0540

Fax: 717-871-0547

Email: [info@life-ministries.com](mailto:info@life-ministries.com)

Website: [www.life-ministries.com](http://www.life-ministries.com)

Spring Garden Office

5207 Old Philadelphia Pike, Kinzers, PA 17535

(GPS Only. Do not mail to this address.)

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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.