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WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT....

I pray that this year has been a year of transformation for you. Through all the circumstances you encountered this year, including those trials and events beyond your control and the result of your own decisions, you experienced the reality that Christ is more than enough. Hopefully you experienced God as bigger than your circumstance and your decisions.

What if the "able to do exceedingly abundantly" in one's life is primarily us being conformed into the image of His Son Jesus Christ. What would it mean to you if God's will and pleasure is not the work you do for God, but rather God's work within us, transforming us into the image of Christ.

In short, **"God is not primarily concerned about the work you do for Him, but the work you are yielding Him to do in you."**

Please enjoy the writing of three special people in our lives here at LMT. Heather and Bradley Hutson tell of their experience of "Abundant Living" on the other side of Freedom. Elise Wilkes perfectly captures the "Supernatural Power" experienced in a Holy Spirit led, biblically-based small group fellowship. The small group dynamic is one of the main passions of LMT. It has been and continues to be "special Fridays" when the "Bridge ladies" arrive.

Thank you to each one who by your friendship, prayers, and financial support partner with us here at LMT. Truly, we could not do this powerful and transforming work without each of you.

Thank you to each of the staff of LMT. It's so special to have a front row seat in watching how Ginny Johnson, Connie Cobb and Larry Watkins are enjoying and growing in ministry here at LMT.

What a joy it is to observe their own personal transformation. It is impossible to share the truths of "Life in Abundance" and "Christ is Life" without being transformed oneself. Teresa Hogarth, it would be difficult at best without you and your own ministry at LMT. Not only in administration of the office, but in your own relationship with all that come through daily. What a Great Team.

As you consider year-end giving. Would you put LMT on your prayer list and consider partnering with us in sharing the Supernatural truth of "Life and Life in Abundance!?"

Remember, LMT is a 501(c)(3). All gifts to Life Ministries Today are tax deductible.

Thank you!

President
Bruce Hogarth

FREEDOM JOURNEY

From Heather:

Five years ago, I started my journey of discipleship counseling with Bruce to find more freedom in my walk with Jesus. What started as a desire to parent my children in a healthier way is still a part of my story and a process that I am deep in the trenches of. My son who prompted the brokenness in my heart for my own sin was 12 at the time I began. He is now 16.

I can say that he wouldn't be who he is today if I hadn't worked on my own junk because I would not have parented him the way I have the past 4 years. I praise God for that!! Bradley and I chose to have 5 kiddos and I am quite sure that the Lord is using each one in our stories and teaching us new ways of abiding more closely with our Heavenly Father.

Recently I was asked to fill in for a friend and lead a Bible Study that I have been asked to teach and lead several times in the past. I've never felt a peace about helping lead in the past, and the Lord has repeatedly made it clear that the time wasn't right. When I was asked again to sub recently, I felt the Lord saying "yes". So, I went and lead. In years past I would have been nervous leading up to it, getting shaky, voice quivering and having that dry feeling in my mouth. That was not the case this time. Leading up to it I felt 100% at peace and not a nervous bone in my body. Gathering with these women was not the nervous type of energy I had felt in the past, but a joy and excitement to share more about who our Father is! Once it was over, I got in the car and prayed. Within a few quiet minutes the Lord clearly told me now is the time, this is something I want you to step into co-leading this gathering of young moms.

Whenever anyone asks for parenting advice, I tell moms the best thing you can do for your children (apart from walking with our Heavenly Father) is to engage in Holy Spirit-lead discipleship-counseling to deal with your own junk, get healthy emotionally and spiritually, and be available to lead your kids from a place of freedom!



From Bradley:

Prior to spending time with Bruce, I would have told you I didn't need the approval of those around me. I thought I was "comfortable in my own skin" and confident in who I was...but the way I lived my life told a different story. Without realizing it, I was living from a place of shame and not a place of freedom. If someone was disappointed with me, or if I had hurt them in any way, thoughts of how I could clear my name and earn their approval would occupy my mind for way too long. Once I accepted the perfect love of my Father, my preoccupation with being accepted by others took a backseat.

During a recent workplace conversation, I was accused of some substantial leadership failures that were not true. In the past I would have immediately began defending myself and letting the person know they misunderstood the situation or didn't have the full picture or were simply wrong. Keep in mind, I would have done all this under the false and seemingly noble cause of "seeking the truth" but I have since learned that I was actually trying to prove that I was worthy of this person's approval and love. Instead of responding in shame, this time I listened and took notes and let the person know that I would like to meet soon to better understand their position. No rebuttal, no convincing, no arguing. Why? Because I knew these accusations weren't true and I know that what my Heavenly Father says about me is infinitely more important than what this person was saying about me! We ended up having a productive conversation and I genuinely believe our relationship is stronger now than it was before the accusations were made. God is good!



THE BRIDGE LADIES: THE CALL TO COMMUNITY

A Life Group was formed over 15 years ago and might as well have been coined the isle of misfit toys as we were trying to piece our lives back together. We fondly named ourselves **"The Bridge Ladies"** as it carried multi-faceted meaning. We were building bridges seeking a healthy community. We were burning unhealthy bridges (forgetting what lies behind and pressing on ... Philippians 3:13). We were learning healthy boundaries as we let go of some things and strengthened other things.

Our group was formed with the hope of being conformed to Christ's image as we individually and collectively examined the fabric of our lives. We were working out our salvation with fear and trembling. Our journeys were very different and surprisingly similar. Many of our wounds were gaping, severe, and raw. Others were in shock and the journey had scarcely begun; yet, each of us shared a fierce determination to walk in freedom (Galatians 5:1) and experience the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10. Was the sign on the threshold to Life Ministries true? The Bridge Ladies were going to find out.

Shared Stories

The launch was handled carefully. Every journey is sacred. We initially scratched the surface with questions like, "How did you discover LMT?, Who brought you?, What are you learning?" Overtime, the iceberg underneath began to surface as piece by piece, our beliefs, fears, shame, guilt, and trauma were explored.

OOPS! The Trigger

Community is both stunningly beautiful and frighteningly messy. On any given Friday, tears can be heard from the halls, laughter erupts, and silence follows. Wouldn't we all like to be the fly on the wall to observe the swinging gamut of emotions from 8 ladies walking through life together?

There are Fridays where at least one of us ran — either physically or emotionally. We met our passive-aggressive flesh, sometimes we withdrew, but ultimately we persevered. We walked through "it" together. Sometimes we brought Bruce in to give us some whiteboard time. You too may know that board well. We did not always enjoy seeing the infinity diagram that depicted the "crazy cycle" of relationships. ("Tell us something we don't know!", as we squirmed in our community reality.) A trigger had occurred; forgiveness was exercised; healing followed; a community crisis was avoided. The parting hugs and familiar words, "Enjoy your weekend!"

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Shared Joy and Grief

- Reflections from the life of Paul through the lens of community.

Some days and seasons, we are stuck. One Bridge Lady described her season as encountering a concrete, impassable wall. We encouraged her to just stand. Ephesians 6:13-14 declares, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." She pressed on. We flanked her. The landscape of the group on any given Friday beautifully depicts the body of Christ at work, alongside one another like Aaron and Hur holding up Moses during battle — championing, challenging, supporting, and praying. The Word of God is living and active and shows up every Friday!

Shared Victory

- The fruit of walking in freedom is beautiful.

Countenances are changed, feelings are being healed, captive beliefs are replaced with life-giving messages. The struggle is worth it. "My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you." Galatians 4:19



The Encourager:

Paul loved the Philippians. He thanked God for every memory.

The Exhorter:

He challenged the Galatians to not foolishly put themselves back under the law. At any given time, the Bridge Ladies were legalists in recovery.

The Doctrine Protector:

Romans was Paul's treatise to know, to walk in, and be transformed by truth. The Apostle John tempers doctrine with the reminder he had "no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4.

The Pursuer:

"The best answer is a good question." The piercing inquiry is a gift in any situation as a desire to seek knowledge and understanding, knowing He "rewards those who seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). She knows Psalm 73 well — the tension of the soul that ultimately lands in the sanctuary of God. We call her "the soul whisperer."

CONT. | THE BRIDGE LADIES: THE CALL TO COMMUNITY

The Perspective Giver:

1 Peter 5:6-11 reminds us that suffering is not permanent, we have an enemy (the devil), God Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you. And to Him be the glory!

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen."
1 Peter 5:6-11

The Practitioner:

This person offers tools for the journey. Put off the old, put on the new, walk wisely. Be imitators of God.

The Observer:

This person is content to listen, hears beneath the words, sees beyond the body language. Each one leaves seen, heard, known, and valued.

Together, "... we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18

God uses every gift to accomplish His purposes in His time.

Elise Wilkes

Meet Our Team



Discipleship Counselors

- Bruce Hogarth, President.
- Connie Cobb
- Larry Watkins
- Ginny Johnson

Office Administration

- Teresa Hogarth

REASONS TO CELEBRATE



228 clients seen



87 NEW clients
out of the 228



1,380 Hrs of
counseling



2 couples
Pre-Marital
sessions



1 wedding
officiated

AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER WITH LMT

OUR MISSION

To walk alongside individuals, couples and families through the process that encourages them to know and experience freedom in Christ as proclaimed in *John 10:10*

Countless lives are being **transformed**, families **restored** and relationships **healed** through discipleship counseling and small group relationships. We humbly thank each of our supporters for your generous gifts to this ministry.

Life Ministries Today is a 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry. Donations may be made online or mailed to the LMT address.

**Would you prayerfully
consider a financial gift?**

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Thank you!**