



Connect

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“Keeping us informed and connected.”

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LCMI

Putting Jesus First This Christmas Season

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

No room for them. No vacancy. No place. Words that still seem to hang close, even today.

In a world that seeks to crowd Jesus out, where busyness abounds, and hearts are stirred to focus on other things, it can be hard sometimes to choose to keep Him first. It’s all too easy to get caught up in the whole hurried dash of the holidays, and to give our attention to what seems more urgent. Our focus gets blurred; and the most important gets pushed aside.

It takes an active and daily choice to put Christ first, especially in a culture that says you’re too busy to focus there. Or that life is too full. And there’s no more room.

May God help us to choose wisely, what voices we listen to, and where we give our attention today.

He is the One who brings true meaning to Christmas.

He is the One who brings real peace in this all-too-often hectic season.

He is the only One worthy of our time and attention as we slow down the maddening rush around our lives.

We can know all of this in our heads, but may He help us to really believe it in our hearts...and choose to live it out this season.

Renewed.

Refreshed.

Making room for Him, first.

Christmas Prayer

Dear God,
Help us to keep our focus first on Christ this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention on other things. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness. Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you’re still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care. We choose to press in close to you today...and keep you first in our hearts and lives.

May you have a Christ filled Christmas celebration,

Bishop Timothy W. Dailey, D.Min
President of LCMI

Five Truths That Keep Me Focused As A Leader?

Let me give you five truths that have helped to keep me focused in my personal life and ministry:

#1 - The Sovereignty of God -

The longer I am in ministry (and live) the more I have to believe that He really does have the whole world in His hands. I believe one of the reasons so many ministry leaders carry so much stress around is that we can teach on the fact that He reigns...but deep down we don't really believe it as evidenced by the frantic worry that dominates our lives. If I am to **NOT** lose my mind I need to focus on HIS power-not mine!

If you are struggling with an issue - Remember, HE KNOWS ABOUT IT and HE'S GOT IT!!!

#2 - The Supremacy of Scriptures -

I love telling stories, I love using stage props, I love bringing in video illustrations...but NOTHING trumps the supremacy of the Scriptures.

Correct theology must drive our methodology-always! And, at the end of the day the people coming to our churches and small groups need to hear God's Word more than they need to hear anything else.

#3 - The Counsel of Coaches -

There is a HUGE difference between a critic and a coach. No player on the field ever became a major player and accomplished great things because he stopped and listened to everyone in the stands who had an opinion. But he had better listen to the coaches that are placed in his life if he ever wants to accomplish more than he thought possible.

The bottom line is, there must be people in your life that you listen to and seriously consider what they say...no leader has been called to fly solo! You cannot listen to everyone, but you better be listening to someone. I am so thankful for the great coaches Jesus has allowed to come into my life and to speak into me!

#4 - The Realization of Matthew 16:13-18 -

Scripture is clear that it is His church, and that He will build it. The truth is, He loves the church, cares for the church, and wants to see it succeed way more than we do.

In fact, the very love I have for the church was placed into me by Him! I don't have to convince Him to keep His eye on the church -- it's already here!

#5 - The Belief in Greater Things -

I believe there is more in store for the local church, not just LCC/LCMI, but any church that throws off meaningless things and embraces who God is and what He has called them to do. Ephesians 3:20 is one of my life verses. Yes, we can celebrate the past-but we cannot live there because HE IS A GOD WHO IS ABLE TO DO GREATER THINGS!!!

The very thought of, "what is He going to do next" absolutely fires me up...and keeps me desperate for HIM!

As you ponder these truths, I pray that you will regain your focus, and that God will richly bless you as you embrace the greater things that He has in store for you.

Bishop Tim Dailey

Leadership Quote

God ultimately raises up leaders for one primary reason: His glory. He shows His power in our weakness. He demonstrates His wisdom in our folly. We are all like a turtle on a fence post. If you walk by a fence post and see a turtle on top of it, then you know someone came by and put it there. In the same way, God gives leadership according to His good pleasure. *Matt Chandler*

Hunger Week

Every January, LCC begins the New Year with a time of prayer and fasting. This is an opportunity for us to prepare our hearts and our ministries for the uncertainties of the season before us. It is also a time for us to listen to the Lord, and to regain our focus.

We encourage all of our congregations worldwide to join with us for **Hunger Week 2019** (January 4 - 11, 2019).

Life After Christmas

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." Luke 1:46-55

It's always a little sad, isn't it? Christmas is over, and soon decorations will come down and be put away in boxes for the next eleven months. It's like we experience this feel-good high that crashes to the ground.

Unfortunately, that's the way many live the spiritual life, just waiting for the next big event so they can get their feel-good fix. But Mary's first Christmas was anything but feel-good.

Mary sang and praised God for the same reasons that we ought to be singing every day of the year: She sang because of her salvation. Mary knew the challenges that were on the horizon and was getting ready to face some severe scrutiny for turning up pregnant and unwed! And never mind the anguish she was going to cause her family, who would be forced to disown her or face the same rejection.

True praise isn't grounded in your circumstances. So, when you begin to unwind from Christmas, don't just settle back into business as usual. Take something special from this Christmas like a better appreciation of who Christ is and what He did. Because while you may celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th, you should experience the life of Christ every day as he lives through you.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SHOULDN'T BE BASED ON
FEEL-GOOD EVENTS BUT ON YOUR DAILY
RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.

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Visit our new LCMI website

We have just gone public! However, we are still in the process of making some changes and adding new features. We want this to be a connecting point for our LCC congregations and network of churches. Check back often for training videos, announcements, new material, etc.

This is just one more way that we want to stay connected as a "FRAMILY".

lcmnetwork.com