



The Christian life is a journey.

*TrailNotes* speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced, wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. **TrailNotes** is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

## ELDERTALK: Gifts for Serving Others JADAÉ FOX

Each year in July our church runs two camps: Kids and Teen Discipleship Training School. This year’s theme for both was service with the theme verse for both being I Peter 4:10-11: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

We have all been given gifts for the purpose of serving others. I speak for the staff of both camps when I say that we are so inspired by our campers. Their spiritual growth, heart to serve, and excitement to know and love our Lord is such a great encouragement to all of us. We are so thankful to be able to lead in this way.

For this article I will focus on the teen week of camp. Each morning we started with worship and teaching. Then we went to different off-sight locations to serve, based on the various teachings. You can get the gist of it with the chart. Also, each afternoon they had workshops and group discussions.

Day	Teaching	Service Project
Monday	Serving those we may not know	Meal on Bowman St. (prepared and served)
Tuesday	Called to bless and be blessed	Richland Pregnancy Services (cleaning and weeding) They also bought baby things.
Wednesday	Serving our family	The Waterford Assisted Living (sang and visited)
Thursday	Serving our neighbors	House and yard work for widows in our church
Friday	Serving our church	Cleaning, staining (bridge, bell tower, shed, picnic tables around the ponds)

Here are some statements that we heard from our youth during the week: “I did not know serving could be fun!” “I wish I could serve all summer.” “Can we keep serving after camp?” “I never knew that Richland Pregnancy did so much!” “Wow! Baby clothes are expensive!” “It takes a lot of stuff to care for a baby!” “I was nervous talking with strangers at first, but I learned so much. I’m glad I did.” “It was great getting to talk with residents at the Waterford. They can teach you so much.”

*(continued on page 2.)*

## The Sprinter Who Held Fast

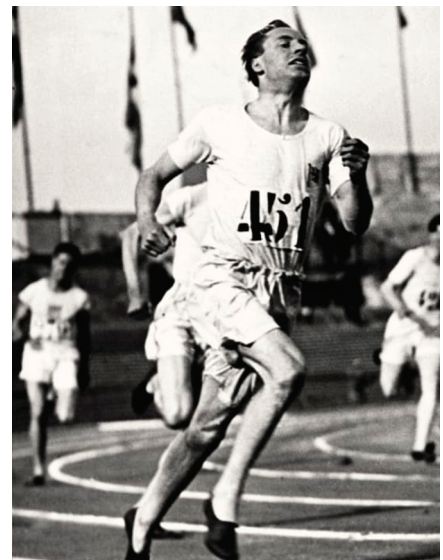
PAUL EMORY PUTZ

Eric Liddell’s legacy which he left for Christian athletes 100 years after his iconic Olympic victory in Paris in 1924.

Eric Liddell took his starting spot in the finals of the 400 meters. More than 6,000 paying spectators filled the stadium on that warm Friday night in Paris when the starting pistol and the Scottish runner took off from the outside lane.

And 47.6 seconds later, Liddell had set a new world’s record, leaving his competitors in awe and his fans grasping to make sense of what they had just witnessed.

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Eric Liddell in the 400m race in 1924

## Gifts for Serving Others *(continued from p. 1)*

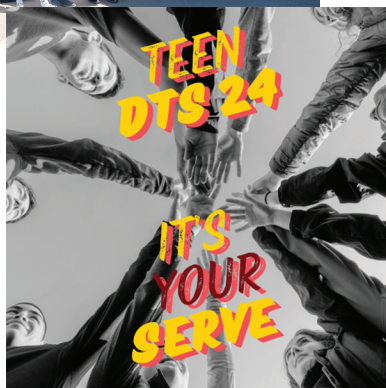
Here are some of the statements we have received from outsiders. “We have had a lot of youth come and help...I have never seen a group work as hard as your kids.” “It’s great what you are doing. Thank you for teaching kids to serve and to love.” “Your teens worked so hard, going above and beyond.” “I commend your youth. They did an excellent job.”

I am so blessed to be a part of our youth’s spiritual education. We serve because we love; therefore, we LOVE to serve. The Great Commandment: Loving God and loving others through service. See Matt. 22:32-3.

Serving is an act of worship and obedience. We all have different gifts. Let’s use them well.

What will you do with the graces and gifting you have received? Will you follow Jesus’ example and serve others?

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.” Matt. 25:40.



## AUGUST 2024

**3** Games Reach Family Game Night, 6:30-8:30 pm at GFC.

**4** Jadaé Fox preaching on Habakkuk 3:3-15. Teen Connect Leaders’ meeting after church.

**8** Ladies meet to pray for school and country, 9-10 am.

**9-11** Family Camping Weekend.

**11** Pastor Eric Byrom preaching on Habakkuk 3:16-19.

**15** Women of Grace meeting from 6:30-8 pm. TOPIC: Blessings.

**18** Eric Byrom preaching: “Year Summary.” Kids Connect Leaders’ Meeting after church.

**24** Community Celebration: 5:30-8:00 pm.

**25** Eric Byrom preaching: “The New Year.” Baptisms

### Coming up:

**Sept. 7** Men’s Retreat with Harvest Christian Church in Vermilion, Ohio

### Grace Fellowship Church

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Eric Byrom Presiding Elder/Pastor  
(A complete list will return next month)

## The Sprinter Who Held Fast *(cont. from p. 1)*

Liddell's sprint at the 1924 Paris Olympics is a canon event in the history of Christian athletes, and not just because of what happened on the track. Liddell entered the 400-meter race only after learning that the heats for his best Olympic event, the 100 meters, would fall on a Sunday. He withdrew from that event, holding fast to his Christian convictions.

Although he was a Christian and an athlete, he preferred not to emphasize these combined identities in a public way. He went quietly about his life: studying for school, participating in church, and playing sports.

Things changed in April 1923 when 21-year-old Liddell received a knock at the door from D.P. Thomson, an enterprising young evangelist. Thomson asked Liddell if he would speak at an upcoming event for the Glasgow Students Evangelical Union. Later in life, Liddell described the moment he said yes to Thomson's invitation as the "bravest thing" he had ever done. He was not a dynamic speaker. He did not feel qualified. Stepping out in faith called something out of him. "Since then the consciousness of being an active member of the Kingdom of Heaven has been very real," he wrote.

Liddell recognized that the world was changing. But the Sabbath, as he understood and practiced it, was to be a full day of worship and rest. It was, for him, a matter of personal integrity and Christian obedience.

Throughout the public debate about his decision, Liddell did not raise complaints about discrimination and oppression. He did not blast the Olympic committee for their refusal to accommodate Sabbath-keeping Christian athletes for their willingness to compromise and compete on Sunday. He simply made his decision and accepted the consequences: Gold in the 100 meters was not an option.

If this were the end of the story, Liddell's example would be an inspiring model of faithfulness—and also a forgotten footnote in history. There is no forgotten footnote in history. There is no *Chariots of Fire* without his triumph in the 400 meters.



*Eric Liddell crossing the finish line of the 400m race*

Few expected him to have a chance in the significantly longer race. Still, he did not arrive in Paris unprepared. He had a supportive trainer who was willing to adapt, working with Liddell for several months to build him up for both of his Olympic events (Liddell also won bronze in the 200 meters).

He delivered his best performance when it mattered the most. Running free, without fear of failure, he rose to the occasion in a remarkable way, surprising fans, observers, and fellow competitors. "After Liddell's race, everything else is trivia," marveled one journalist. News of Liddell's achievement quickly spread back home through the press and the radio. He arrived in Scotland as a conquering hero; those who had criticized his Sabbath convictions now praised him for his principled stand. He spent the next year traveling with Thomson throughout Great Britain on an evangelistic campaign, preaching a simple and direct message: "*In Jesus Christ you will find a leader worthy of all your devotion and mine,*" he told the crowds.

Then in 1925 he departed for China, spending the rest of his life in ministry before dying in 1945 of a brain tumor at the age of 43.

As we watch the Olympics this year, Christian athletes from all over the world will take their best shot in Paris. Some will know of the famous Scottish runner, and some will not. But to the extent that they consciously and intentionally strive after Jesus in the midst of their sport—to the extent that they seek to find the meaning of their experience bound up within the bigger story of God's work in the world, they'll be following in Eric Liddell's footsteps.

Adapted from CHRISTIANITY TODAY,  
July-August 2024. *Used by permission.*

# LYNETTE G. CALDWELL

(March 31, 1947 - July 29, 2024)

Lynette (Warner) Caldwell, 77, of Mansfield, Ohio, entered her heavenly rest early on July 29, 2024, at the Thedacare Hospital in Appleton, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of Stanley and Guinevere (Moe) Warner.



Throughout her childhood, Lynette enjoyed ice skating, attending Milwaukee Braves games, and playing baseball games with the boys.

After finishing college at Aurora University, Lynette Warner married John Caldwell in 1970, and together they raised five children and provided a caring home for over 15 years to many foster-care infants and toddlers.

Lynette spent her early ministry years with Campus Crusade for Christ and later with Grace Haven Farm. She visited her family cottage on Lake Lucerne in Wisconsin almost every summer.

Lynette is survived by her loving husband, John, and her five children: Laura Louise Caldwell Byrom and son-in-law Eric Byrom of Mansfield, OH, with Ethan, Talia, and Travis; Jonathan Mark Caldwell and daughter-in-law Jodi (Weesner) Caldwell of Byron Center, MI, with Evan, Olivia, and Daxton; Timothy Joel Caldwell and daughter-in-law Kristyn (Bollig) Caldwell of Spokane, WA; Luke Ingalls Caldwell and daughter-in-law Laura (Straley) Caldwell of South Bend, IN, with Alyson, Kate, Jaron, Josiah and Callan; and Seth Matthew Caldwell and daughter-in-law Beth (Warblow) Caldwell of Philadelphia, PA, with Troy, Kyrie and Dakari.

Lynette is also survived by her sister Jacqueline (Warner) Tanner and brother-in-law Jim Tanner of Madison, WI, along with sister-in-law Nancy Warner of Hollywood, FL.

A Memorial Service is planned for October 5 at Grace Fellowship Church in Mansfield, OH.



**CONTACT CRAWFORD COUNTY**  
1976-2024

## THE END OF A ERA: THEY LISTENED BECAUSE THEY CARED

JOHN KURTZ

At the end of June, a nearly 48-year fixture of service to Crawford County and the rest of the nation said its last “goodbye.” Contact Crawford County had been a 24-hour, 365-day a year “help line,” “listening service,” and hotline since its inception as one of some 75 similar centers in 23 states and around the world. Each was a part of a larger organization, CONTACT Teleministries, U.S.A., and staffed by specially trained volunteer Christian workers.

GFC’s own Susan Buzza and her late husband, Richard, were part of the original group of trainees. He not only served as the organization’s treasurer but also logged-in a phenomenal 16,000-plus hours of phone coverage prior to his death in December 2003. Susan served in various board positions over the years, finally taking on the role of Executive Director in about 2006. She has filled that position ever since, while also filling the role of a phone worker, often serving nearly every night of the week.

In recent years, for various reasons almost all of the CONTACT centers have closed, and the parent company no longer exists. Realizing that continuing things as they were was becoming impossible to maintain, the decision was finally made to shut down. Frequent callers were told of this and were referred to one of the few “warm lines” around the country still operational.

Thank you, Susan Buzza, and each of your friends at CCC for all those years of faithful service to those in need of a “listening ear.”