



Dear Ministry Partner,

It has been exactly one year since we attended our first Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway. Wow...God has done a lot of work in us over the last year. One of the changes that God has worked into our hearts is prompting us to pray together as a couple. We had always prayed at meal times together and prayed with the kids at bedtime but we had never prayed together as a couple. It is always something I (Jennifer) had wanted to do but I felt uncomfortable at the thought of praying out loud with Nathan.

At the Weekend to Remember one of the projects couples are asked to do is pray together. At the end of the first day, when we were alone in our hotel room getting ready to go to bed, I knew we had to pray together. I was so nervous that my hands were sweaty and my stomach was in a knot. I also felt so silly, after all Nathan is my husband and we share everything together so why was praying out loud for each other so difficult. But, even though it was uncomfortable, we did it! It was not the most eloquent prayer. There was stumbling over words and awkward silent moments, but we did it! It felt so good to connect with Nathan heart-to-heart.

Praises and Prayers

- **Praise** that we had a good and safe trip to Little Rock for our follow up missionary training. We learned more about the new ministries that FamilyLife is getting ready to release.
- **Praise** that St. Paul's UCC of Marthasville has signed up to host the Art of Marriage in February 2011.
- **Pray** for the couples that will be attending the Weekend to Remember getaway in St. Louis November 12-14 including three ministry partner couples from our team.
- **Pray** that marriages and families will continue to be transformed through the ministry of FamilyLife.

Following the Weekend to Remember, we decided to make a habit of praying together each night before we went to bed. We have missed some days but we have remained committed. By praying regularly together we have not only connected with each other on a deeper level, but we have also grown closer to God. Praying together as a couple is the best way to invite God to take an active role in your marriage.

"For where two... come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

I never thought that prayer could be such an intimate experience. When a husband and wife join together and open up to each other, confess their weaknesses, rejoice in their blessings and express their deepest desires through prayer, they experience real intimacy. Spiritual intimacy is just as important as physical intimacy in a marriage. In fact, the better your spiritual relationship is with each other, the better your physical relationship will be.

Last month we headed to Little Rock Arkansas for a follow up training. It was fun to be at the ministry headquarters again and to catch up on all the amazing things God is doing through FamilyLife!

This picture was taken outside of the FamilyLife headquarters. The big rock next to us is a very important reminder of how God has provided and been faithful. Inscribed on the top of the rock is a statement, ***"Dedicated by families who wanted to give God all the Glory"***. That is our prayer, as we are used by God to reach couples and families for Christ, we pray that ALL the Glory goes to God!

Nathan & Jennifer



Prayer is Powerful!

Prayer is powerful! Last weekend I (Jennifer) was blessed to experience that power. I was having a rough day, nothing huge, just a lot of little things piling up and my emotions got the best of me. Tears started welling up in my eyes. I didn't want to cry where anyone could see me so I headed in the bathroom and decided to take a hot shower so that I could have a good cry and no one would know. Nathan noticed something was wrong and asked how I was doing through the bathroom door. I told him I would talk with him when I was finished with my shower.

Standing in the shower, I cried. I felt so overwhelmed. But as quickly as I started crying, I stopped. It was almost as if the water was washing all my negative thoughts away. I was immediately filled with peace. I actually thought it was weird how quickly my feelings of being overwhelmed passed. I finished my shower and stepped into our bedroom and there I saw Nathan by the side of the bed, on his knees, praying for me. Prayer is Powerful!

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16



The following is an excerpt from Dennis and Barbara Rainey's book *Two Hearts Praying As One*.

In this age when overpromising and under delivering are commonplace, there is one promise that we absolutely know will deliver: ***Praying together as a couple will enrich, enhance, and fortify your life, marriage, and family.***

Praying together may be the single most important spiritual discipline you and your spouse will ever share.

Here's why:

Are you lacking intimacy in your marriage? Praying together will take you to new levels of intimacy far beyond what you thought possible.

Is there conflict in your marriage? Praying together will defuse, disarm, resolve, and prevent disagreements.

Do you want more transparency in your marriage? Praying together will open your hearts to one another.

Do you feel distant from God? Here's a scriptural promise to grab onto and apply: "Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3)

Are you fearful? Disappointed? Discouraged? Worried? Angry? Hopeless? Praying together will calm the storms in your heart, marriage, and family.

Are you struggling against sin? Praying as a couple exposes sin so God can work.

Are you near divorce? Praying as a couple restores unity of heart, mind, and purpose.

If you want your marriage to go the distance and your family to be all that God intended, pray together as a couple every day.

FAMILYLIFE™ eMentoring™

One-to-one help and hope

Change a life, without leaving home! With so many marriages and families struggling today, sadly those in greatest need often feel they have no one to confide in or no place to receive personalized help. It seems ironic that many feel so alone in a time of unparalleled access to information and social networks. But now there is hope!



FamilyLife eMentoring brings help to hurting individuals by connecting them with a caring mentor...someone with wisdom, life experience and a love for Jesus Christ...someone like you!

Discover how you can serve as a volunteer FamilyLife mentor at your place and on your schedule by visiting www.familylife.com/eMentoring

You will be equipped with biblical wisdom and perspectives for common questions along with additional articles, quotes and sample responses to related questions.

Thanks for considering joining our eMentoring team!

