



Dear Ministry Partner,

We shared last month some amazing comments from two of the couples that we helped send to FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember. This month we have another amazing story to share from a couple that also attended.

"My heart was softened and a new woman re-entered my marriage after attending the Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway in St. Louis. My reason for attending was so that my husband of 20 years would learn how to be a stronger role model for our three sons and learn how to be the leader of our marriage. Needless to say, unknown to me, God also had plans for little ole me.

My job allows me to listen to Christian radio and I learned over the years that men needed respect and affirmation. I thought I was doing a good job of giving that to my husband, but my words were not followed through with actions. They were very hollow and he could sense that, but I kept reassuring him otherwise. It came to be that my husband looked to me for everything. He had put me on a pedestal and worshipped me.

Even though we attend church and know God, He did not rule our lives. We were in control. Through this getaway we were able to shed A LOT of tears and come face to face with God and tell Him how sorry we are for not giving Him the control of our marriage and our lives.

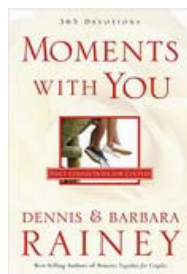
God should always come before our spouses and our spouse before our children. This was a hard concept for me as a mother. I learned that my spouse is a gift from God and that I need to receive him, not just accept him. And receiving our spouse is not based on our spouses performance.

***This Weekend to Remember has transformed our marriage in countless ways, beyond describable words. It truly is something you have to experience for yourself. My husband and I intend to attend on a yearly basis. We owe it to God, and our children. To honor our vows and both be good role models for the next generation.***

A special note to my husband: Thank You, Kirby, for loving me enough to give up opening weekend of deer season to strengthen our marriage. I will always cherish this memory and your love for me and our sons. From Your Beloved Wife, Michelle Frost "

### Praises and Prayers

- **Praise** for a wonderful Christmas season, celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus!
- **Pray** that as the day of Christmas has passed, our praise and thanks for the gift of Jesus will not subside. That we will all discover new ways to celebrate Jesus' love and glorify God in everything we do.
- **Pray** for the lay-leaders and couples participating in *The Art of Marriage* in February. Lay-leaders: Brad & Jennifer Kazmaier for St. Paul's UCC in Marthasville, and Jon & Kim Smith for First Baptist Church of Villa Ridge.
- **Pray** for Lucas and Allison. As our schedule gets busier, pray that they will still feel secure in our love for them. Pray also that they might even start to understand our families call to the FamilyLife ministry.
- **Pray** that marriages and families will continue to be transformed by God through the ministry of FamilyLife.



A new year... take your marriage to a new level. Spend 5 minutes a day investing in your marriage and see how much closer you are in 365 days. Order *Moments with You* or sign up for the FREE *Moments with You* daily email at [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

*Nathan & Jennifer*

## the art of marriage™

FamilyLife presents the Art of Marriage, a new video-based marriage conference built on the same biblically based content as the Weekend to Remember® Getaway.

The Art of Marriage brings together some of the most respected and influential pastors and experts on marriage and family to share with you and your spouse. It also brings a fresh approach to a video conference by weaving together the following elements to help couples fully experience God's design for marriage:

- Expert teaching
- Engaging stories
- Real-life testimonies
- Man-on-the-street interviews
- Humorous vignettes

On February 11th, 2011, FamilyLife will launch The Art of Marriage nationwide. We are praying for at least 1,000 churches or individuals to join with us in hosting an event that weekend. If you would like to see marriages healed and families given a new legacy in your community, then sign up to host The Art of Marriage today!

For more information: [www.theartofmarriage.com](http://www.theartofmarriage.com)

Events being held in the Washington, MO area:

The Kazmaier Lake Home, Feb 11-13  
[jekazmaier@hotmail.com](mailto:jekazmaier@hotmail.com)

First Baptist Church of Villa Ridge, Feb 11-12  
636-742-3662

## 11 Rules That You Won't Learn in School About Marriage

I ran across this article on the FamilyLife web site and I wanted to share a few of my favorites. To view all the rules go to [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

**Rule 1:** Marriage isn't about your happiness. It's not about you getting all your needs met through another person. Practicing self-denial and self-sacrifice, patience, understanding, and forgiveness are the fundamentals of a great marriage. ***If you want to be the center of the universe, then there's a much better chance of that happening if you stay single.***

**Rule 5:** Love isn't a feeling. Love is commitment. It's time to replace the "D word"—divorce—with the "C word"—commitment. Divorce may feel like a happy solution, but it results in long-term toxic baggage. You can't begin a marriage without commitment. You can't sustain one without it either. A marriage that goes the distance is really hard work. ***If you want something that is easy and has immediate gratification, then go shopping or play a video game.***

**Rule 11:** How you will be remembered has less to do with how much money you make or how much you accomplish and more with how you have loved and lived.

Our personal FamilyLife web site is now online.

[www.njwalker.com](http://www.njwalker.com)

Our website provides:

- Links to FamilyLife outreaches
- 50% off Weekend to Remember
- Archive of past prayer letters
- And More