



Dear Ministry Partner,

Last month Nathan and I were very *honored* to be selected as the *Honored Couple* at Creations Crown. Creations Crown is a marriage ministry at First Christian Church in Washington where each month they have a special night just for couples. They do a variety of things to encourage couples to grow in their relationship with Christ and each other. During the evening they serve a wonderful dessert, tell funny marriage stories and play fun games. They also ask the honored couple for the month to share something about themselves. As the honored couple selected for January, we decided to share a story about our first vacation as a married couple. It turned out to be a vacation *full* of memories.

For our first vacation, we had our eyes set on a relaxing getaway at the beach, camping on the shoreline, stargazing, bike riding on wooded trails and roasting marshmallows at the campfire. Unfortunately none of those visions became a reality. We were instead met with “Beware of Alligator” signs, a lake so full of lily pads and cat tails that we could not see the water, and the deafening sounds of bull frogs croaking. The good news is that we did not have to fight for the best campsite because no one else was there to compete with us!



As we set up our camper we noticed many small pin holes in the roof. We prayed for no rain but as soon as we laid our heads down we heard the rumble of thunder. That night we got soaked! The camper roof was not the only thing that we discovered had holes. Around 5:00am we found ourselves laying on the hard wood floor as our air mattress had a slow leak as well.

The rain continued for 4 days straight and we spent much of our vacation at the laundry mat drying our clothes, playing cards in our tent and eating unroasted marshmallows. We finished each day by pumping as much air into our air mattress as we could so we could keep ourselves off the hard floor until the sun came up.

On the fifth morning of our seven day vacation, we woke up to something different. Nathan unzipped the door of our camper and said with a big grin, “The sun is out...it stopped raining! Let’s pack up and get the heck out of here!”



### Praises and Prayers

- **Pray** for the lay-leaders and couples participating in *The Art of Marriage* in February. Lay-leaders: Brad & Jennifer Kazmaier for St. Paul’s in Marthasville, Jonathan & Kim Smith for First Baptist Church of Villa Ridge.
- **Praise** God for the beautiful snow that reminds us of how much we are forgiven. He washes away our sin making us white as snow.
- **Pray** that families will continue to be transformed by God through the ministry of FamilyLife.

There is a Bible passage that we think relates really well to this story. *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”* Matthew 7:24-25

Even when the storms rage inside or outside of our marriage, a marriage that is built on the solid rock of Jesus Christ will remain standing! What a wonderful promise we can stand on when we encounter storms in our marriage.

*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 helping couples fully experience God's design for marriage.

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

# weekend to remember® marriage getaway

## Chicago

March 25-27, 2011 or April 1-3, 2011

## Kansas City

March 25-27, 2011 or April 15-17, 2011

## Branson

April 1-3, 2011

Register for any of these, or any of the other 50 events held around the country this spring, by going through our web site [www.njwalker.com](http://www.njwalker.com) and save 50% on the registration fee!

Do you know someone that is trying to build their marriage on the “sand” instead of “The Rock”?

Marriage is tough, it takes hard work. It can be particularly hard for those that don't set the foundation of their marriage on Jesus. Do you know someone that needs to hear God's design for marriage? Would you be willing to point them in the right direction?

Here is how:

- Listen to FamilyLife Today online. If the radio show touched your heart, pass it on to others by posting a link on facebook.
- Sign up for the regular FamilyLife email articles. Forward them to friends.
- Attend a Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway and invite your friends to go with you.
- Get a small group of couples together and do HomeBuilders or the new LifeReady Marriage Oneness Bible study.



Make Valentine's Day extra special this year by handwriting a Valentine to someone special... your child, your parents, your best friend, or anyone that encouraged you in the last year.

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