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Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.



## The Walker Family Reader



Missionaries  
With  
**CRU**

September 2013

*Praises & Prayers*

### God Redeems... making a Masterpiece out of a Mess.

Chris was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis 12 years ago. As a young husband and father, this was a devastating diagnosis. After 7 years of doctors appointments, medications, and treatments, Chris ended up having an emergency surgery to remove part of his colon. For the next 2 years Chris dealt with extreme pain and many complications. He even had to quit his construction job. Chris' world was growing dark and he was slipping into depression.

As you can imagine this put an incredible toll on their marriage and family. Angela (Chris' wife) a young mom in her late 20's, had more than she could bare. Exhausted and feeling hopeless, Angela left Chris.

Chris: *"I upped my pain medicine so I could function and get Angela back, and to her credit, she came back. Let me just say, that this was one of those times when you could only see one set of footprints in the sand. God was definitely carrying both of us."*

Chris and his doctors were wanting to save Chris' colon, but it was not working. In 2010 Chris had his entire colon removed. The surgery was successful and his health improved but he became addicted to the powerful pain medications that he had been taking for so long.

Chris: *"It hurts me to know I was an IV drug addict. Thank God, I eventually got sober in October of 2012. Our marriage was in shambles though. We were continuously giving up and threatening divorce. We decided to try Midtowne Church, and that is where we met Nathan and Jennifer. We began attending their weekly small group. From the very beginning, we enjoyed being around them so much. We vowed not to miss small group for any reason. Even if my health caused us to miss church; somehow I was always able to make it to small group Sunday afternoon."*

*At our very first meeting I shared that I am a recovering drug addict. I fully expected them to not welcome me. It was just the opposite! The group loved me all the more. Week by week, our marriage began to heal. Then about 5 months ago they arranged for us to go to a Weekend to Remember. It was so healing and life changing. What God showed us at the Weekend to Remember has completely restored our marriage."*

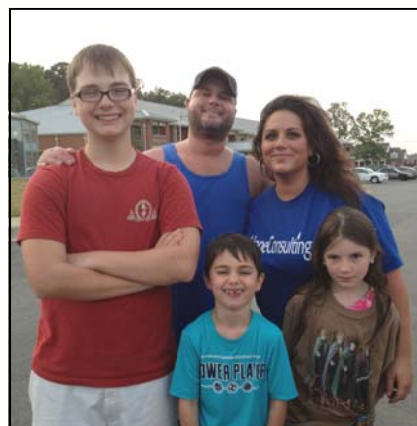
We want God to get all the Glory for this story! We are so thankful that God has brought Chris and Angela into our lives and they are now dear friends. We believe that God will use

**Praise:** for the redeeming work God has done in the Browning family!

**Praise:** for 1,404 people that have already registered for the Fall 2013 Weekend to Remember season. Registration has only been open 2 days!!!

**Pray:** for our Art of Marriage small group we are hosting in our home. This is the first time some of the couples have ever heard the biblical plan for marriage. Pray for God to move in their hearts.

**Pray:** for Nathan as he works on a management team that will be implementing a large email upgrade for FamilyLife in October.



The Browning Family: (back) Chris and Angela, (front left to right) Joe age 15, Max age 7, Kaycee age 9



- Continued on Back -



*(Continued from the front page)*

their story to impact other couples. We thank God for this wonderful story of redemption, making a Masterpiece out of a Mess!

More from Chris:

*“We still see the Walker’s every week. Right now we are doing the Art of Marriage in our small group. Our plan is to bring the Art of Marriage to the whole church next spring. We are excited to help other couples the way the Walker’s have helped us.*

*We are sharing our story with you because our whole family wanted to thank everyone who supports their ministry at FamilyLife.*



*Without you we would not be where we are today. Our children have a loving home where they feel nurtured and safe. They have 2 loving parents who love each other in only a way that God’s love can facilitate. Thank you all so much! Although we don’t know all of you, we love each of you as brothers and sisters in Christ.”*

Chris Browning

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