



FAMILYLIFE
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.



Missionaries
With
CRU

The Walker Family Reader

February 2014

Praises & Prayers

A text message from a stranger - An opportunity to share about Jesus

Late one evening as I (Jennifer) was getting ready for bed, I received a text message that was clearly not for me. Within the message there were clues that this was from a distressed man who was expressing fears that his relationship was falling apart. I almost ignored the message and went to bed but Nathan encouraged me to text back. I texted that he had the wrong number but that I am involved in a marriage ministry and asked if I could help. I expected to not hear from him again; however, a few minutes later, he responded. After several back and forth messages, Chris* asked if he and his girlfriend, Laura*, could call me so I set up a time to have a conference call with them.



I ended up talking with this couple for 1-1/2 hours and my eMentoring training really came in handy. I first just listened as they each told their stories. I learned that they had been living together for a couple of years, and how they recently found that they are expecting a baby. They were struggling as a couple to “make it” and there was a lot going wrong for each of them.

When they finished telling their stories, I asked a simple question, “What do you want in the future, what would be the best-case scenario for your future?” Finally they shared something that they both could agree on! They want to be together and they want to raise their baby together. *That was enough of an opening to share about Jesus!*

I shared that their goal of getting married and being a family was entirely possible! However, they would need help, and that help can only be found through Jesus Christ! I shared with them how my personal relationship with Jesus has changed my life and my marriage. They both opened up and shared how each of them had made a decision to follow Jesus early in their life, but how they had walked away from Him in their adult life.

I encouraged them to get into a Bible-teaching church, surround themselves with godly people, and to start focusing on developing a personal relationship with Jesus. As we closed our conversation, I offered to pray for them. When I finished praying, all of us were in tears. Chris and Laura thanked me and said that they had never had anyone pray for them like that before.

To God be the Glory for this Devine Interruption!

What I did was simple. I listened, I asked a few questions, I pointed them to Jesus, I encouraged them, and I prayed. All very simple things that anyone can do. We want to encourage you to listen to the Lord and be available for whenever and however he wants to use you to reach others for Christ.

Nathan & Jennifer

*The names in this story were changed.

Pray: That we will be effective mentors, encouraging people on the cruise, and ultimately pointing them to Jesus Christ. Pray that many hearts are transformed and that many lives will be changed.

Pray: For The Art of Marriage at our local church. Pray that God will use this event to draw couples to Himself and that we will see many hearts and lives transformed.

Praise: For our team of Marriage Investors! We give thanks for their passion and desire to help families in our church and community.

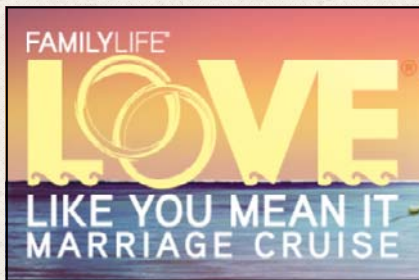
Our prayer is that the Lord will shine brightly through us in all that we do. *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”*

Ephesians 3:20-21



With so much going on at FamilyLife as well as our personal ministry, we thought we would give you some snapshots of the exciting things that are happening.

Setting Sail



On February 10-14, we are joining about 1500 couples and setting sail to the beautiful Caribbean on the FamilyLife Love Like You Mean it Cruise.

This cruise tends to be a life-changing experience. Many couples leave the cruise with a new vision, a godly vision, for their family.

When couples capture this new vision for their family, sometimes they need help figuring out how to practically make their vision a reality. That's where the Mentoring Team comes in.

We will be serving on the Mentoring Team to provide gentle guidance, encouragement, and hope to the couples wanting to make a real change in their marriages.

Art of Marriage

We are hosting an Art of Marriage at our local church in Benton Arkansas February 21-22



A few weeks ago we met with 20 people from our local church that wanted to be Marriage Investors. They all have a passion to see stronger, healthier, godly marriages and families in our community.

We are excited to be training this team of Marriage Investors so that they will be equipped and ready to come alongside the people attending our event.

The Marriage Investor team will be following up with couples providing support, encouragement, and mentoring.

A New Look, Tailored just for you!

Effective February 10th, the FamilyLife website will have a new design. Often times people come to the FamilyLife website looking for help but with so many helpful tools and resources, they can get lost.

With our new design you can choose your life stage and then our website will provide you with the information that relates specifically to you and your family.

www.familylife.com

