



**FAMILYLIFE**  
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.



Missionaries  
With  
**CRU**

## The Walker Family Reader

July 2014

*Praises & Prayers*

### Our Trip to Missouri—Recap

Thanks to everyone who came to our Open House June 22. It was great to see so many of you and share our ministry stories with you.

Below are just a few of the people that came to visit us at our Open House.

Right:  
Mike & Kim,  
Larry & Darlene



Left:  
Terry & Cindy



I (Jennifer) also had the privilege to meet one of the volunteer mentors that I trained this past spring, Marilyn. Unfortunately, I forgot to take a picture with her.

I was surprised earlier this year when I looked at Marilyn's eMentor application and saw that she was from the St. Louis area. I was thrilled that it worked out for us to meet face-to-face.

Throughout our time in Washington MO we were able to connect with over 50 friends of our ministry! What a joy it was to connect with so many people that make our ministry at FamilyLife possible.

We ended our week with a trip to the Springfield MO area. We had dinner with some partners, Jacob and Trisha, pictured right. They have a passion for ministering to newlyweds in their area. We also met with 3 other couples who have led Art of Marriage events. It was encouraging to hear how God is working through these couples and using FamilyLife to impact marriages and families!



# Thank You!

We wish we would have been able to greet everyone personally last month, but since we couldn't we wanted to make sure you all know how much we appreciate your partnership in our ministry. The stories we share each month are only possible because of your partnership. Thanks for investing in God's work, helping to build strong families, one home at a time!

*Nathan & Jennifer*

**Praise:** For a great ministry trip to Missouri. We are thankful for all our ministry partners and were especially thankful for the brief visits we had with many of our partners.

**Pray:** For the *I Still Do* events coming up soon. Pray that many couples will attend and that their marriages will be strengthened. Pray that the arenas will be packed for each event. Pray that couples will leave these events on-fire, wanting to start a marriage ministry in their community.

**Pray:** For Nathan, these next few months will be very busy for him. He continues to work on many technology projects within the ministry headquarters, and in addition to those responsibilities he is on the leadership team for all 3 *I Still Do* events. Pray for his travels, pray for all the technology to come together smoothly with no glitches, and pray for Jennifer as she holds down things on the home front during this busy season for Nathan.



This was an article recently posted on Momlife Today web site. The article was written by Kristin, one of the moms (and FamilyLife staff) who lost their home in the April 2014 tornados. Thanks to all those that have lifted these families in prayer. Your prayers were felt and very much appreciated.



## *I Couldn't Reach My Children*

“What was it like for you as a mom in that room?”

Mother's Day fell two weeks to the day after an EF4 tornado destroyed my family's home around

us as we sat in a bedroom closet that had been constructed as a safe room. Our pastor asked my husband and me to share at church about that experience, and even though the emotions and memories were still fresh and raw in many ways, we agreed. And I knew the mom question was coming, so I already knew the answer. Actually, it was one of the things I could most quickly identify following the tornado.

“The hardest part was that I couldn't reach everyone,” I began. “We didn't have time to organize ourselves in the closet. The pets were between us. So when the tornado hit, and the power immediately went out, I knew that on the other side of that little room, there were kids Dan [my husband] and I couldn't reach, couldn't touch. They were holding onto each other.”

I went on to explain that I realized what a perfect, tangible illustration this was of the spiritual reality of our lives as moms. There are many times when, and many reasons why, a child might be out of reach. A mother's arms are only so long. “And even if my arms were long enough,” I said, “I would be foolish to think I would be strong enough to hold my child in a storm of that magnitude. It was violent. I would be no match for it.”

Sometimes no matter what we do as parents, a child seems to get farther away. Our relationship might be strained or completely severed. We are brokenhearted. We want to hold onto our children to keep them from pain and destructive decisions. We want them to love us the way we love them. Sadly we find we are not strong enough.

“But God's arms are long enough,” I told the congregation on that day. “And they are strong enough. That's what I learned in that safe room. While the tornado surrounded us, God was with my children that I couldn't reach. And He held them.”

To every one of you, that is my encouragement. When your arms are too short and your strength too small, trust God to reach and hold your child.

“Kristin, would you pray for the moms here today?” our pastor concluded. As moms in need of prayer came forward, tears fell—both mine and theirs.

I want to thank all of you who prayed for me and for my family. Today, let me pray for you just as I prayed in church that Mother's Day morning.

***Lord, You are good, and everything You do is good. Your mercy is new every morning, and Your love never fails. You know every situation these moms face. You know every child who is far away. Thank You that Your arms are long enough and strong enough to reach and to hold each one. Even today, would You break down walls and begin to reconcile relationships, to call back those children who have wandered away? May this day be a turning point. Encourage every mom to trust You with her children and never to give up. In the mighty name of Jesus, our Savior, amen.***



Mark Your Calendar,  
Bring Your Friends for  
A One-Day Marriage  
Event for Couples!

August 2, 2014  
Chicago, IL  
Allstate Arena

August 23, 2014  
Portland, OR  
Moda Center

October 4, 2014  
Washington DC  
This event will be global-  
ly simulcast so couples  
around the nation can  
participate in this life  
changing event.

find out more:  
[IStillDo.com](http://IStillDo.com)



Allison and Lucas enjoying a hot summer afternoon in the Saline River near our home in Arkansas.

