



March 2015

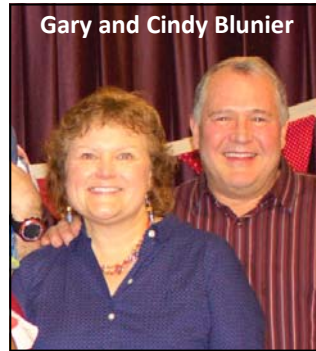
Praises & Prayers

Know someone hurting...YOU can help!

Last month FamilyLife's eMentoring team hosted a training in Little Rock for anyone that wanted to learn practical skills to help those around them. The training was led by my (Jennifer) supervisors Gary and Cindy Blunier. Nathan and I were blessed to take part in the training along with 60 other people from our area.

Has someone close to you ever shared about a struggle that they are facing and you wanted to help but you didn't know what to say? By implementing a few simple steps, you could come alongside them and help by being a mentor.

Mentoring is easier than you think. Yes, you'll face complex stories that will break your heart and tempt you to say, "I can't fix this. I don't know enough. I'm no counselor!" The truth is, you're not a counselor and you can't fix it, nor should you try. **Here are a few tips to help you become an effective mentor:**



Take the right PLACE in their life as a mentor.

Pray: Don't underestimate the amazing strength gained through this simple act. God's Spirit comes alongside us in prayer (Romans 8:26). Good mentors do the same for their mentees. It also models to them how they can take their burdens to the Lord. (Matthew 11:30).

Listen: It doesn't sound like much, but listening is crucial because most people long to be heard. They want someone who will hear what they say *and what they mean*.

Ask: The Hebrew word for teaching actually means "to cause to learn". Likewise, good mentors ask well-worded questions that foster conversation and allow God to "cause the growth" (1 Cor. 3:6).

Consider: Think slowly and biblically about the mentee's story. Don't get in a hurry. Humbly introduce Scripture and other biblical resources for both you and the mentee to discuss together. Eagerly receive what's being said, but diligently examine the Scriptures daily to find truth (Acts 17:11). This will add richness to your mentoring experience.

Encourage: Whatever you offer your mentee, whether it's a compassionate tone, a practical life tip, or an exhortation from God's word, make sure to uplift rather than beat down. Praise your mentee for steps they take in the right direction.

Right now we have openings in our eMentoring department for female mentors. Contact us if you are interested in learning more.

Nathan & Jennifer

Praise: That Nathan's first 2 skin surgeries went well and the doctor was able to remove all of the cancer cells! Please pray that no more skin cancer will be found on Nathan's body. A follow-up appointment and possible additional testing is set for April.

Pray: For the two Art of Marriage events that we will be hosting in April. Washington Missouri on April 10-11 and Benton Arkansas April 24-25.

Praise: For the successful Mentor training we held last month. Pray that God will open more doors to get our training to people in different areas of the community.

Praise: For the Lord's provision for our medical expenses! To date, we have received approximately \$2,200 in medical bills and nearly \$1,500 in special gifts. Thank you for your prayers and to those that sent in financial gifts.

Pray: For the Lord's continued provision for our out-of-pocket medical expenses.



Update on Nathan's Health

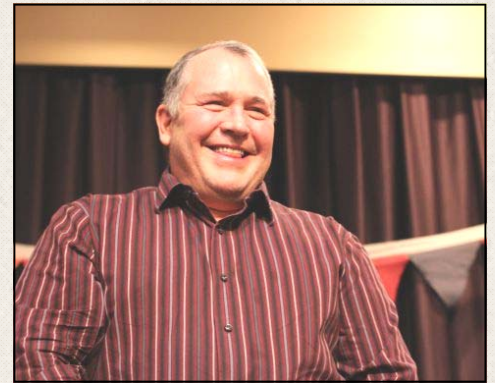
We were overwhelmed with the Facebook messages, cards, and calls offering prayers and encouragement. Thank you so much for your outpouring of love and support. We appreciate each one of you so much!

We are so thankful to have a good report to share. Both of Nathan's initial surgeries were successful in removing all of the skin cancer cells. Things have gone much better than we could have ever hoped. Praise the Lord!

Nathan has another dermatologist appointment on April 1st which will likely include additional testing. We are praying that no more skin cancer is discovered. He also has one more surgery scheduled for May to remove the last group of pre-cancerous cells on his back.

A Life Worth Honoring

In January we had the privilege of attending my (Jennifer's) supervisor's 60th Birthday Party. Gary Blunier (pictured to the right) is the Manager of the eMentoring Department at FamilyLife. Over 150 people surrounded Gary to honor him and celebrate his legacy. Gary and his wife Cindy have been missionaries with FamilyLife for 18 years and have been leading the eMentoring Department since it started 5 years ago.



It was one of the most amazing birthday celebrations we have ever been to. We passed a microphone around and people shared stories of the various ways Gary and his family have touched their lives.



A family photo taken at Gary's Birthday Party. They had a FUN Photo Booth setup to remember his special day.

Gary and Cindy have taken in strangers into their own home for long-term stays. People always leave the Blunier home feeling loved and encouraged. They have personally mentored dozens of marriages. Gary is an excellent auto mechanic. He fixes about 100 cars each year for anyone in need at no charge. He even invites young men to join him as he fixes cars, he teaches them practical auto skills while discipling them at the same time.

His 5 daughters adore him and each shared a tribute to him. His wife is his biggest fan, she says she couldn't be more proud of him. People used words like *generous, enthusiastic, passionate, happy, respectful, humble, compassionate, and kind* to describe Gary. What a great legacy! We left that birthday party inspired to love God and others in a more intentional way.

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marriage™

We are excited to be hosting two Art of Marriage Events in April. Contact us if you would like more information on either event.

Washington, MO

April 10-11

Benton, AR

April 24-25