

Steve & Lila Bayer



May 2011

"Unless the Lord builds these house, they labor in vain who build it" Psalm 127:1

Spring is here, storms, bats, and oh, no basements...

As we settle into our new home, things are different as we get used to running for cover from storms (without a basement), trying to figure out how to get rid of the bats (not baseball) in our attic vents, and then having to pick up seemingly endless quantities of sticks and leaves after every storm so that we can mow the weeds. But, it's all worth it! We are excited to minister through FamilyLife, which is having incredible impact on people around the world as described in this story:

Holding divorce papers, Jason and Allison Gray watched as flames consume the edges, ashes disappearing into the wind. They embraced, crying, and began a celebration over a different paper-their second marriage certificate! We celebrated 10 years said Allison, "minus six months apart. Those six months included tension over roles and responsibilities. Eventually Allison moved out. Their divorce papers were finalized. But they still communicated.



We traveled to SE Kansas in early April to see Lila's mom receive the church woman of the year award at her church. Pictured are Lila's parents and siblings, Kendra, Lila, Alden, Reta and Aldie!

Finally, Jason suggested they attend a FamilyLife Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway. Once there Allison's outlook changed. "I had perceived Jason as someone who was out to get me." Two weeks later they were remarried.

Since burning their divorce papers, they have spent time counseling other couples thanks to their renewed love and appreciation for each other. Now they battle together instead of against each other!

Thank you for partnering with us with your finances, your prayers and your encouragement. Lives are impacted for all eternity!

In His grip, Steve, Lila, Marshall & Maddie Bayer

We had the privilege of seeing our daughter Arielle and her husband Andrew graduate from John Brown University on May 7! They have jobs in Fayetteville, Arkansas, about three hours northwest of us.



Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for new ministry partners; nine 2010 pledges totaling \$685.00 per month have not been able to contribute recently for a variety of reasons. Please pray that this difference will be made up from somewhere and also for those partners, some of whom are having financial trials.
- Pray about a reorganization of business units within the ministry, that we'll trust the Lord to lead us through it and that it will result in a more efficient ministry. We don't know how it impacts us yet but certainly pray that it expands ministry!
- Pray for new friends for Marshall, Maddie, Lila and Steve as this is a new experience for all of us. We are meeting many neat people at FamilyLife and at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock.

Resource Highlight of the Month

LifeReady is a series of resources a church can use to train members no matter what stage of life they are experiencing. This series includes *Marriage Oneness*, *The Life Ready Woman*, *Grace Based Parenting*, *Raising a Modern Day Knight*, *College Ready*, and *Explore*. Presenters include Men's Fraternity author Robert Lewis, FamilyLife President and CEO Dennis Rainey, and best-selling author Shaunti Feldhahn.

See The LifeReady strategy at www.lifeready.com

Testimonies continue to roll in...

- After a FamilyLife eMentor counseled a man in a struggling marriage, "I have resolved to live my life in a way that honors God. One way I am doing this is by praying more with my wife and by having our daily devotions."
- 117 Couples are attending The Homebuilders Bible Study series in an Ethiopian church in LA plus there are additional groups in an Ethiopian church in Washington D.C. and a Nigerian congregation in Houston!
- A Leader at an *Art of Marriage* event scheduled by a restaurant chain in the Carolinas reports they paid for their management to attend and 10 of 22 people trusted in Christ!

Weekend to Remember Getaways this spring have been attended by 27,007 people through Easter weekend and 1,084 have stated that they have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior! See www.familylife.com/36tr for information about these events. Contact us about discounts available!