



## Steve & Lila Bayer

**Serving with FamilyLife to make every home a godly home**

February 2012

### FamilyLife Works to Support and Strengthen Military Families

We are really excited about a new FamilyLife initiative, **Finally Home to Family**, to honor and strengthen our nation's military families. These families sacrifice much to keep us safe and free.

The current operational tempo has exposed troops to combat for upward of 200 days at a time, far longer periods of uninterrupted combat exposure than most troops experienced in World War II or Vietnam.

The battle does not end when they finally come home. Returning soldiers and their spouses face significant challenges. The most common stresses post-deployment include: maintaining unrealistic expectations, rushing the transition, renegotiating roles, realizing both spouses change during deployment, and dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. The divorce rate in the US military has increased 42% since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom. At this point, military families are falling apart at a significantly greater rate than the rest of America.

*"When troops return home, civilians think 'OK, that's it. It's over.' But that's not true. The stress on our marriage of 13 deployments since 9/11 has been immeasurable"*

Valerie Gaff, former Air Force Senior Airman, wife of Air Force Master Sergeant and currently co-laborer at FamilyLife.

**Life.** You can give \$10 to this scholarship fund by texting the word HOME to 28950. Gifts can also be made at [FinallyHomeToFamily.org](http://FinallyHomeToFamily.org) or by calling **1-800-358-6329**.

Please join us in supporting these courageous families by donating to the scholarship fund, getting the word out (e.g., put the link on Facebook, etc.) to those you know and/or by praying for their marriages. It is a great way to honor those who have sacrificed so much for us. For Godly Families, *Steve, Lila, Marshall and Maddie*

- PRAISE! Son Ansen and wife Dri had their first child and our first grandchild Avelea Wren born Jan. 25!
- Pray for Steve as he facilitates and works on multiple projects in the Office of Development Department.
- PRAISE! FamilyLife had a positive year-end giving season allowing for development of new resources and efforts including the **Stepping Up Video Series** for men and **Mandarin** translations for China distribution.
- Pray for our family. We've been here one year, and all four of us desire to develop deeper friendships.
- Thank you for your continued prayers and financial partnership. We can minister because of you!

#### Of those who have served in recent wars:

- **86% have received incoming fire.**
- **60% have been attacked or ambushed.**
- **79% have known someone seriously injured or killed.**

There is hope. Many couples successfully navigate these challenges and emerge stronger than ever. FamilyLife is coming along side military families by providing immediate assistance, including practical advice and free resources, at [FinallyHomeToFamily.org](http://FinallyHomeToFamily.org). Additionally, we are providing scholarships for military couples to attend a FamilyLife marriage enrichment event. Those currently serving on active duty or who have been deployed within the last 18 months qualify. Those who fall into this category can simply call 1-800-358-6329 and request a scholarship. *"We would like to help spark a nationwide movement to 'give back' to those who have given so much to our country," Dennis Rainey, President of Family-*