

Steve and Lila Bayer

serving with **FAMILYLIFE**[®]

August 2012



Strange wake-up call

At a time in life when most people are contemplating slowing down and taking it easy, Roland & Cindy Weber are doing anything but. Not yet retired from two successful, busy careers, the Webers are eagerly saying to God “Here I am, Lord. Send me!”



Actively involved in their church throughout their 42 years of marriage, the Webers were first introduced to FamilyLife[™] in 2010 when Cindy came across

FamilyLife Today[®] on the radio. The Webers were so impressed by the biblically based marriage and family teaching that they soon became Legacy Partners of the ministry, followed by Group Coordinators for FamilyLife's *Weekend to Remember*[®] (WTR) – encouraging more than 200 people to attend, and then they began volunteering at various WTRs across the country and the *Love Like You Mean It*[™] cruise.

Shortly after attending the premiere of FamilyLife's *Art of Marriage*[®] (AOM) in July 2010, Cindy awoke one Saturday morning and declared to blurry-eyed Roland, “God wants us to take the *Art of Marriage* all over the world!” Although surprised by this unusual wake-up call, experience has taught Roland that when the Spirit moved in Cindy they best listen and take action.

They immediately pursued hosting an AOM in their local church but for various reasons they could not get it off the ground. As the months of 2011 turned into the beginning of 2012 they were becoming discouraged. They didn't understand what had happened to that mysterious Saturday morning



call from God to take AOM around the world. Soon they just put the whole idea on the backburner. Little did they know that God was at work listening and responding to the prayers of a couple more than 1,000 miles away.

Because God calls all believers to spread the gospel throughout the world, the Weber's church launched a missions endeavor to send at least 1,000 church members outside Northwest Arkansas on a cross-cultural missions experience in the year 2012. Roland and Cindy decided to join a team going to Tres Reyes, a village of 2,000 people in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico on the Yucatán Peninsula. The team decided that evangelism would be a major focus of their trip as well as providing practical help of laying the foundation of a much needed church building there.



During one of the team's planning sessions Cindy felt led to try one more time and suggested they do the Spanish language version of the *Art of Marriage* as part of the mission trip. The doors swung open! The idea of a marriage conference was fully embraced by the leadership in Mexico and immediately plans were set in motion to hold the event at the Bible Institute of Cancún.

With only six weeks to prepare, the Webers immersed themselves in the AOM training materials. Not only were they leading a marriage conference for the first time but they don't know any Spanish! Forging ahead they kept sensing

(Continued on page 2)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for Lila's knee that she hurt a few weeks ago because her physical therapy hasn't resulted in the progress we had hoped for....she has a Doctor appointment and a possible MRI. Please lift up Lila too as she heads up the home school effort
- Pray for Roland & Cindy Weber (see story on left) and their upcoming mission trips to Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico and the AOM in their local Hispanic community. Pray that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit, that they will recognize open doors for ministry, and for continued good health
- PRAISE that Marshall and Maddie have had a good start to home school Coop in the last two weeks!
- PRAY for Steve and the other Development Managers, Cindy and Jerry, as they lead the department after the Vice-President resigned unexpectedly last week.

In His Grip & Grace,

Steve & Lila

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(Continued from page 1)

God saying, "Trust Me!" God not only provided all the financial resources needed for the trip but also Ministry Partners to cover the entire cost of the AOM books and DVDs. Originally planning for only five couples, the event quickly blossomed to 100 people, turning away 150 due to space limitations.



With a week to go before their trip, the Webers were taking inventory of the materials they needed to ship ahead when suddenly they discovered that all the AOM manuals were in English! They quickly called FamilyLife and the staff worked diligently over the weekend to exchange the manuals for the Spanish version. The mission

team divided all one hundred manuals amongst their thirteen suitcases and, glory to God, only four manuals were misplaced in route!

People flocked to the event, some coming from five hours away. The singles on the mission team provided childcare each night for forty children in a garage area while their parents attended the AOM. Other team members prayed for attendees prayer requests throughout the event.



God moved mightily! Twenty-four people gave their lives to Christ during the event. (Another 21 came to Christ in the village during their afternoon door-to-door visits.) One couple from Cancún, married just six years, decided they want to leave a legacy and cancelled plans for divorce. Another couple who traveled five hours to attend asked the Webers to come to their village because the need is so great – at least 300 people would come. Many tears were shed and marriages

given new hope in Christ.

The most amazing story of all is the couple who approached the Webers after the conference and through an interpreter told them that in 2010 they came across the *Art of Marriage* on the internet. This couple was so stirred by the biblical content they began praying that someone would bring it to their area. Suddenly it became clear – this was about the same time the Webers received the strange call from God to take AOM all over the world! They realized God's timing is perfect in all things.

So what is next for the Webers? God has already opened a door for them to host an *Art of Marriage* in Hawaii when they visit their son and his family next month. Just a few days ago an opportunity to host an AOM in Alaska has appeared on the horizon. Discussion has started about returning to Mexico to host AOM again. They hope to soon share the AOM Spanish version in their own community through their Hispanic church.

And they aren't even retired yet!



FAMILYLIFE presents
the art of **marriage**

The *Art of Marriage* is currently available in the following versions:

- ♥ DVD Event
- ♥ Small Group Edition
- ♥ On-line Edition

Currently available languages:

- ♥ English audio
- ♥ English subtitles
- ♥ Spanish subtitles & manuals

Languages in development:

- ♥ Mandarin
- ♥ Estonian

FamilyLife hopes to produce other languages as demand develops.

For more information about the *Art of Marriage* please visit:
www.theartofmarriage.com



Will you become a HomeBuilder and minister to families?

Judging by most families, we often have different perspectives on the same situation, different reactions to the same event and different ways to solve the same problem. Go to **Contact Us** at www.bayerfamilylife.com and let us know if you would like to become a Homebuilder where you live, work and worship!

Would you like to join our encouragement/prayer team? We would love to add you to our email distribution where you'll hear from us when particular prayer needs arise and as prayers are answered!