**Steve and Lila Bayer**

**Family**Life

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow

 Christmas 2012

**Personal Update**

 Time goes so fast—we are coming up on our second year here at FamilyLife! In looking back, I (Lila) can see the stages we have gone through. For the first year, people kept asking us if we were “settled”. And that answer was yes, we did get settled quickly through the wonderful community of those serving at FamilyLife in Little Rock. But, being settled is not necessarily the same as thriving. I think we can now safely say we are thriving. We like our church, we have a small group we attend on Sundays, Steve has accountability partners and I have a regular women’s Bible study. The kids have friends at church, school co-ops, and at FamilyLife as well. We’ve done some painting and personalizing of the house, so it feels like ours now. And sometimes I actually run into people I know at the grocery store. Since we are homeschooling, I don’t have regular ministry duties, but they certainly have figured out what to ask me to help with. Most of my contributions ministry-wise have been in the areas of food and hospitality. (No surprise there!)

**Exciting News!**

 I (Steve) have been asked to take on a newly-created position as Division Manager of the Western Region of the Homebuilder Field Team. I will move into this role after the first of the year, where I will be responsible for managing missionary staff both at the headquarters here in Little Rock, and in the field. Our division includes New Mexico, California, Washington, Montana and states in-between. I am incredibly excited to serve in this role as I’ll be leading and equipping staff as they minister to people in churches, businesses, and families right where they live! Lila and I both feel this role fits my skills and interests and is incredibly important to FamilyLife as they seek to multiply their efforts for families.

**Ministry Impact**

The Lord has used FamilyLife to have an incredible impact for His kingdom since 1976. Thousands have come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior including 171 people out of 5,000 so far this fall season at **The Weekend to Remember Getaways.** See [www.familylife.com/events](http://www.familylife.com/events) for the current schedule should you or your friends want to attend.

 In the last 18 months, ***The Art of Marriage*** video marriage conference has had over 250,000 people attend at thousands of churches all over the country. Countless marriages have been strengthened at these events along with millions of others through the radio, bible studies and many other resources. Efforts by staff and volunteers have resulted in active ministry in 101 countries and 42 language translations!

**How You Can Help**

 Thank you so much for partnering with us to help FamilyLife be such a great blessing to millions of people around the world! We so appreciate your financial support and for praying for us so faithfully-however you’ve been involved!

 I do want to mention a reality--some of our partners have had difficult challenges this year, and have been unable to fulfill their pledges and our health insurance just increased over 4%. We have made it through the year because of gifts that came in during the year that weren’t pledged which is a huge blessing! Right now we are $649 per month short. Also, we are looking at our calendar for next year, and will need to raise about $4,000 for our every-other-year Cru U.S. Staff convention that we are required to attend at Colorado State University in July. If you are praying about year-end giving, we’d sincerely appreciate it if you would consider our family for a special gift at this time and even ongoing support next year.

 Please consider ministering to your own marriage and to other families at your church, through your business or through your extended family in 2013. Take a look at the insert and website, [www.mensteppingup.com](http://www.mensteppingup.com), for the **STEPPING UP, A Call to Courageous Manhood** simulcast scheduled for Super Saturday on 2.2.13. This is an event that your church could host specifically for men! For other ministry ideas from our **Love Like You Mean It Cruise** to study resources see [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)!

Thanks again for blessing us! Please let us know how we can minister to you, your family and friends—we’d cherish the opportunity to talk on the phone about how we might minister to you and those around you!

 Have a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior,

**Steve, Lila, Marshall and Maddie Bayer**

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