

# FAMILYLIFE®

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

## Steve & Lila Bayer

Serving with FamilyLife to make every home a godly home



February 2014

### Greeting,



### Love Like You Mean It Cruise Vow Renewal Ceremony on the Love Like You Mean It Cruise

By Lila Bayer,

Steve and I just returned from serving on the annual FamilyLife "Love Like You Mean It" cruise. (Yes, I know, it's a rough assignment, but someone has to do it!) We were surprised and delighted that so many people would see our staff tags and want to tell us how FamilyLife had helped them. One couple we met the first day told us how they were celebrating their 25th anniversary and how FamilyLife had helped them through a very difficult custody battle. Another couple told us they had just had their most difficult year maritally, but that the FamilyLife Today radio show had given them tools and encouragement to get through it, and that they had grown closer together and deeper spiritually because of it. It was a great reminder for us that all the work that is accomplished through the home office does touch real and hurting people. It was also amusing how much fun people had when they "caught" us hanging the nightly gift bags on their doors—like catching the Easter Bunny! Thanks to our daughter Arielle for coming to spend time with Marshall and Maddie so that we could be a part of this event! Take a look at [www.lovelikeyoumeanitcruise.com](http://www.lovelikeyoumeanitcruise.com) to see a highlight

### Introducing you to FamilyLife Staff!

This month we are beginning a series to introduce you to the Live Event Reps that are in Steve's division. One is Rick Maupin and his wife Susie who have been at FamilyLife since 2000.

Susie and I were both born and raised in Chicago. Susie lived for her first 18 years in the shadow of Wrigley Field; I grew up about 20 blocks west of there and a dozen blocks north. I was a production supervisor for the Chicago Tribune (mine were the last eyes on the paper before it went to print) for the last 8 of my nearly 26 years there. We have six children, ages 29-18; four boys, two girls: Ricky, 29, Dan, 27, Brian, 25, Leann 24, Joey, 23, and Tonya, 18. We have three daughters-in-law, two grandchildren, and two dogs, our pets Peeve (13) and Pepsi (3). Susie and I had attended a Chicago Weekend to Remember in 1992 and we decided to attend every year thereafter (He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it—we needed to get back to where we knew He would be, at a WTR). After attending three consecutive years, we found ourselves in one of those Staff Opportunities sessions. God used the idea of full time Christian ministry in concert with an opportunity to share Christ with an unbelieving neighbor—who then chose life in Christ at my kitchen table—to encourage me to

video or if you want to attend in 2015!

By the way, see a glimpse of Lila on the video at about the 7 second mark!

## Ministry Notables!

By the numbers so far in 2014!

Love Like You Mean it Cruise was sold out and attended by 1,000 Couples!

Over 13,000 people registered for [www.weekendtoremember.com](http://www.weekendtoremember.com) spring events across the country in January alone.

Weekend to Remember's attendees at six locations on Valentines Weekend alone numbered 4,921 people where 93 indicated Salvation decisions & 110 said they've recommitted their lives to Jesus Christ!

The Art of Marriage in the last six months have been hosted by 550 Churches & Small Groups! Over 120,000 people from Detroit to Jewell, KS and many other points around the U.S have attended.

Nearly 10,000 men attended 659 Super Saturday [www.mensteppingup.com](http://www.mensteppingup.com) events on Super Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup>!



at my kitchen table – to encourage me to go through the process of coming on staff. When we were accepted, despite all of our flaws, we could hardly say, “No.” Plus, over the years from 1992-1996, I had seen God’s hand in our marriage, family and church placement and I didn’t want to miss whatever else He had for me. So Susie and I chose to trust Him with this career change, too.

One of my favorite God stories came last Christmas (2012), when our local volunteer team leaders, Tod and Lori Kaddatz, gave me a financial gift after the Milwaukee Weekend to Remember event in October. Tod had been collecting aluminum cans from around his neighborhood in an effort to save enough money to buy an HDTV. Instead, the Kaddatz’ were convinced that God was calling them to give that savings to us. They gave us a check for \$57. What a huge blessing! Two months later, at a FamilyLife Christmas party, there was a drawing for a 32-inch HDTV, based on the number of hosted events any staff member was responsible for hosting or having hosted that fall. Just moments before the drawing was to be held, Susie asked me if my name was in there, to which I said, “Yes.” We looked at each other she said, “If we win, we’re sending that TV to Tod and Lori..” I said, “Absolutely!” Two seconds later, my name was drawn as the winner! We sent the TV to the Kaddatz that afternoon and they got it a couple of days later. I asked their 17-year-old daughter to film the family opening the large box and then showed the video to the staff at a pre-planned staff meeting that I inserted myself into because of what God had done. That was so much fun! Oh, by the way, two weeks later, in another drawing, I again had my name called and God gave us the EXACT HDTV we had shipped to the Kaddatz! It just doesn’t get much better when what you’re looking for is evidence that we serve a LIVING God. You can learn more about our family and FamilyLife at [www.rickandsusie.cccministry.org](http://www.rickandsusie.cccministry.org).

FAMILYLIFE  
**LOVE**  
LIKE YOU MEAN IT  
MARRIAGE CRUISE



## Changed Lives from the Cruise

"This was an incredible time of fellowship and rekindling of our romance. I may not ever take a regular cruise again! It was a true outpouring of God's love on us. We had communication unlike we've had in a long time" ~Married 9 years,

"Many are leaving the ship with a vision for ministering to others! One gentleman in his 70s from southern California said he and his wife have now hosted three FamilyLife [www.theartofmarriage.com](http://www.theartofmarriage.com) events and are planning on more. And I just met a pair of couples from Pittsburgh are going back to start [www.mensteppingup.com](http://www.mensteppingup.com) with a bunch of dads and their 15-17-year-old sons and their buddies. I'm REALLY excited! ~Dennis Rainey, FamilyLife President & Found

## PRAYER REQUESTS

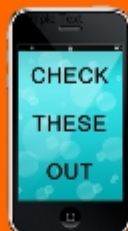
- Pray for Steve and his team of Live Event Reps that we will connect deeply with and equip our volunteer teams all over the country helping them to be successful in their calling to minister through the *Weekend to Remember* to people in their cities this spring.
- Continue to PRAY for Lila's bum knee as we've mentioned in the past (pain management).
- Praise the Lord for the financial and prayer support that you are a big part of in allowing us to be able to reach so many people!

## OUR LINKS

[Steve & Lila's Website](#)

[E-mail Steve](#)

[E-mail Lila](#)



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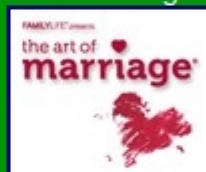
Steve 785.249.7566  
Lila 785.221.4027

## FAMILY LIFE LINKS

Weekend to Remember  
Marriage Getaway



Art of Marriage



Stepping Up



FamilyLife Today Radio



FamilyLife Video



**Dennis and Barbara Rainey**  
Authors and Co-Founders, FamilyLife

