

FAMILYLIFE®

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

Steve & Lila Bayer

Serving with FamilyLife to make every home a godly home



March 2014

By Steve Bayer

Have you heard the saying "If you don't get the things you want, think of all the things you don't get that you don't want". Which is just a fun way of saying "be grateful". I've had a particular reason to consider what I'm grateful for the last several days. I've been taking a medication for a nail fungus, but a side effect has caused me to lose most of my sense of taste. It came on so slow I didn't realize what was happening but don't worry, I'm now off the meds and I'm hopeful that my sense of taste is beginning to return slowly. It's been an interesting process--first I lost the ability to taste water, then food a few days later. So I've been eating a lot of tortilla chips, popcorn and ice cream (not together) because the crunch and cold at least impact other senses.

The ability to taste my food is definitely something I have taken for granted. What a lesson I'm learning from this as I'd never thought of taste as a blessing until I didn't have it! I wonder about other areas in our lives where this might apply? Maybe we take our spouses or other family for granted.

Maybe we take for granted our friends, job or financial security. Or if we see another person in need how do we respond? Do we take for granted that someone else will step in? Or, do we give them encouragement? Do we pray for them and tell them that we are lifting them up? Do we slow down enough to consider what the Lord might have us do as part of their story? Possibly their story is one the Lord wants us involved in!

In this season of Lent, and especially if you've been a Christian for a long time, we can be in danger of taking Christ's sacrifice for granted.

We're so familiar with the story of the cross that we don't marvel at the wonder of it anymore. Take a few moments now to reflect

Stepping Up Men's Study

-265 inmates ranging in age from 25 to 75 at Wrightsville Prison (AR) attended this 10 week study. The chaplain says these men feel like the lepers of our day and that it was so well received 130 more are on the wait list. One man said that "I thought I was a man but I wasn't because I abused my wife and abandoned my children & now I understand a man is being God's man"

Global Update

-FamilyLife Resources are translated into 42 languages including Bahasa Indonesia, Estonian, and Vietnamese and 900 New Radio Broadcasts are in development now for 2,000,000,000 people in Mandarin, Spanish and Russian.

-Hispanic FamilyLife has active ministry in 15 Central & S. American countries including Guatemala and Cuba.

Introducing you to FamilyLife Staff that reports to Steve! Mark and Michelle Ellis

Answering God's call to ministry was as easy as saying, "Here am I Lord, send me," but it really didn't happen that way. After several years of running a construction business and responsibilities at church God began to give us a great desire to help families and couples. Not knowing how to meet those needs, we continually looked for materials to help those who were reaching out.

on what you are grateful for and remember the joy of Easter. If you'd like, tell us what you're grateful for so we that can pray in thankfulness with you!

Ministry Notables!

Billboard War

Some days you wake up to some crazy stuff in our culture like the "Who said Cheaters Never Prosper? Happy President's Day!" billboard in Little Rock by Ashley Madison who provides dating relationships for people interested in committing adultery. [Read FamilyLife's response here.](#)



In the midst of our busy lives, the Lord showed us that the work we were trying to do was consuming us. We felt the Lord wanted us to do something more, but struggled separately with the way He was leading. Finally we communicated with each other about our areas of struggle, feeling confirmed that full-time service was God's will for our lives. Sooner than we expected, He showed us the direction which was FamilyLife.

We believe what Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." We are committed to following His blueprints to build Godly homes, to work diligently to touch the lives of people for Jesus Christ, and to be good stewards of the resources that God provides as we minister to families and couples. For 19 years, we have been on the path the Lord has shown us, ministering to hurting families.

We serve in multiple roles, Michelle ministers in the resource centers at the Weekend to Remember getaways while Mark helps set them up and as Manager of facilities. As a couple we serve as Live Event Reps for getaways in Houston, San Antonio, South Padre and Austin. Recently, Michelle was working at a getaway with over 700 in attendance and another unique crowd was down the hall in the hotel. One of the ladies going to an Islamic Prayer Conference had been looking at the books in the FamilyLife Resource Center. Michelle struck up a conversation and gave her a Nancy Leigh DeMoss book, "Choosing Forgiveness" The lady gave Michelle a hug and said she was going to share it with her friends. Michelle was filling in for another who became ill at the last second.....where do you get opportunities to minister like that!?



By the numbers!

Weekend To Remember Getaways January 1st through March 14th:

-Attendance-14,932 people!

-Indicated Salvation Decisions-676 people!

-Registered currently for all Spring events-29,455 people

PRAYER REQUESTS

-For Marshall (age 16) and us as we're looking for a car that will last him through college years.

-That Steve's sense of taste will return.

-That we'll rely on the Lord as we need better balance between ministry needs and home life

"This is a weekend that we look forward to attending each year or so. I think our kids are just as excited for us to go . . . it gives them a sense of security to know we are committed to our marriage, plus they get to go to Grandpa & Grandma's house for a fun time!" *Wife married 13 years*

"The kids are out of the house and we have entered a new phase, this conference was a good tune-up for our marriage. Only regret is we should have come when the kids were younger and we could apply some of what we learned." *Wife married 30 years*

and home life.

-Pray for our Live Event Reps who are traveling all over the country serving local volunteers.

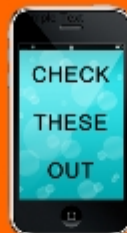
-Continue to pray for Lila's knee that needs replaced as the pain comes and goes.

OUR LINKS

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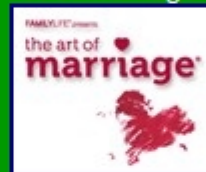
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FAMILY LIFE LINKS

Weekend to Remember
Marriage Getaway



Art of Marriage



Stepping Up



FamilyLife Today Radio



FamilyLife Video



