

FAMILYLIFE[®]

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

Steve & Lila Bayer

Serving with FamilyLife to make every home a godly home



April 2014

Prayer Update 2014 April

Now and then isn't it normal to wonder & ask God, is my ministry activity focused on where HE wants it to be and am what I am doing having an impact? Have you ever thought about those two questions? Come on, haven't you? Haven't we all!?

Lila and I reflect on that now and then. As you may know the Lord had given us a passion for stewardship ministry first as volunteers at Topeka Bible Church in the late 90's when we started to meet with friends as their unofficial budget coaches—we were just friends encouraging one another! Then, Lila started meeting with single moms to help them with their finances. Many of those meetings revolved around encouraging these ladies that God does care about them despite their doubt that the Lord could get them through their difficulty. Then, our budget coaching activity expanded as we started to meet with couples about their finances.

I vividly remember a friend making the comment somewhere around 2000 as our coaching activity was increasing..."Wouldn't it be cool if the Lord had you doing this full-time someday?" I recall my somewhat impulsive & fleshly response. It was something like "Yea right, that'll never happen; most of the people we meet with can't afford to pay us anything"! Well, of course the Lord shows up sometimes right when you're wondering how can this possibly work!

Years later & after countless budget coach sessions we were invited to a meeting led by full-time stewardship ministry leaders along with a couple who attended another local church & that we'd never met. This is where we first saw a roadmap about how we could minister to people right where we

Introducing you to FamilyLife Staff!

Meet Mike & Cindy Warren. The Warren's met and were married in Denver, CO in 1988 where Cyndi was an administrative assistant for an engineering firm and Mike worked for a couple of airlines doing weights and balances so planes fly fuel efficiently.

I (Mike) grew up in a church where I never heard a gospel presentation. I went looking for meaning in all the wrong places. One night I knew there had to be something more so I started reading my bible I had been given in 6th grade & started getting up each morning at 5:00 a.m. to watch a Christian TV program. One morning as I was watching the program I knew that God was speaking to me through this show. I got on my knees & asked the Lord to forgive me & to take control of my life. At 28 years of age I started the journey of a lifetime which culminated in becoming a missionary with FamilyLife.

Cyndi describes her walk, "Even as a youth I had a passion for the truth but I was looking in some pretty weird places like UFOs, the Pyramids and reading things like How to Have an Out of Body Experience, and The Secret Life of Plants. That last book left me feeling guilty about putting carrots down the garbage disposal for six months. That longing for truth eventually led me to reading the New Testament. As I read I realized that this was the truth I had been looking for. One day I read Romans 10:9: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you shall be saved." I thought, "I want to be saved ... I believe that God raised Christ from the dead." And then I said out loud, "Jesus is Lord." God honored that simple prayer of faith and came into my life that day."

After we had been miserably married for 10 months we attended the FamilyLife Weekend

were at in Topeka! That led to us ending up joining full-time field staff as missionaries with Crown Financial Ministries in 2004 where we served churches not only in Topeka but eventually across the entire state of Kansas. I remember fondly meeting with many passionate people from every corner of Kansas as the Lord expanded our vision from friends to single mom's, then couples at our home church to an entire State!

As we sensed the Lord dosing the door on our time with Crown he used our experiences meeting with couples to impress upon us the difficult state many marriages and families are in & that's how the Lord revealed FamilyLife as where He wanted us. The Lord had been preparing us to apply for missionary staff with FamilyLife headquarters in Little Rock, AR.

I was recently reminded (again!) that the Lord is allowing us to have a huge impact on people! We get to see dozens of testimonies every week from the Weekend to Remember Getaways, Art of Marriage church hosted events, Stepping Up men's study, Passport to Purity & from countless other resources . This one caught my eye from a Weekend to Remember last weekend....

"My spouse and I have opened up and have made the decision to commit our lives to Christ. We have never been to church and we leave here actively seeking a home to learn and to grow through God. We can't express how much this has helped us and affected our lives in a positive way. Our children will thank you for opening our eyes!" ~Married 7 years

Do you know someone like this couple that may not attend church? How are they going to hear the gospel?

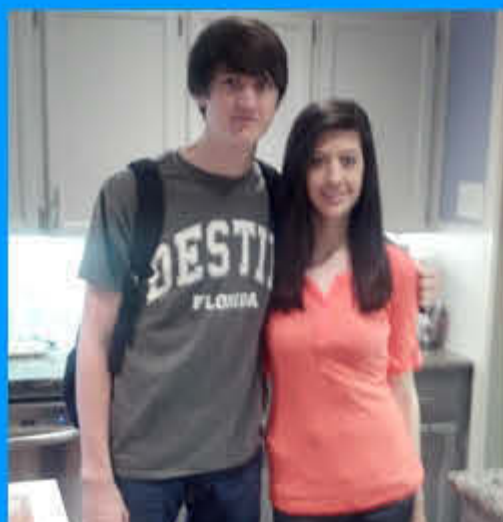
God may be leading you to tell them about Jesus! The Lord may be leading you to invite them to attend a [Weekend To Remember](#) in a hotel, (85 events last year), to an [I Still Do Arena Event](#) (three events this fall including one to be simulcast worldwide) or even host a small group men's study like [Stepping Up](#), [A Call to Courageous Manhood](#) or the [Art of Marriage](#) at your church or in your home!

God is using you and us to have an impact for the kingdom around the globe through your prayers, your financial support & through your personal ministry to others! FamilyLife is ministering through the web, radio & through exciting tools that get into the hands of people many times because someone like you encouraged & invited them. Wherever you are in your personal walk you can pickup up a tool, attend an event or lead your own event or study to sow into your own marriage, to reach out to your family, friends, neighborhood, church or business!

missions we attended the FamilyLife Weekend To Remember and it changed our lives. We wanted to tell everyone we knew about the "WTR". We soon became volunteers and within a year we sensed God's calling to FamilyLife !

Mike is a Live Events Rep where he works with Pastors & Local Team volunteers to help strengthen marriages & families in Iowa, Nebraska & the Dakota's. Cyndi has worked as a writer for FamilyLife but because of the limitations of rheumatoid arthritis primarily writes their monthly newsletter to about 200 ministry partners.

At a recent Weekend to Remember Mike met a couple who had led a very hard life. They asked him how to communicate. She said, "I don't know how to compliment him." Mike says, "I talked with them about a couple of different resources that focused on what speaks love to your spouse. This was a couple that was young in the faith but they were hungry to learn and grow in their marriage and their walk with the Lord. I talked with them for about 30 minutes & prayed with them & they thanked me with tears in their eyes." Mike said his discussion with this couple reminds him that the Lord has taught them that it doesn't matter where you serve but as long as you're in the center of God's will, He'll use you!



We praise God for your prayers, your financial support of us and your own personal ministry that allows the Lord to show up in the lives of others—whether they attend church or not!



Marshall (16) & Maddie (14) say hi and thank you for encouraging our family!

For Christ alone,

Steve & Lila



By the numbers!

-The Spring "Weekend to Remember" conference season ends in June-Praise God for 11 sellouts so far! The testimonies are incredible! See the ministry facebook page icon to see some of them. Please continue to pray for changed lives through all our events & resources!

PRAYER REQUESTS

-Praise God that we found a car for Marshall! The Lord brought us a salvage title car with only 51,000 miles on it-thank you for your prayers!

-Pray that Marshall & Maddie will finish strong in their last month of school.

-Steve's sense of taste is mostly normal (I think).

OUR LINKS

[Steve & Lila's Website](#)

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FAMILY LIFE LINKS

Weekend to Remember
Marriage Getaway



Art of Marriage



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Stepping Up



FamilyLife Today Radio



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