

May 2014

Greetings from the FamilyLife headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas!

This has been a hard month at FamilyLife. As you know from our prayer request email after the devastating tornadoes here on April 27th, the storm took the lives of staff member Rob Tittle and two of his daughters. The tornado also destroyed their home leaving his widow and seven children to carry on without them. Two other ministry families lost all or a good part of their homes and possessions.



It has been a time of reflection, grieving, praying, and serving. We wonder why something like this has happened to these people. But, as one of our Sunday School teachers used to say, "God doesn't usually answer why questions." It has been evident, though, that He is bringing good out of this situation. So many people from all over have come to serve, or sent donations, or been in prayer for all the affected families. We have seen servant leaders spending day after day on clean-up efforts that must seem overwhelming. People have donated vehicles, their time, expensive clean-up equipment, food, clothing – it truly has been amazing to be in the midst of that and see how God's people pour out loving responses.



Here is what's left of an 18-20' tall tree in the Tittle Family back yard. Husband & Dad Rob & daughters Tori & Rebekah died near here. Their kids previously carved in the tree "God ♡ U". Our friend Jeff Nice, who's wife Jeanie is Rob's sister, added the cross piece which measures about 8' across as they led the cleanup efforts on the property.

And yet, already, life is moving on past these affected families, the news media talks of other things, weddings and graduations are in full swing. Please pray for these families and many others (there were 16 lives lost & 400+ houses destroyed within 20 miles of here) whose lives will never be "back-to-normal".

This morning, God reminded me (Lila) that there are so many families whose lives are in "ruins" as well, they're just not as visible to everyone. That is why Steve and I are so glad to be part of the work at FamilyLife. We love that God is using this ministry to bring help, love and hope to them as well. This week, as you interact with people, ask God to give you insight into those who might need a kind word, encouragement or prayer.



Marshall (16) & Maddie (turns 15 on June 1st) just finished their Sophomore & Freshman years!

Personal Update

Marshall and Madeleine just finished their school year. Marshall is working at Chick-fil-a and both will be doing some home school work this summer with Khan Academy and we'll finish our book together by Howard Dayton of Compass ministries, "Your Money Counts". Steve and Marshall are going through the FamilyLife study, "Stepping Up, A Call to Courageous Manhood". Steve and a group of great guys are going through this study too!

Ministry Update

The activity at the ministry is fast-paced with several initiatives. There are nine ***Weekend to Remember Getaways*** to conclude the spring season through June.

I Still Do which is a one-day arena event is scheduled in Chicago, Portland, and Washington D.C. (August & October) with the D.C. event available via simulcast—see www.istilldo.com for information on attending or hosting the simulcast—it'll be a fun event with worship and incredible speakers!

To see previous Prayer Updates that we've emailed you, go to www.bayerfamilylife.com & click on "Blog"

Ministry Notables:

- *Weekend to Remember Getaway's* Sept. 1 to April 30th: 1,899 Salvation Decisions & 47,963 attended!
- *I Still Do* Arena Events: 43 Simulcast locations are scheduled already including Topeka Bible Church.

"Weeks away from a divorce. I realized how much I still loved my wife & I wasn't ready to quit. Learned to forgive sins & let go. Learned that my wife still really loves me. ~Married 31 years

"I learned separation doesn't have to happen. It's a choice to live out a godly marriage". ~Married 10 months

Thank you for being a part of our prayer and support team.

Serving Him,

Steve and Lila Bayer

Missionary Staff with FamilyLife

<https://give.cru.org/0634047>



FamilyLife Staff at the ministry's **Day of Prayer** on April 22nd prayed for ministry efforts around the globe. Steve & Lila personally prayed for the prayer requests that many of you sent us.