

# FAMILYLIFE®

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

## Steve & Lila Bayer

Serving with FamilyLife to make every home a godly home



Prayer Update June 2015

Dear Friends,

This is why we do what we do-following is a letter sent to us by a prison chaplain. It was written by an inmate at Loretto, PA Federal Prison. He along with other inmates there completed the FamilyLife mens Study **Stepping Up, A Call to Courageous Manhood**;

*I've just completed "Stepping Up" here at Loretto. I found the course to be very helpful in showing me the extreme importance of having men provide us with real life examples of how life should be done. It also caused me to look back on my own life at how I was failed by the men in my life and in turn how I failed to provide the real life example for my step-son. I have great remorse about my actions as a father and step-father and now I am seeing the fruits of my own failures. My step-son now 19, dropped out of high school and now has a pregnant girlfriend. They are having the baby and will be getting married but I can see that my lack of leadership is a direct contribution to his situation. I sure would like to have that opportunity back but we get one shot to get it right. I'm not saying that I would have to be perfect, just a good father that makes mostly good decisions. I made many more poor decisions than good ones. I turned my back on God and embraced atheism for four years. My step-son wants no contact with me and he has no older males in his life. I fear for him. He is not saved and was raised in non-Christian home.*

*While I know there are no "do-overs" in life I look ahead to what the Lord has in store for me. I'm blooming where I'm planted through demonstration and proclamation of Jesus Christ here at Loretto. While I find it difficult to apply the principles of Mentorship here in prison I take the content of the **Stepping Up** course and try to apply it to my life.*

*My vision for the future is to start a post-prison re-entry program. The name will be "491 More Second Chance". The ministry will help men through apprenticeship and journeyman programs in construction, plumbing, electrical, renewable energy, HVAC, food service, welding, machining and carpentry. My*

*first wife and I plan to re-marry and pursue this endeavor together with Christ as the focal point. We want to provide free counseling and support groups for the men and their families. We're looking to reconnect these men to their families and to help them become real men that do Step Up and provide for their families, themselves and most important to introduce them to the King of Kings. We both know this will be a huge task, but with God all things are possible. We've got a plan and we're excited to see how the Lord is going to lay out the path before us. I've done too much "self-service" and I'm now serving the Lord in my life. I wish I would have known how awesome it is to be an obedient, honest and trustworthy man of God years ago...but I didn't. I do now and I'm not looking back now that my hands are firmly holding to the Gospel plow!*

*Thank you for Stepping Up and FamilyLife.  
In His Love & Service, Lynden J. Uplinger*

Note: Since 2013 hundreds of men at several prisons and even the Atlanta Rescue Mission have completed the FamilyLife **Stepping Up** study! The Ministry Advisor department which Steve helps lead are on the front lines working with hosts of study's like these. In this case the study "Host" we are working with is the Prison Chaplain!

### **More lives impacted!**

*I appreciate the military scholarship. I wanted a divorce before the weekend because I thought the "grass was greener" with someone else but I have realized how important my relationship with my wife is -- and I choose her.*

**~Military husband married 2 years, Branson Weekend to Remember**

*The sharing after Project 3 and into date night was a good time to hear from each other things we hadn't known for 33 years of marriage.*

**~ Wife, married 33 years, Dallas Weekend to Remember**

*I just finished "Passport to Purity" with my mom and it was so much fun! I enjoyed it so much I am sad to see it end. You and your wife sound very nice. I was wondering what part of the country you live; your wife has a beautiful accent. We live in Florida. Thank you for ministering so well. I will tell my friends about this!*

**~Pre-teen, Florida, email written to President/Founder Dennis & Barbara Rainey**

### **Prayer Updates**

-Thanks for praying for our department leadership team that Steve is part of as we've been communicating budget changes to our Advisors. Our team has responded very positively as we depend on the Lord—Praise God as the Advisors aren't letting budget issues dampen their enthusiasm to minister to small group study and event leaders!

-Praise God that Steve's back and gastro issues have improved to a "nuisance level" and that Lila's knee pain has been minimal the last few weeks. Thanks for your continued prayers.

-Marshall and Maddie did well completing their school year. Pray this summer as we are looking for high school and college prep classes at "Pulaski Tech" next school year. Marshall continues to work at Chick-fil-a and Maddie who just turned 16 is driving with her permit in preparation for the real drivers license test later this summer and is now searching for her first job.

-Pray for travel this summer; Steve is taking a quick trip to see his parents the weekend of June 19 to attend a family reunion in Manhattan, KS and all of us will fly to Colorado to attend the bi-annual Cru U.S. Staff training in Ft. Collins, CO July 11-23. Pray that this will be an inspiring and encouraging event for Steve & Lila as we'll be equipped further in our roles and pray for Marshall and Maddie as they are enrolled in the Sr. High Activities there.

Thank you for being in the battle with us—your prayers, support, calls and notes of encouragement are

life-giving. May the Lord keep and bless you!

In Christ's love, Steve & Lila Bayer

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14101 Napoleon Rd  
Little Rock, AR 72211

Phones:  
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