



hope for families everywhere

asia—marriage events for singles by jayna richardson

Young believers in certain parts of Asia can have a tough time finding other singles who share their faith. Although many of these believers desire marriage and family, churches are often small (many of them meet in houses) and limited in opportunities for Christians to meet and date other Christians.

Thomas, a Korean FamilyLife missionary, wanted to help with this issue, so he came up with a plan: He developed a 4-week program using FamilyLife materials to teach marriage principles to a group of singles and allow them to interact with each other in a safe environment. Each weekly session included a lesson, ice breakers, games, and small-group activities.

“My desire for this event included two things,” says Thomas. “One is learning biblical principles for dating;

the other is allowing them to meet each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Thirty-six singles showed up for the program—all committed believers who were recommended for the program by their churches. Along with learning relationship and marriage principles such as the differences between men and women and how to have a happy, biblical marriage, the singles also had the opportunity to privately express their interest in dating someone from the group. Each person wrote on a memo the names of anyone they were interesting in dating, and Thomas and another staff member reviewed and compared memos to match up couples for dates. Thomas provided guidelines for the couples, like where to meet (in a public place such as a coffee shop),



and what kinds of things to discuss (simple life history, their testimony, and their vision for marriage).

Five couples were formed as a result of this program, the exact number Thomas was praying for. They are beginning biblical dating relationships with lots of prayer and support from others. Thomas feels confident that the program was a positive experience. “I believe God was pleased with this event,” he says.

chad—a light in the dark *continued from page 5*

with years of HomeBuilders experience.

I did that. What a unique experience it was. The entire dialogue had to be translated. And the power failed (a common occurrence) sometime before the meeting started. And it stayed off. There we were, eight couples sitting in a circle, doing a HomeBuilders study in a dark room that was illuminated only by the light of cell phones and a few flashlights. But the greatest illumination

came from the Holy Spirit. He brought great biblical truths for marriage to light, as well as a better understanding of HomeBuilders leadership. The Prince of this World may have tried to keep us in the dark, but the entire leadership team came out of the meeting with a greater understanding of and vision for HomeBuilders.

As a result of the trip, the couples providing leadership for FamilyLife

in Chad have clearer direction and greater momentum. We have another follow-up trip scheduled for September 2014. Until then, please join Kathy and me in praying for God’s favor, strong momentum, and that non-Christians would see the difference Jesus can make in a couple’s life and marriage.



FAMILYLIFE[®]
GLOBAL

hope for families everywhere

News and information from FamilyLife partners around the world



February 2014

new zealand—a florist comes to christ by andy bray

We recently held a conference in Invercargill, a small city in the South Island. We had a good-sized audience for such a small place (74 people). As usual we wanted to give each couple a rose when they arrived—one of the extra small touches we offer—but when the roses were delivered, they didn’t come with water sachets on the bottom to keep them fresh. Someone on the team said, “I know where we can get some of those,” and phoned a local florist named Angela.

Unknown to us at that time, a friend of Angela’s had previously dropped a FamilyLife brochure in her mailbox, and she’d been looking at it with interest. When she received the phone call for the water sachets, she said, “Sure, I can provide those, and I’d also really like to help over the weekend if I can!”

So Angela joined our volunteer team at the last minute, keen to help. She was so impacted by the messages and hearing God’s plan for marriage that she came in on Sunday and announced with a beam on her face, “I’m ready to make the decision.”

She emailed us a week later to say she was getting a great desire for knowing God’s Word, had just started going to an Alpha course with her daughter, and recently took her husband



to Winter Bible School.

A couple of months later we received this letter from her:

Hi guys, haven’t forgotten about you all—in fact I still think of you often. I am reading Andy’s book and am finding it a great inspiration. Right now I am watching the video of Andy and Nikki on the FamilyLife website. I visit the site often and am thinking of running some groups in the future.

You will be pleased to know that my husband, Chris and I got baptized over the weekend and are studying and walking with Christ. If there is anything I can do for FamilyLife from down here, I am pleased to be of service to you.

God bless you all and the great work you do.

*With love and admiration,
Angela Castle*

more hope for families inside

familylife and trans world radio—reaching tribes, tongues, and nations

Trans World Radio (TWR) has put together an amazing web platform (TWR360), and FamilyLife is excited to be a part of it. **Page 2**

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new product—preparing for marriage devotional for couples

Know where you’re headed before you walk down the aisle. **Page 4**

chad—a light in the dark

On every city block, groups of Muslims gathered together on the sidewalk. **Page 5**

asia—marriage events for singles

Young believers in certain parts of Asia can have a tough time finding other singles who share their faith. **Page 6**

familylife and trans world radio—reaching tribes, tongues, and nations

by michelle hill

Trans World Radio (TWR) has put together an amazing web platform (TWR360), and FamilyLife is excited to be a part of it. TWR360 is the world's premiere online tool for accessing Christian media in the user's heart language, providing them with audio, transcripts, Bible study tools, and more. TWR360 connects people to the greatest Christian voices for biblical teaching and inspirational messages to equip and encourage them anytime, anywhere.

Their website, www.TWR360.org, features today's top Christian voices in English, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, and Arabic—and that's just

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the beginning. If a web browser opens this page from Hong Kong, the page will open up in Mandarin; if it's opened from Quito, the page will open up in Spanish. The website points the user to all the content available in his or her heart language.

FamilyLife is honored to partner with TWR as they launch TWR360. FamilyLife Today®, our 30-minute daily program, has been recreated and produced in Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin. God is expanding our "family" footprint faster than we can imagine. People around the world are hungry for practical, biblical truths on marriage and family.

Here are some recent listener comments:

- When we lived in Tennessee... I could tune into our local Christian radio station, and each day I received positive encouragement from the talk show Family Life Today. We were so appreciative of this specific show that we began financially supporting our local station. Then we moved. Sigh. I have never been able to find another broadcast of Family Life Today. Until now!
- I knew within about two minutes of listening to my first audio on twr360.org in the FamilyLife Today section that I had struck gold! In a fallen world, finding information from a Christian perspective isn't always the easiest thing to do.
- I am a father, and I have six children. FamilyLife Today gave me a



FamilyLife Today co-host Bob Lepine and host Dennis Rainey

valuable lesson for me to guide my children in the way of the Lord.

- This is my first time listening to this program. With all the false promises this world promises kids today, as a Christian parent I need all the biblically-guided help I can get.

In addition to the broadcasts programs available on www.TWR360.com, *Vida en Familia Hoy*® (our Spanish version of FamilyLife Today) is on 250 radio outlets in Latin America and 25 in the U.S.; over 1300 broadcasts have been produced in Spanish. FamilyLife Today (International English Version) is on over 600 outlets outside the U.S.

We praise God for the ways He is expanding our radio ministry to reach marriages and families around the world!

chad—a light in the dark

by chuck eckerson

Block after block we drove. It was dusk. On every city block, groups of Muslims gathered together on the sidewalk for their evening prayers. All standing in the same direction. Bowing down. Prostrating themselves on their prayer rugs. Reciting their ancient prayers. All the while, the sound of the Muslim call to prayer was blaring from loudspeakers. What a vivid reminder that the people of Chad need to hear the greatest news ever told! But how will they hear?

This is what I saw as Jacques and Josephine, both medical doctors, drove me to their HomeBuilders group – a group that formed as a direct result of our first trip to Chad in January 2013. The group meets in a church that stands in the shadow of Chad's largest mosque. With the eerie sounds of the Muslim call to prayer clearly audible in the background, five couples were learning how to live out Christian marriage. It is hard for us to understand just how counter-cultural this teaching is. And they were being challenged to pass on what they were learning to other couples as well.

Jacques and Josephine see FamilyLife as a great way to help fulfill the Great Commission; and so do we. There is a growing number of Muslims in Chad who want to know more about Christ. Seeing the difference Jesus

can make in a family provides a natural context for sharing the gospel.

We want people to know Jesus and let their marriages be transformed by God's Word. If this happens on a large scale, it will have a huge impact on churches, society as a whole, and the Kingdom of God. That is our vision.

To advance this vision, we focus on three strategic activities:

1. Training lay leaders to disciple other couples in their marriages using FamilyLife resources
2. Ministering to the marriages of pastors



Left: Jacque and Josephine, HomeBuilders leaders
Above: Jacque and Josephine's HomeBuilders group

3. Helping churches start marriage discipleship ministries

When couples have a Christ-centered marriage, they are more likely to be active in fulfilling the Great Commission and have children who know and serve the Lord. Godly marriages make for a strong Church.

When the Church is strong, the gospel moves forward. Individual lives are changed. Entire nations are changed. The Great Commission is advanced.

I returned to Chad (my wife, Kathy, was not able to join me this time) in November 2013 to build into the FamilyLife Leadership Team and help them overcome some of the obstacles they were facing.

They told me that the Chadian culture clashed so strongly with the biblical teaching on marriage that they needed help understanding some of the lessons in the HomeBuilders studies. They wanted me to lead them through a lesson or two so they could make sure they understood the teaching correctly. Not only that, they wanted to see a HomeBuilders lesson led by someone

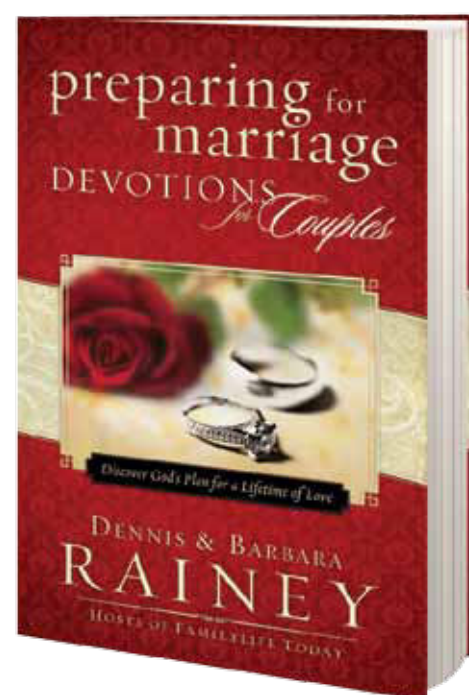
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kazakhstan—help from homebuilders by meka malabayev

Dias and Ayana were going through a difficult time. Dias had lost his job, and they had just had a baby boy. Dias soon found work, but due to their busy schedule, they were unable to continue attending church. As a result, they were spiritually hungry and depressed.

They began attending our Resolving Conflict HomeBuilders group and are happy that they've found a way to have fellowship with other believers. Dias also got a promotion at his work, and they are praising God for helping them through this challenging time. We know that challenges are the salt of our life. It is through challenges that God draws us closer to Himself. A family that has God and unity cannot be shaken by anything.



preparing for marriage devotional for couples

Know where you're headed before you walk down the aisle. This companion devotional to Dennis and Barbara Rainey's Preparing for Marriage book offers 42 short devotionals written by the authors that help couples lay the foundation for a strong marriage. Get ready for the day after the wedding day by spending quality time with God and each other today!

Africa

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Feb 14-16 | Marriage seminar | Erasmusrand | South Africa |
| Mar 15-16 | The Art of Marriage | Centurion | South Africa |
| Mar 15-16 | The Art of Marriage | Cape Town | South Africa |
| May 10 | From Anger to Intimacy | Centurion | South Africa |
| June 20-21 | Parenting seminar | Centurion | South Africa |
| July 25-27 | The Art of Marriage | Moolmanshoek | South Africa |
| Aug 16 | From Anger to Intimacy | Centurion | South Africa |
| Sep 20-21 | The Art of Marriage | Centurion | South Africa |

Europe (Eastern)

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|---------|
| Feb 14-15 | Art of Marriage | Budapest | Hungary |
| Feb 1 | Marriage Conference | Warsaw | Poland |
| Feb 8 | Parenting Conference | Gliwice | Poland |
| Mar 7-9 | Weekend to Remember | | Romania |

Europe (Western)

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mar 22-23 | Marriage Conference | Zurich | Switzerland |
| Jun 28-29 | Marriage Preparation | Zurich | Switzerland |
| Mar 15 | A Day Together | South Bucks | UK |
| Mar 29 | A Day Together | Cambridge | UK |

Middle East and North Africa

Due to sensitive nature of these countries, please contact global@familylife.com for further information.

North America

United States—Phone 1-800-358-6329 or www.familylife.com for a complete listing of conferences.
Canada—Phone 1-800-247-3180 or www.familylifecanada.com for a complete listing of conferences.

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|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Feb 14-16 | Weekend to Remember | Kelowna | Canada |
| Feb 28-Mar 2 | Weekend to Remember | Victoria | Canada |
| Mar 7-9 | Weekend to Remember | Saskatoon | Canada |
| Mar 21-23 | Weekend to Remember | Niagara-on-the-Lake | Canada |
| Apr 4-6 | Weekend to Remember | Halifax | Canada |
| Apr 11-13 | Weekend to Remember | Banff | Canada |

Oceania

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|--------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Feb 15 | A Day Together | Swan Hill | Australia |
| Mar 1 | A Day Together | Singleton | Australia |
| Sep 6 | A Day Together | Hamilton | Australia |
| Sep 20 | A Day Together | Manly | Australia |

Quotes from a recent conference in East Asia:

I like the women's session on respecting my husband with my language, actions, and decisions, especially in front of children.

I like the session on forgiveness and communication. I spend too little time on my wife; I want to understand her more in the future.

Communication is really important; I would like to communicate with my husband in the future like cleaning house every day.

I said goodbye to my past life. I found there are some wrong ideas in my brain.

(From a Buddhist) I believe the Bible now.