

# hope for families everywhere

News and information from FamilyLife partners around the world

August 2014



## colombia—planting seeds of family ministry by jayna richardson

Javier Muñoz, a pastor in Colombia, has seen the need for marriage ministry in his country. High divorce rates throughout Latin America have taken their toll on individual families and societies as a whole. Pastor Muñoz wondered what he could do to make a difference in Colombia. He decided to ask Roger and Laura Dye, American missionaries serving in Latin America, if they could come train a core group in his congregation to do marriage ministry.

“In order to ‘prime the pump,’ I had them (about five couples) watch the Art of Marriage® the week before we arrived,” says Roger. “This served to get them thinking about practical theological applications in marriage and family issues.”

During the training seminar, Los Principios Perdidos del Matrimonio (The

Forgotten Fundamentals of Marriage), a woman named Caty shared her testimony with the group: “My mother never married my father, and he was gone before I was very old. Most of my friends were the same. There was this one weird girl in our school who always asked permission of her parents to go out. Most of us were rebellious, and life was chaos in our community. One day she invited me to her house. It was the first time I had ever seen a family with a mother and a father and children who obeyed. I wanted that! That is what drew me to Christ. That is why I am a Christian today.”

Caty now works with her husband in their church’s ministry in Bogota. They have chosen to use marriage ministry as a main tool for sharing the Gospel and planting the

*continued on page 6*



## more hope for families inside

### united kingdom—that the deaf may hear

When our team was asked if we could accommodate five deaf couples. . . . . **Page 2**

### belarus—seeing God move

Back in February 2011 we had a Weekend to Remember getaway in the town of Pinsk . . . **Page 2**

### calendar of events . . . . . **Page 3**

### new zealand—from the letter box

If we didn’t do something radical, we would implode. . . **Page 4**

### i still do

a powerful, practical, one-day marriage event . . . . . **Page 4**

### china—passport to purity

She said, “Surely this must be in Mandarin somewhere.” . . . . . **Page 5**

### poland: one couple’s testimony

Magda and Wiesiek Grabowski, FamilyLife leaders in Poland, received this encouraging testimony . . . . . **Page 6**



## united kingdom: that the deaf may hear

by chris murfin

One of the things we continually pray about is ensuring the biblical truths that we share at our events don't fall on deaf ears. This prayer request



was heightened at our recent A Day Together event held at our local church (Gold Hill Baptist) in Chalfont St. Peter. When our team was asked if we could accommodate five deaf couples who wanted to attend, we agreed to give it a try.

Our signers, Heather and Hilary, did a fantastic job of signing for the deaf couples. We use several video clips in our day events, and we were able to add subtitles to each of the clips so the couples could read along while watching.



couples. The reward of this effort was priceless. One of the deaf attendees indicated on their feedback form that

they'd made a decision to learn more about becoming a Christian. Please give praise and prayer for this attendee, and pray that we could continue to minister to the deaf community in this way.

Here are a few quotes from the event:



*"A refreshing look at what it takes to make/maintain a relationship. Just what we needed to get back on track."*

*"A great day together. In a time-constrained*

*world, this is definitely an investment and not a cost."*

*"FamilyLife has given us valuable time to discuss life's issues affecting us as a couple."*

We feel God used this gesture to bless the

## belarus—seeing God move

by sergei vashkevich

Back in February 2011 we had a Weekend to Remember getaway in the town of Pinsk in southwestern Belarus. Thirty-six couples attended, including Valentina and her husband. They were both surprised and blessed that we talked about problem solving, God's plan for marriage, romance, and sex. They repented of their sins and trusted Christ during the fourth lecture. We recently met up with Valentina again and got to

hear her wonderful testimony. She and her husband are now involved in the church where we held the Weekend to Remember, and they serve on the praise and worship team! We've been so blessed to see God moving powerfully in people's lives and using us for His glory. We've been organizing dozens of similar events all over Belarus, and the Lord's been working in families and couples through these events, saving



*continued on page 5*

**Africa**

Aug 16 . . . . . From Anger to Intimacy . . . . . Centurion . . . . . South Africa  
 Sep 20-21 . . . . . The Art of Marriage . . . . . Centurion . . . . . South Africa

**Europe (Eastern)**

Oct 3-5 . . . . . Weekend to Remember . . . . . Celje St. Joseph . . . . . Slovenia  
 Oct 10-12 . . . . . Advanced marriage seminar . . . . . Slovenia  
 Oct 24-26 . . . . . Weekend to Remember . . . . . Njivice . . . . . Slovenia  
 Nov 14-16 . . . . . Advanced marriage seminar . . . . . Slovenia  
 Nov 28-30 . . . . . Advanced marriage seminar . . . . . Slovenia

**Europe (Western)**

Sep 20 . . . . . Marriage Conference . . . . . Montecatini . . . . . Italy  
 Sep 27 . . . . . Marriage Conference . . . . . Faenza . . . . . Italy  
 Aug 15-17 . . . . . Marriage Conference . . . . . Buchen Village . . . . . Switzerland  
 Sep 13 . . . . . Marriage and family forum . . . . . Bern . . . . . Switzerland  
 Nov 15 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Northumberland . . . . . UK  
 Dec 6 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Gerrards Cross . . . . . UK  
 Jan 17, 2015 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . London . . . . . UK

**Middle East and North Africa**

Due to sensitive nature of these countries, please contact [global@familylife.com](mailto:global@familylife.com) for further information.

**North America**

United States—Phone 1-800-358-6329 or [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com) for a complete listing of conferences.

Oct 3-5 . . . . . WTR . . . . . Jasper . . . . . Canada  
 Oct 25 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Kincardine . . . . . Canada  
 Nov 7-9 . . . . . WTR . . . . . Blue Mountain . . . . . Canada  
 Nov 14-16 . . . . . WTR . . . . . Montebello . . . . . Canada  
 Nov 21-23 . . . . . WTR . . . . . Whistler . . . . . Canada  
 Feb 27-Mar 1, 2015 . . . . . WTR . . . . . Victoria . . . . . Canada  
 Mar 27-29, 2015 . . . . . WTR . . . . . Niagara-on-the-Lake . . . . . Canada  
 Apr 10-12, 2015 . . . . . WTR . . . . . Winnipeg . . . . . Canada  
 Apr 17-19, 2015 . . . . . WTR . . . . . Banff . . . . . Canada

**Latin America**

Sep 5-6 . . . . . Art of Marriage . . . . . Samachique Chihuahua . . . . . Mexico

**Asia**

Aug 13 . . . . . Dating Seminar . . . . . Korea  
 Aug 14 . . . . . Dating Seminar . . . . . Korea  
 Sept 13 . . . . . Preparing for Marriage school . . . . . Korea  
 Oct 31 . . . . . Marriage Seminar . . . . . Korea

**Oceania**

Aug 9-10 . . . . . Love that Lasts . . . . . Bendigo . . . . . Australia  
 Aug 23 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Huskisson . . . . . Australia  
 Aug 30-31 . . . . . Love that Lasts . . . . . Hunter Valley . . . . . Australia  
 Sep 6 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Clyde North . . . . . Australia  
 Sep 6 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Hamilton . . . . . Australia  
 Sep 20 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Manly . . . . . Australia  
 Sep 20 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Woonona . . . . . Australia  
 Sep 20 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Malaga . . . . . Australia  
 Sep 27 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Blacktoen . . . . . Australia  
 Oct 18 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Coffs Harbour . . . . . Australia  
 Aug 9 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Lower Hutt . . . . . New Zealand  
 Sep 19-21 . . . . . Weekend to Remember . . . . . Auckland . . . . . New Zealand  
 Nov 9 . . . . . A Day Together . . . . . Matakana . . . . . New Zealand

**Quotes from a recent event in Ukraine:**

*"This conference served a real blessing to me and helped me to acquire necessary knowledge to build a strong family."*

*"I knew a lot about marriage, but here at the conference I received a strong motivation to apply my knowledge and to start to build relationships. I liked the seminar about oneness – easy and applicable."*



## new zealand: from the letter box

We have been married for 20 years, and there has been some tough stuff to deal with of late. Last September we had reached a point of knowing that if we didn't do something radical, we would implode. We were relating to each other in pretty negative spirals at times.

We made the hardest decision we'd ever made and lived in separate houses for six months to get out of each other's way and allow God to do the work He needed in us individually. Sounds strange, I know, but over that six months we each prayed for our marriage, our daughter, each other, healing, and a positive way forward.

We both got counseling over that

time. During that six months we realized afresh the many good memories we had and started to remember the reason we fell in love to begin with. In March we moved back together, and at that time we made the decision to invest in our marriage by coming to the Weekend to Remember®.

You've given us both inspiration, a higher vision of how good it can be, and some practical tools to work with. (In fact, we both reckon it was us you were talking about in so many of those sessions!)

We came home and talked to our daughter, who agreed to witness the re-signing of our marriage covenant. The

next night we made an event of it, and she took her part very seriously too—quite significant for her at 15 and certainly a special moment for us. It's now framed and on our bedroom wall.

We've started our date nights again, which had gone by the wayside, and are taking our manuals with us to work through in more details how we can implement the things that touched us last weekend. You have all been such a blessing to us and to others already as we've started to share some of our experiences with Christian families and workmates alike.

## i still do

FamilyLife® announces I Still Do™, a powerful, practical, one-day marriage event where couples can invest in and strengthen their marriage. Couples will join thousands of others to affirm the fundamental importance of strong, healthy, committed marriages in every culture. By exploring God's design for marriage, couples will have a chance to reaffirm that their marriage matters—to their children and to the rest of society.

Visit the I Still Do website at [www.istilldo.com](http://www.istilldo.com) to learn about the events and locations, purchase tickets, and browse the "Marriage Celebrated" section for funny wedding pictures and true stories. Or visit [www.istilldo.com/simulcast](http://www.istilldo.com/simulcast) to learn about the global simulcast on Oct 4th to bring these engaging speakers and worship leaders into your own church or community!

For individuals partnering with FamilyLife who live overseas, we have negotiated a special discount for those who want to participate in either the October 4, 2014 simulcast or a rebroadcast of the event that will be available beginning October 11, 2014. The rebroadcast will be available as either a download or through the internet at a time that you designate. Please send an email to [global@familylife.com](mailto:global@familylife.com), if you are interested in receiving more information about this offer.

FAMILYLIFE® presents

I Still Do™



a marriage-changing  
event for couples



*Belarus—seeing God move  
continued from page 2*

and restoring, blessing and multiplying!

We recently hosted another Weekend to Remember with a romantic dinner, and both wives and husbands got to write a love letter to their spouse and then share their letters during the dinner. Here are a few responses from the attendees:

*“I never thought that my hobbies can (and did!) serve as a stumbling block in our relationship. I’ll change that!” - Sasha, married 8 years.*

*“This is our second marriage and we are happy we are here. These principles will help us not to make the same mistakes, but face them!” - Inga, married for 6 years.*



*The Belarus FamilyLife team*

*“We got married just recently and are still in love, but are glad we have been taught now how to deal with conflicts in*

*our marriage as we began to have some just recently!” - Vadim, married for 5 months.*

## china—passport to purity

by judy burrows

A 15-year-old girl in Shanghai had an English teacher give her an English copy of Passport to Purity®, FamilyLife’s resource for teaching adolescents about love, sex, and relationships. She took it home to show to her mother. Her mother, who had only been a Christian for about three months, could not read or speak English. She said, “Surely this must be in Mandarin somewhere.” So she went on a Google search and found [www.todayschinesefamily.com](http://www.todayschinesefamily.com)—our Mandarin website. Thankfully, Passport to Purity had been translated into Mandarin years ago, but we had no one to promote it. The mother’s faith and efforts were rewarded when she found it on our site.

She took it to her church and got three father/son combos and another mom and daughter to listen to the lectures together. One father/son dropped out when the father called the material too explicit. However, the other four completed the sessions and had a graduation ceremony. The parents gave the teens certificates and flowers and took a commemorative photo.

The girl went to the US for high school that fall after their Passport to Purity time. She came back summer 2013, and she and her mom decided they wanted to go through the material again with more girls. So they gathered another group, and this time one of the



mothers became a believer through Passport to Purity! To God be the glory!



## columbia—planting seeds of family ministry *continued from page 1*

church. Pastor Muñoz is convinced that this is the best way for his congregation to build their own faith while reaching out to others.

“We desire to have strong, vibrant, edifying couples’ ministry because we are convinced it must be the central axis of our church, both to edify our members and to seek Kingdom growth,” says Pastor Muñoz.

The marriage training seminar was a success. “We have seen the hand of

God using it in our own marriages and the marriages of our leaders and, God willing, we will bring it to the church and also provide programs to non-believers,” says Pastor Muñoz.

In working toward that goal, Pastor Muñoz provided the trained couples with opportunities to start doing marriage ministry in the cities of Bogota, Bucaramanga, and Cúcuta, with hopes to also spread the ministry to Bolivia and Argentina. Other churches have heard

about the Art of Marriage material and are begging for someone to bring it to their congregations.

So far every church Pastor Muñoz has communicated with has received the establishment of family ministry with open arms. His goal is for his congregation to become a marriage and family equipping center within the next four years. We pray that God will do abundantly more than we ask or imagine in Colombia and beyond.

## poland: one couple’s testimony

Magda and Wiesiek Grabowski, FamilyLife leaders in Poland, received this encouraging testimony from a couple (Paula and Jarek) they met more than three years ago.

*We met Wiesiek and Magda Grabowski in May 2011. We participated in a weekend retreat for parents about raising children. During the two-day conference Wiesiek and Magda addressed the topics of responsible parenting, roles of the mother and father, and showing love and respect to children. They supported their teaching with Scripture. They also shared their own life experiences and pointed to literature that taught biblical principles of raising children. The Lord opened our eyes to His Word. He allowed us to see that everything we had been looking for was put in the Holy Scriptures. It was a wonderful discovery for us. Wiesiek and Magda invited us to the “Family Vacation with the Bible,” where we were able to study God’s Word and apply it to our lives. We discovered what God expected from us in marriage and*

*relationships with other people. We met a lot of wonderful people who lived in close relationships with the Lord.*

*Then we were invited to participate in a Bible study group meeting at the Grabowskis’ home. We accepted the invitation with joy and have participated in it for the last two years. The Bible became the book of our lives. We fell in love with God’s Word. In the meantime we were able to learn a lot from the talks and conferences led by Wiesiek and Magda and take advantage of their experiences. The Lord opened our hearts to Himself through Wiesiek and Magda’s ministry. Two years ago we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We gave him the steer of our lives, everything we have,*



*and who we are. He blesses us every day, guides us, and takes care of us. In His Word He gives us promises that are fulfilled in our lives. Jesus is a wonderful friend and only in Him is there fullness of love, and only with Him can we experience a life of joy and freedom.*

Now Jarek and Paula serve the Lord through marriage ministry and by leading others to Christ. Praise be to God!