



hope for families everywhere

News and information from FamilyLife partners around the world

November 2014

fiji: a season of preparation



During their early married years in Fiji, Kevin and Sala Sanders felt blessed. They owned a successful business and a house with a pool and were enjoying being financially comfortable. They connected with the FamilyLife ministry in Fiji (FamilyOne), and began participating in topical marriage studies with other couples. Having mature Christian couples around them helped by grounding their faith in God, knitting their hearts as a couple, and cementing their commitment to their four young children. They didn't yet know that God was preparing their lives for the upcoming testing of all they were learning.

The Sanders moved from Fiji to the US and experienced a shift from living with abundance to getting by on practically nothing. The sale of their home and business,

which they had counted on to help with the move, fell through at the last minute. They lived with Kevin's parents for months while trying to settle and looking for work. Sala, a very social people person, found the adjustments particularly difficult. In the US, she had to be a full-time mother, wife, and homemaker with no friends or family. She was lonely and frustrated. Attempting to adjust to her new life, she tried to hold on to all she had learned about God's goodness and faithfulness. The Lord had pulled out all her props and comforts. All she had was Him.

Yet her frustrations continued to get the better of her, and her young children and husband became targets for her emotional outbursts. The family was confused and

continued on page 3

more hope for families inside

stint: equipping staff for a lifetime of ministry

Starting or growing FamilyLife in countries around the world is often a huge challenge
..... Page 2

ever thine home

Come and see our new additions to the growing Ever Thine Home collection Page 3

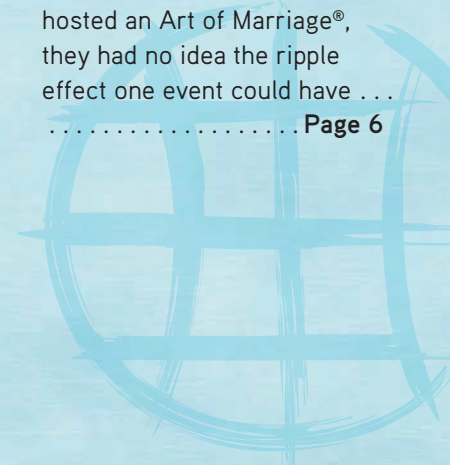
calendar of events Page 4

familylife staff conference 2014

FamilyLife's staff conference, held August 27-30, was a time of looking back and celebrating what God has done over the past 38 years Page 5

mexico: a ripple effect

When Dave and Jennifer Cook hosted an Art of Marriage®, they had no idea the ripple effect one event could have Page 6





stint: equipping staff for a lifetime of ministry

by jayna richardson

Starting or growing FamilyLife in countries around the world is often a huge challenge, but the best way to help ensure success is to equip godly, passionate couples who have been called by God to help families. That's why FamilyLife Global developed a

demonstrate. These tasks include learning Cru and FamilyLife's core doctrines, investing in their own marriages, learning how to build teams and recruit couples, leading small groups, training small group leaders, organizing and promoting live and video events, speaking, developing finances, and learning how to minister to couples with major marriage challenges.

virtually every aspect of FamilyLife ministry: events, content development, websites, radio, etc. "We've learned that there's a much bigger scope of ministry beyond the Weekend to Remember® and HomeBuilders®," Patrick says. "The STINT has helped me to see a bigger vision. We don't want to limit what God can do."

The Lows are already laying the groundwork for their future ministry in Singapore. They're taking note not only of what has worked for FamilyLife in the US, but also what hasn't worked. They plan to start their ministry small and develop it over time, and they've been grateful for the chance to see the

various tools FamilyLife offers as they consider what will fit their country's needs.

Daniel and Rebecca Pack are also currently doing a STINT at the FamilyLife headquarters. They will stay a

couple years before returning to Korea, where they'll take what they've learned to develop FamilyLife in their country. By attending several major FamilyLife events while in the US, Daniel says he's learned what an important role volunteers play in having an effective FamilyLife ministry.



*The Low family
(left)
and the Pack family*



STINT (Short-Term International) program to train staff to have an impact on marriages and families globally.

Drew Coons, who helped develop the program, describes it as "a program designed for an international FamilyLife staff couple to spend one to three years at FamilyLife in Little Rock learning how to conduct a FamilyLife ministry. The program of instruction, observation, and hands-on experience will enable them to return to their home country to launch or strengthen FamilyLife."

The STINT program includes a collection of ministry skills and tasks for the couples to learn, practice, and

Patrick and Estella Low are currently beginning their third year of STINT with FamilyLife, and they plan to stay in Little Rock to continue receiving training for three more years. When their STINT is over, they will return to Singapore to launch FamilyLife.

The Lows are taking advantage of their time in the US to learn about

continued on page 4



ever thine home

Come and see our new additions to the growing Ever Thine Home collection, Barbara Rainey's faith-inspired and faith-inspiring holiday and home line. Visit everthinehome.com.

Designed to focus your family's attention on Christ while adding everyday elegance to your home, the Ever Thine Home collection is a great way to draw your family to the Savior.



fiji: a season of preparation *continued from page 1*

hurt—Sala was not the mom nor wife they had known in Fiji. Finally, without letting any of her family know, she packed her bag and planned to fly back to Fiji.

At that moment, God used a Christian radio program to redirect Sala's attention back to Him. The message was that in all our menial tasks and difficulties, which no one sees, we perform them as unto the Lord, who is right there supporting and encouraging us. Sala went back home, cried, put her passport away, and began to serve her family as a mom

and wife. The task was not easy, but the payback was much!

Kevin and Sala eventually were able to move into their own house. Now Sala is enjoying making their home a welcoming haven. God has also called them to work with engaged and married couples within their church. They see now that a lot of the difficulties they went through were a preparatory ground for God's call in their lives. Kevin and Sala identified three lessons they learned from their experiences:

- 1) The Lord Jesus promised us crosses to bear so we can help others with their crosses. There is no crown without our Gethsemane.
- 2) The only stable prop that withstands all testing is Christ and His promises.
- 3) All that we do, we must do unto God, who is there to encourage and help us through—particularly in places of loneliness and pain.

Europe (Eastern)

Nov 15	Marriage Conference	Lublin	Poland
Nov 29	Marriage Conference	Katowice	Poland
Nov 14-16	Advanced marriage seminar		Slovenia
Nov 28-30	Advanced marriage seminar		Slovenia

Europe (Western)

Nov 14	Marriage Conference	Zurich	Switzerland
Feb 20, 2015	Marriage Conference	Zurich	Switzerland
Mar 14-15, 2015	Marriage Conference	Zurich	Switzerland
Mar 27-28, 2015	Marriage Conference	Zurich	Switzerland
Nov 15	A Day Together	Northumberland	UK
Dec 6	A Day Together	Gerrards Cross	UK
Jan 17, 2015	A Day Together	London	UK
Apr 25, 2015	A Day Together	Bournemouth	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.

Nov 7-9	Weekend to Remember	Blue Mountain	Canada
Nov 14-16	Weekend to Remember	Montebello	Canada
Nov 21-23	Weekend to Remember	Whistler	Canada
Jan 30-Feb 1, 2015	Weekend to Remember (Mandarin)	Edmonton	Canada
Feb 27-Mar 1, 2015	Weekend to Remember	Victoria	Canada
Mar 27-29, 2015	Weekend to Remember	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Canada
Mar 27-29, 2015	Weekend to Remember (Mandarin)	Ottawa	Canada
Apr 10-12, 2015	Weekend to Remember	Winnipeg	Canada
Apr 17-19, 2015	Weekend to Remember	Banff	Canada
May 1-3, 2015	Weekend to Remember	Markham	Canada

Oceania

Nov 1	A Day Together	Melbourne	Australia
Nov 8	A Day Together	Bulahdelah	Australia
Nov 22	A Day Together	Brisbane	Australia
Nov 9	A Day Together	Matakana	New Zealand

Quotes from a recent event in South Africa:

"I learned that if you put God first and accept your partner as a gift, God can transform any marriage."

"It was a wonderful experience for the two of us to connect and to discuss and share our lives."

"It is life changing."

"Thank you for a wonderful presentation of a meaningful course, and that you shared your personal lives with us"

stint: equipping staff for a lifetime of ministry *continued from page 2*

The Packs have also realized how important it is for them, as leaders, to live what they teach. Daniel acknowledges that for FamilyLife leaders to have an effective ministry, their own marriage must be strong and mature. "Otherwise, it has no power to transform," he says. They've been grateful to see the examples of FamilyLife leaders who are truly living

their faith and prioritizing their families while doing ministry.

One challenge the Packs have faced is seeing the differences between FamilyLife in the US and Korea, both culturally and in scale. "I need to study and find how to apply the principles of ministry in Korean society effectively,"

says Daniel. But he and Rebecca are optimistic about the future of FamilyLife Korea and are trusting God for guidance.

The STINT program is a valuable experience for anyone who wants to build confidence through hands-on training and be used by God to change the legacy of families everywhere.



familylife staff conference 2014

by jayna richardson

FamilyLife's staff conference, held August 27-30, was a time of looking back and celebrating what God has done over the past 38 years and equipping and building up our staff for the coming years.

Thirty-four FamilyLife partners from ten countries also attended and were encouraged by the messages from Al Mohler, David Nassar, Dennis Rainey, and Ron Deal. They also enjoyed daily worship music, video skits by Acts of Renewal, a concert featuring Drew Cline (former lead singer of NewSong), a preview of the movie *The Song*, and a special luncheon with Dennis and Barbara Rainey.

Friday afternoon was free time for our international guests to tour downtown Little Rock and visit city landmarks such as the Heifer Village and Clinton Presidential Center. Friday evening, the international guests met



up with the FamilyLife Global team at Murry's Dinner Playhouse to enjoy a buffet and live show of the musical *Oklahoma!*

Saturday was a day devoted entirely to focusing on international ministry. Dave Sunde led a morning devotional, then guests gave ten-

minute presentations about their ministries. After touring the FamilyLife headquarters, the guests attended breakout sessions on topics including HomeBuilders® ministry, radio, speaker training, and reaching out to pastors and churches.

International guests described the staff conference as an "inspiring, encouraging, and vision casting time" and said it was a good opportunity to network with other countries and learn what God is doing through other ministries.

International partners will ordinarily be invited to Little Rock every two years for the FamilyLife staff conference. Our next staff conference in summer of 2016 will celebrate 40 years of FamilyLife. It will once again be a time to encourage and equip our global partners for the labor they are doing on behalf of families worldwide.



mexico: a ripple effect by jayna richardson

When Dave and Jennifer Cook agreed to host an Art of Marriage® event at their church in Sherwood, Arkansas, they had no idea the ripple effect that one event could have.

Lilliana and Mike, a couple who had just relocated to Arkansas from Mexico, showed up at the event in Sherwood and loved it. They spoke with Dave and Jennifer afterwards and said, “We know so many in Mexico who could benefit from this. Can we get this event there?” They were thrilled to learn a Spanish version was available.

It took two years to make it happen, but in June 2014, Dave and Jennifer drove twelve hours south of the Texas border with their three sons (ages 16, 14, and 13) along with Lilliana and Mike and their daughters (ages 18 and 20) to host two Art of Marriage events and a HomeBuilders training in Irapuato and Leon, Mexico.

Although Dave and Jennifer had gone on similar mission trips before (they hosted four Art of Marriage events in Papua New Guinea 18 months earlier), this was the first time they’d presented the Spanish version. Although working through a translator can add an extra challenge, Dave noticed that being able to share the material in the attendees’ heart language was truly special. “It was

fun to see their eyes light up,” he said. “They laughed at the jokes; the legacy pledge at the end was very heartfelt. It seemed like it really connected with the audience.”

In the second city they traveled to, they met a Mexican pastor and his wife—



Rafael and Karen—who were fired up about the Art of Marriage and wanted to learn to host it so they could take it further. They served as translators for Dave and Jennifer, and following the recommendations in the host guide, they assembled a team to organize refreshments and decorations and put together a beautiful event. Before the Cooks returned home, Rafael and Karen outlined plans to get pastors together in their city and encourage them to use Art of Marriage. “We were blessed to see their enthusiasm to take the resource as their own,” said Dave. “They have

plans to continue using the event in their sphere of influence.” They also had many sign up expressing interest in joining a HomeBuilders couples’ Bible study.

Rafael and Karen have also been sharing the gospel with a couple who attended one of the events Dave and Jennifer hosted. The wife had confessed to infidelity partway through the event, and the husband left the event and disappeared for several days. The Cooks learned later that the man, who had a history of depression, had tried to hang himself. After surviving the suicide attempt, he called Rafael and said he wanted to learn more about the Christian life. Since then, the couple and their children have started coming to church together and asking questions about God and salvation.



Dave and Jennifer were encouraged to see how one event in their church turned into two more outside the country, and how attendees at those events caught the vision to continue spreading the ministry on their own. Dave acknowledges that he and Jennifer didn’t feel qualified, but all it took was being faithful and open to what God was asking them to do. By going as a family, even their sons gained missions experience and saw the blessings that come from stepping out in faith. The ripple effects that started in Arkansas have spread through Mexico and into eternity.