

hope for families everywhere

News and information from FamilyLife partners around the world



August 2015

mexico—opening doors in baja california sur

“This was an answer to our prayers!” This was the response from several leaders of various denominations and church boards from throughout Baja California Sur after Roger and Laura Dye met with them to present FamilyLife. Everyone was hungry for and receptive to marriage ministry. One of the leaders said his church had done research a few years ago and found that the divorce rate for that area was around 70%. Many of the leaders agreed that they knew they needed this for their congregations, but they just didn’t know where to start.

Roger laid out a closing challenge for each of their congregations to become a marriage and family equipping center in three years or less. Although they were initially stunned, they all embraced the

concept and accepted the challenge. Roger also passed out an Art of Marriage® kit to leaders from every denomination present, and they each committed to gather at least three other leadership couples to experience and evaluate the material.

That same week, Roger and Laura spent time with a husband and wife who were facing some extremely difficult marriage and family issues. When Roger and Laura asked them and several others if there were any Christian couples in town who could disciple them, no one could think of any Christian couples strong in their faith with an intact marriage in this area of over 10,000 people. This just reinforced in Roger and Laura’s minds the need for marriage ministry in this area. They were grateful for the opportunity

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nigeria—helping others who help others

by chuck eckerson

Drs. Israel and Augusta Olauré, both Ph.D.s and both Nigerians, have a very unique ministry to marriages and families in Nigeria. But first, a little back story.

Prior to coming to the US for a sabbatical in 2014, the Olaurés had been asked to provide executive leadership to a new organization in Nigeria called the Family Revival and Support Initiative. This was formed to be an umbrella organization for churches and individuals ministering to marriages and families in Nigeria. It will conduct research on marriage and family issues, present radio and television programs, and initiate legislation in support of Christian family values.

The Olaurés wanted to learn as much as they could about how to run a marriage and family ministry. And they wanted to learn from a seasoned organization they knew and respected: FamilyLife. (In previous trips to the US, they have attended Weekend to Remember® getaways and led HomeBuilders® groups.) So in July 2014, Chuck Eckerson, FamilyLife's International Representative for West and Central Africa, organized a three-day intensive learning experience for them at the FamilyLife headquarters.

They returned to Nigeria in

September 2014 and began leading the new organization. Through their research, they have discovered that medical professionals in Nigeria face particular challenges in their marriage and family relationships. So the Olaurés have developed a marriage enrichment workshop targeting health care professionals. They have written a



Chuck and Kathy Eckerson and Drs. Israel and Augusta Olauré

proposal to take this biblical workshop to a teaching hospital in Nigeria, get feedback, make adjustments, and then expand the program to other hospitals and clinics.

Often, we think of "FamilyLife" ministries primarily targeting churches and Christians audiences.

It is refreshing to see the Olaurés find ways to specifically target a scientific audience in a secular institution and offer them biblical help and hope.

In January 2015, Chuck and Kathy Eckerson had the privilege to visit with the Olaurés in Ibadan, Nigeria. Just the day before, Israel and Augusta presented a marriage seminar at a church. It

should be noted that in Africa, it is common for singles to come to marriage seminars. Perhaps this is because there is so little teaching about marriage in churches. Here is what the Olaurés wrote about the seminar:

We gave a joint presentation to the group of about 70 individuals with about 25 married couples present. We then divided into two groups of male and female adults. Israel facilitated the men and Augusta facilitated the ladies' group. After about one and a half hours we came back together for a foot washing service as

part of a Holy Communion service. Married couples washed each other's feet and single persons washed each other's feet. There was a time of reconciliation and forgiveness for couples while they washed each other's feet, praying over each other in the process. The Holy Communion Service followed, after which Israel

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hope for families
everywhere

new—the art of marriage® live

Introducing The Art of Marriage Live—an exciting new way to experience The Art of Marriage in your church or community.

The Art of Marriage Live brings FamilyLife certified speakers to your location to present proven concepts from our video event in an impactful single-day live event. The event combines teaching and personal stories by

NEW!
the art of 
marriage® LIVE

the speaker couple with video clips from The Art of Marriage in four engaging sessions. The sessions also include time for group and couple's discussion.

In hosting The Art of Marriage Live, your responsibilities include promoting the event, preparing the facility, purchasing couple's sets for attendees, and arranging for transportation and local lodging of the speaker couple.

Learn more about The Art of Marriage Live, including available speakers, attendance requirements, fees, and other details, by visiting <http://theartofmarriage.com/host-an-event/the-art-of-marriage-live>.



*Art of Marriage Live presenters
Jeff and Stacy Kemp*

mexico—opening doors in baja california sur *continued from page 1*



to meet with missionaries later that week who were enthusiastic about recruiting new missionaries for the area.

Roger and Laura are continuing to pray for open doors and additional training opportunities for this area that desperately needs to experience the transformative power of the gospel in their lives and families. The needs are great, but God is at work.

Africa

Aug 22, 2015From Anger to Intimacy Pretoria South Africa
 Sept 12-13, 2015The Art of Marriage. Pretoria South Africa

Europe (Eastern)

Aug 3-8, 2015Camp for families Orahovica Croatia
 Oct 23-25, 2015Weekend to Remember Njivice Croatia (Slovenian team)
 Nov 6-8, 2015Weekend to Remember Crikvenica Croatia (Slovenian team)
 Nov 20-22, 2015Weekend to Remember Crikvenica Croatia (Slovenian team)
 Nov 27-29, 2015Weekend to Remember Crikvenica Croatia (Slovenian team)
 Oct 9-11, 2015Weekend to Remember Rogla Slovenia

Europe (Western)

Aug 18-Nov 17, 2015 . . .Marriage Course Grut Switzerland
 Aug 28-Nov 27, 2015 . . .Marriage Course Altdorf Switzerland
 Sept 11, 2015Parenting conference Zurich Switzerland
 Sept 12, 2015Parenting conference Thun Switzerland
 Sept 25-26, 2015Prepare/Enrich Conference Zurich Switzerland
 Oct 23, 2015Prepare/Enrich Conference Zurich Switzerland
 Sept 26, 2015A Day Together Rochester UK
 Oct 10, 2015A Day Together Northumberland UK
 Nov 14, 2015A Day Together Chesham UK
 Jan 16, 2016A Day Together London 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.
 Oct 23-25, 2015Weekend Getaway Jasper Canada
 Nov 6-8, 2015Weekend Getaway Blue Mountain, ON Canada
 Nov 20-22, 2015Weekend Getaway Whistler, BC Canada
 Feb 12-14, 2016Weekend Getaway Victoria, BC Canada
 Mar 4-6, 2016Weekend Getaway Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON Canada
 Mar 4-6, 2016Weekend Getaway Saskatoon, SK Canada
 Apr 15-17, 2016Weekend Getaway Banff, AB Canada
 May 6-8, 2016Weekend Getaway Halifax, NS Canada

Oceania

Aug 28, 2015A Day Together Nelson bay, NSW Australia
 Oct 10, 2015A Day Together Taree, NSW Australia
 Aug 8, 2015A Day Together Taupo New Zealand
 Sept 18-20, 2015Weekend to Remember Auckland New Zealand
 Oct 10, 2015A Day Together New Zealand
 Oct 13, 2015Understanding One Another Christchurch New Zealand
 Oct 20, 2015Understanding One Another Auckland New Zealand
 Nov 8, 2015A Day Together Matakana New Zealand

**(From a recent conference in the UK)
 Question: what was the highlight of the day for you?**

The personal stories from the speakers were the most powerful.

Christine sharing how becoming a Christian affected their marriage – really powerful. Easy to forget what we have.

Realizing that all couples go through hard times and that they've overcome them through love.



cameroon—a business professional’s marriage ministry

by chuck eckerson

Many people in Cameroon, a French-speaking nation in Central Africa, are eager to learn about marriage. Preparing for marriage. Making marriages stronger. Solving particular problems in marriage. And Roger MFONDI is there to bring biblical help and hope.

Roger (pronounced ROW-SHAY) owns and runs a small computer services company in Yaoundé, Cameroon’s capital city. He loves running his own business, but his real passion is helping couples with their marriages. And he got his start with FamilyLife. He was trained as a FamilyLife speaker and has had an active speaking ministry over the years. He has also led several HomeBuilders® small group studies.

While no longer officially part of Cameroon’s FamilyLife ministry, his FamilyLife training has served him well as he continues to minister to others. He speaks at church-based and public marriage conferences on a regular basis. He typically speaks at two preparing for marriage seminars each month. He has his own call-in weekly radio program where he talks about marriage and family matters. And he does marriage counseling.

Last month, Roger participated in a weekend-long “selon du mariage,” or marriage exhibition, in Douala, Cameroon’s commercial hub and largest city. He noted that it was not a Christian “selon.” Held at a fancy hotel, many marriage professionals came to display their products and services for weddings, anniversaries, and stronger marriages. Caterers. Clothiers. Counselors. Publishers.

At this secular event, Roger made two biblical presentations: one on marriage preparation and the other on communication in marriage. (The attractive promotional piece pictured is representative of the type and quality of advertising he does.) The hotel even gave Roger a free suite to accommodate couples who wanted or needed counseling.

Roger made contact with the event organizers and agreed to provide leadership to bring the event to his own city, Yaoundé, next year.



Roger got his initial training with FamilyLife and is now doing what he can to bring God’s biblical blueprints for marriage to both secular and Christian audiences. He is helping to make every home a godly home and is yet another example of FamilyLife “helping you help others.”

Être prêt pour le mariage
Samedi 07 février 2015 de 13h à 15h
Hôtel BEAUSEJOUR MIRABEL - DOUALA

Entrée libre

Bien Communiquer en couple
Dimanche 08 février 2015 de 13h à 15h

Salon du Mariage
et des moments d'exception

Infoline : 237 699 73 63 03
contact@familleacoeur.net



uk—music to our ears by christine daniels

“It wasn’t scary...it was fun!”

This is what one of the not-yet-believing husbands told me at the end of the evening last Friday. He was smiling and really enjoyed the night. This was great to hear because his wife wasn’t sure he would turn up for the “What is Love, Actually?” event!

“What is Love, Actually?” is a fun evening for couples to look at the subject of love. The event is hosted by a church or community group and is particularly suitable for pub and club venues as an outreach and informal “taster” of what we do.

Many other couples were very



positive about the evening. It’s such a good event as it includes film clips and fun and contrasts worldly ideas about love with the biblical picture. We also

share *The Five Love Languages* and plenty of personal stories and testimony. At the end of the evening in Chesham Bois we encouraged people to come to A Day Together (ADT) which is planned for November.

Another not-yet-believing husband was very enthusiastic and said he was interested in coming to ADT and inviting some of his friends too. You should have seen the surprised look on his wife’s face! Another couple told us they had put the date for ADT in their diaries and were going to invite friends as well. All this was music to our ears!

nigeria—helping others who help others *continued from page 2*

blessed the congregation and their children as the presiding elder.

Here in America, we might not think much of a foot washing service in which a husband and wife wash each others’ feet. But in the local culture, a husband washing his wife’s feet violates powerful cultural norms. But that is what Jesus did when He washed his disciples’ feet. So husbands washing their wives’ feet is truly a picture of humility and Christ-like, sacrificial love.

Ending an African marriage conference with a communion and foot-washing service is a powerful, unforgettable experience because it 1) reminds us of Christ’s humility and sacrificial love, and 2) gives husbands a chance to demonstrate this same love to their wives.

FamilyLife exists to provide proven biblical solutions for your marriage and family, and help you as you help others. This is clearly demonstrated in the ministry of Israel and Augusta Olauré. FamilyLife has helped them help others.

