

hope for families everywhere

News and information from FamilyLife partners around the world

August 2016



panama—nathan and sarai's ministry

by gabe buchholtz

In 2012, Nathan and Sarai de la Espada first attended a Spanish Art of Marriage (AOM) event in Panama City, Panama, at the home of Hugo and Kenia Guerrero, FamilyLife leaders in Panama. Their marriage and their lives have not been the same since.

After the event, Nathan and Sarai wanted to impact marriages and encourage couples who were struggling, but what they didn't know was how that ministry desire would actually unfold. A lady who had heard about their desire to help marriages sent a couple to see them; this couple was in serious marital difficulty. After Nathan and Sarai spent an evening listening to their story and their problems, they invited the couple to join them in their home for the next six weeks to go through the Art of Marriage. Not only did the couple show up faithfully every week, they also accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, and they experienced the miracle of a healed relationship.

The pattern began and kept repeating. The same lady continued to refer couples to go and meet Nathan and Sarai. At the end of the meeting, Nathan and Sarai would invite the couple to return and participate in the Art of Marriage over the next six weeks. These couples experienced a total turn-around in their relationship with each other, and many invited Christ into their hearts.

As this pattern continued over the next four years, at some points Nathan and Sarai were hosting AOM sessions two or three nights each week. The sessions were

almost always with just one non-believing couple per night—and the couples usually accepted Christ by the end of their six-week commitment.

Eventually other friends began to refer couples to Nathan and Sarai, and their reach continued to grow. Although they have not really kept track of how many couples they have impacted with this one-couple to one-couple AOM outreach, they estimate between 75 and 125 couples.



Nathan and Sarai de la Espada, graduating from Hispanic FamilyLife Level I and II

Now Nathan and Sarai have been looking to launch another outreach with the help of the mayor of Panama City. Many marriages in Panama are set up as something like common law arrangements. In this case, the couples simply show up at the courthouse and they are all pronounced husband and wife in a mass ceremony. Nathan and Sarai are hoping connect with all of these couples and invite them to participate in an AOM event.

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nigeria—mobilizing makurdi by chuck eckerson

Last fall, a high-ranking government official in Makurdi, the capital city in the Benué state of Nigeria, was reading the quarterly prayer diary produced by the Great Commission Movement Nigeria and noticed a prayer request about Ademola and Ajoke Adebisi. They were stepping down from national leadership so they could focus on FamilyLife. He had to learn more, so he called Ademola.

Ademola told the official about FamilyLife and how God had been leading them in that direction. The official got so excited by what he was hearing and this courageous step of faith that he proposed that he and his wife travel the 200 miles from Makurdi to

sphere of influence. One thing led to another, and before long the official had organized not a one-day training event but a three-day marriage retreat including both a HomeBuilders leader training and an Art of Marriage event.

Ademola and Ajoke presented the HomeBuilders small group training, and

reconciled by God's Word.

- The majority of the people said that their eyes had been opened to how to handle each other better as husbands and wives. They apologized to each other and made commitments to live by the insights received and principles



The official struggled with that reply. He didn't think his church leadership would go for the idea. They were too busy and too set in their ways.

Jos, Nigeria, (where Ademola and Ajoke live) so they could be trained on how to help others using FamilyLife materials. But Ademola refused his request. He suggested instead that the official work through his church to organize a larger-scale training in Makurdi.

The official struggled with that reply. He didn't think his church leadership would go for the idea. They were too busy and too set in their ways. But Ademola encouraged him to pursue the idea and mobilize couples in his

it was fantastic. Then they hosted the Art of Marriage. God's hand was evident throughout the weekend.

- Two people prayed to receive Christ.
- A couple who were actually fighting and keeping malice with each other were healed and

taught at the retreat.

- Almost all prayed to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Two elders from the same church promised to go convince their church pastor and leaders to host an Art of Marriage event.



hope for families everywhere

new product: passport2identity

Prepare your teen for life, no expertise required.

Passport2Identity helps you do more than just survive the teen years. It gives you the materials you need to prepare your teen for adulthood during a weekend getaway. All you have to do is plan the time and location. We'll provide you (or another trusted adult) with the tools and talking points to help your teen transition to independence through dependence on Christ.

To learn more about Passport2Identity for young men, visit <https://shop.familylife.com/p-4545-passport2identity-for-young-men.aspx>



new products from ever thine home

Isaiah 33:6 sign

When we face the inevitable times of suffering and hardship, Isaiah 33:6 answers the haunting question, "How will I get through this?"

No matter the current cultural crisis. No matter the present personal crisis. No matter the secret scars on our hearts. Jesus will be our stability. Often we wish for different circumstances to satisfy, or better times to bring us joy, but peace is only found in Him. Add to a side table, your kitchen counter, or gallery wall, and rest in the One who offers abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge to those who seek Him.

Gray frame with silver and gold lettering. Frame is 12 inches x 9 inches.



Proclaim Liberty Sign

Brand new for summer 2016

Adorn your home throughout the summer with a patriotic flag that declares the truth of something more. Proclaim the freedom found in Christ with the Ever Thine Home Liberty Sign. Remind your neighbors and guests that it is liberty found in Christ that is truly worth celebrating. "Proclaim his liberty throughout the land."

Frame is 16 inches x 16 inches with wood frame and shiny gold star.

Africa

Sept 17-18, 2016 Art of Marriage Centurion South Africa

Europe (Eastern)

Oct 28-30, 2016 Weekend to Remember Njivice Croatia (Slovenia team)

Europe (Western)

Oct 1, 2016 A Day Together Selly Oak UK

Oct 15, 2016 A Day Together Newcastle UK

Nov 5, 2016 A Day Together Liverpool UK

Nov 19, 2016 A Day Together SE 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.

Nov 4-6, 2016 Weekend Getaway Whistler, BC Canada

Nov 18-20, 2016 Weekend Getaway Blue Mountain, ON Canada

Nov 18-20, 2016 Weekend Getaway Jasper, AB Canada

Feb 17-19, 2017 Weekend Getaway Victoria, BC Canada

Mar 3-5, 2017 Weekend Getaway Kelowna, BC Canada

Mar 10-12, 2017 Weekend Getaway Niagara Falls Canada

Apr 7-9, 2017 Weekend Getaway Banff, AB Canada

Apr 21-23, 2017 Weekend Getaway Montebello, QC Canada

Oceania

August 2016 A Day Together Lakewood, NSW Australia

Fall 2016 A Day Together Heathmont, VIC Australia

Aug 13, 2016 A Day Together Auckland New Zealand

Aug 27, 2016 A Day Together Hamiton New Zealand

Sept 4, 2016 Father's day talk Greenlane New Zealand

Sept 23-25, 2016 Weekend to Remember Auckland New Zealand

Nov 6, 2016 Understanding One Another Auckland New Zealand

Quotes from a recent conference in Romania:

"I have learned that my husband and I should devote more time to communicate, and that I should be ready to make sacrifices for the sake of our relationship, working hard for our marriage." Alexandra C.

"The personal examples from the lives of the FamilyLife speakers were wonderful, and the materials used were of a high quality." Daniela B.

"I have learned that I need to listen more to my spouse, even though I might hear some things I don't particularly agree with." Ligia K.

"I found out that I can be romantic regardless of age... We should leave a godly legacy to the next generation." Lavinia G.

"The conference helped us to get closer to God. We would like to invite other couples to these kinds of events. It is much better to attend such a conference than to go on a vacation with your spouse." Alina P.



australia: “god is bigger” by tim freyer

On Saturday March 12th, 45 people crowded into the auditorium at Taree Baptist Church in Taree (a small coastal town north of Sydney) to hear how God could transform their marriages through Power to Change’s A Day Together marriage conference. (In Australia, FamilyLife is known as Power to Change.) Amongst the crowd were several unchurched couples who were experiencing some significant struggles in their marriages and were looking for help.

A Day Together is a one-day marriage enrichment conference hosted by Power to Change that focuses

The focus though was not solely on the marital relationships of the participants but also on what role God wanted to play in the lives of those who were there.

on creating oneness in marriage. Throughout the day, attendees



engage in talks and couples’ projects that help them grow in the areas of communication, conflict resolution, and intimacy amongst several other topics. The day ends with a gospel presentation where the speaker couples share about the role that Jesus wants to play in our marriages and the legacy that He wants to create in our marriages.

As the speaker couples shared real stories of failure and success from their lives, God began to work in the hearts of those in attendance. One husband commented that he “needed to be a better man for [his] family” while another observed that the time together “awakened the love and respect that [he] had for [his] wife.” The focus though was not solely on the marital relationships of the participants but also on what role God wanted to play in the lives of those who were there.

Talking about her spiritual journey, one unchurched wife commented, “It has made me think about what I want and where I am heading.” Others took a step of faith, like the husband who reflected, “It made some of the issues [in my marriage] crystallize, and they are bigger than I can deal with. I learned that God is bigger than these.”

Throughout the day, we were able to see two people make a decision to recommit their lives to Christ, and several more expressed an interest in joining an exploratory small group where they could learn more about what a relationship with Jesus really means. Our prayer is that the couples in attendance will spend much time reflecting on what they’ve heard. Please join us in praying for Taree and the work God is doing there and throughout Australia.



global radio—testimonies from latin america

by jayna richardson

Vida en Familia Hoy®, the Spanish version of FamilyLife Today®, continues to touch lives across the Spanish-speaking world thanks to FamilyLife's partnership with Heraldng Christ Jesus' Blessings (HCJB) in Quito, Ecuador. Vicente Vieira is the Hispanic voice of Dennis Rainey, and he enjoys interacting with listeners who are eager to share their stories of how VFH has helped their marriages and families. He also finds humor in often being mistaken for Dennis Rainey.

On one occasion, Vicente and his wife, Fanny, went on a date at restaurant. The owner of the facility heard Vicente's voice and ran over to their table. "You're the one doing the radio show!" he said. "What's your name?" When Vicente replied, "Vicente Vieira," the man was surprised. "I expected you to say Dennis Rainey!" Nevertheless, he hugged Vicente tightly and said, "Keep doing those good programs!"

Similarly, Vicente and Fanny were in the supermarket shopping when a lady heard their voices. She ran over to tell them, "How nice to see you, Pastor Dennis! Thank you for the very good lessons that we take advantage of at home!" She, too, was surprised to see that he was Vicente and not Dennis Rainey, but she shared that the message continues to touch her and her home.

Vicente and Fanny take every opportunity to share their programs with couples in need. Recently a builder made repairs to their house after it suffered damage from an earthquake in April. The Vieiras shared the gospel with him and his wife, prayed with them, and gave



Duvall Rueda (left) and Vicente Vieira (right) act as the Spanish voices of Bob Lepine and Dennis Rainey at the HCJB studio in Quito, Ecuador.

them a Bible that the wife immediately began to read avidly. Vicente also counseled them on strengthening their marriage of 35 years. "I told them that to have better knowledge of Christian values on marriage, they should listen to our programs," says Vicente. "And they assured me that they would because they were hungry to improve their marriage and family of four young adult children."

Another one of their disciples recently shared, "My wife does not miss a single program because they feed us, and now they do so to a much greater extent since my wife is sick. We are

encouraged by your programs."

The Vieiras are thankful for how God is using them through VFH. "This is just a small sample of the large audience we have," Vicente says, "and it leads us to give thanks to the Lord of the ministry for His grace, and to Dennis and all the staff of VFH and all the beloved supporters of the ministry, who make an endearing and vital partnership in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ for marriage and family."

To listen to Vida en Familia Hoy, visit www.twr360.org/ministry/24/.