



hope for families everywhere

News and information from FamilyLife partners around the world

February 2017

philippines—celebrating 20 years of familylife by hannah palima

“Hinihiling naming tumayo ang lahat ng mga nanay! Mga tatay! Mga ate at kuya!” (We would like to request all the mothers! Fathers! Older sisters and brothers to stand!)

Applause broke out as hundreds of people began to stand across the room. Couples from all over the country, singles cheering, toddlers chasing each other around the hall—they all belonged to a family. And that was precisely why we gathered together. We wanted to worship our faithful God as a family. And part of what we celebrated at FamilyLife Philippines’ 20th anniversary was the gift of being part of His family.

It was a joy to hear so many people speak about how God used FamilyLife to reach out to them. Various couples from

different regions and sectors came and gave their testimonies. Despite how different everyone’s journey has been, what ties them all together is God’s power to transform lives and redeem relationships—even those that were seemingly impossible to restore.

Mayor Glen Prudenciano and his wife Irene, for example, have been using what they’ve learned from the Weekend to Remember seminar they first attended to minister to couples in their province of Ifugao (northern area of the Philippines). He uses it as his guide when officiating weddings in the City Hall. Another couple, May Paller and her husband Jon, have been working to contextualize FamilyLife resources for the tribes. They recognize that

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cameroon—a vibrant ministry in a diverse country

by chuck eckerson

Cameroon is a California-sized country located on the “hinge” between West and Central Africa. It has two official languages, French (83%) and English (17%), reflecting different regions of it being former French or British colonies. But that doesn’t tell the whole story. According to Operation World, Cameroon has “about 286 peoples, with many more sub-groups and dialects.” It is “one of Africa’s most ethnically and linguistically complex countries.”

What is obvious to Cameroonians, but may not be as obvious to us, is that the cultural diversity brings

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significant challenges to marriages and families. Each tribe has its own cultural expectations for how family relationships are supposed to work; how husbands and wives are supposed to relate to each other; how spouses are supposed to relate to their parents and in-laws; etc. And when people marry spouses from other tribes, the sparks

begin to fly. In fact, some Cameroonians assert that marrying someone from a different tribe often creates more cross-cultural challenges than if one of them were to marry an American!

The challenges of ministering to marriages and families in Cameroon are significant. Christian couples are continually confronted with a very real decision: in any particular issue in my marriage, am I going to obey the cultural

marriage booklets, counseling, radio broadcasts, and a weekly interactive TV program. He is also making good use of technology and has 15,000 followers on his Facebook site.

Families in Cameroon are clearly searching for answers to the many challenges they face in their relationships. God is using Roger’s FamilyLife training along with his passion for godly marriages to reach



expectations or the biblical instructions?

Roger (pronounced row-zhay) MFONDI is stepping up this challenge. Previously trained by FamilyLife, he is using FamilyLife methods and materials to develop his own ministry to French-speaking marriages and families in his native country of Cameroon.

Roger’s ministry combines marriage seminars, HomeBuilders studies,

more couples and singles with the gospel of Jesus Christ and biblical principles for marriage.

FamilyLife is all about “helping you help others.” And Roger MFONDI’s story is an example of how FamilyLife has helped someone have a vibrant ministry to others in the far-away country of Cameroon.



new product: his savior names—easter adorenments®

Display the hope we celebrate this Easter using Adorenments® His Savior Names. This set includes three His Savior Names Adorenments (Messiah, Great High Priest, and Mediator) with stands for display. To order, visit everthinehome.com.

philippines—celebrating 20 years of familylife (continued from page 1)

what resonates with couples in urban areas doesn't always connect with those who live outside of the cities and have a different culture.

And because FamilyLife is about reaching out to the whole family, even children had stories to tell! Ella Cruz, whose parents were hosting a HomeBuilders group, began to disciple the kids of the couples her parents were ministering to. This grew to be a whole movement of children sharing Jesus with their peers and building them up in their faith. This is a testament to how God can use anyone to change a community.

Indeed, every member of the family is a home builder!

Their testimonies, alongside those of several others, were also published in the story booklet we launched at the celebration. *One Home at a Time: 20 Stories of God's Transforming Power in Families* hopes to encourage readers to see that God is truly committed to reveal His glory even through the cracks and wounds in our lives. It's an invitation too for couples to bring their marriages to God and commit to ministering to the families around them.

The leadership of Dr. Teody and Bing Pajaron over the last 20 years has been used by God to bring FamilyLife where it is now. They helped raise and develop leaders in different areas from various groups and denominations. Last April 2016, the baton of FamilyLife Philippines' leadership was passed on to Albert and Marife Palima. As the new team transitions, the vision remains the same—to become a movement that helps transform families by becoming lighthouses in their communities and agents of change in this generation and the succeeding ones for God's glory.

Europe (Eastern)

Mar 3-5, 2017	Advanced marriage seminar	Crikvenica	Croatia
Mar 17-19, 2017	Advanced marriage seminar	Crikvenica	Croatia
Apr 28-30, 2017	Advanced marriage seminar	Crikvenica	Croatia
Feb 25, 2017	Marriage Conference		Russia
Feb 17-19, 2017	Advanced marriage seminar	Veržej	Slovenia
Mar 31-Apr 2, 2017	Marriage seminar	Rogla	Slovenia
Apr 21-23, 2017	Marriage seminar	Njivice	Slovenia
Oct 6-8, 2017	Marriage seminar	Rogla	Slovenia
Oct 20-22, 2017	Marriage seminar	Njivice	Slovenia

Europe (Western)

Feb 18-29, 2017	Marriage seminar	Zurich	Switzerland
Jun 23-25, 2017	Marriage seminar	Imst	Switzerland
Nov 4, 2017	FamilyLife course	Zurich	Switzerland
Feb 18, 2017	A Day Together	Birmingham	UK
Mar 11, 2017	A Day Together	Cambridge	UK
Apr 22, 2017	A Day Together	South Bucks	UK
May 6, 2017	A Day Together	Birmingham	UK
May 6, 2017	A Day Together	Gerrard's Cross	UK
May 20, 2017	A Day Together	Worthing	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.

Feb 17-19, 2017	Weekend Getaway	Victoria, BC	Canada
Feb 17-19, 2017	Weekend Getaway	Calgary, AB	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
May 5-7, 2017	Weekend Getaway	Halifax, NS	Canada

Latin America

Feb 15-16, 2017	Pastors' retreat	Progreso	Mexico
March 20-25, 2017	Spanish I Still Do cruise	Ft. Lauderdale	Florida
Nov 12-17, 2016	Stepping Up event	Panama City	Panama

Oceania

May 5-7, 2017	Weekend to Remember	Auckland	New Zealand
Sept 22-24, 2017	Weekend to Remember	Auckland	New Zealand

Quotes from a recent conference in Mexico:

"I just want you to know that, after this weekend, I know God is working in our marriage!"

"I was reminded to value my husband. I feel encouraged to respect him more and repent of my own sins. I ask God to break me and transform me. We must fight together as a family."

(From a pastor): "I, or rather, we, are receiving a renewed vision of the ministry of the church."



uk—going digital by jayna richardson

Families are in crisis around the world, and the UK is no exception. In 2015, the FamilyLife team began exploring ideas for reaching more marriages and families. As they researched apps for couples, they began to realize the potential for digital outreach and the great need for a Christian presence in the digital world. As they prayed and followed God's leading, the idea for Toucan was born.

Toucan is a web-based app for couples that takes users on a relational and spiritual journey. It's designed to strengthen relationships and give users the opportunity to explore the Christian faith. The team, with the help of many people God brought together at just the right time, spent months developing, writing, filming, recording, designing, coding, and testing the app. Over 200 subscribers (40% millennials) provided feedback for the beta version.

The responses were overwhelmingly positive.

One couple said, "Toucan gave us time to really discuss some in-depth issues and really understand each other in a greater way. We have learned how essential communication is after finishing this great module." Another couple described Toucan as "a helpful and enjoyable experience that enabled us to have conversations that we would not have had otherwise." Many users loved the honest stories of couples who are featured in the app.

FamilyLife UK has raised approximately £130k towards the development of Toucan through donations and fundraising activities. In August, a team of 26 cyclists and four support crew participated in a London to Paris bike ride that raised nearly £50,000. The bike ride was a fun



bonding experience and a creative way to raise funds.

The team's next steps are to make changes and updates to the app prior to launching it at Agape UK's 50th anniversary celebration in February 2017. They will continue to add new content in the coming years and are praying to achieve their faith-stretching goal of 500,000 users in two years.

The FamilyLife team is small, and their goals are big. But they are praying that the Holy Spirit would guide their work so that this innovative digital resource will help reach thousands of families.



romania—adopted into the family by adi and cristina tanase

Daniel is a man we met at a recent Art of Marriage® event. When he was younger, he experienced kidney failure and received a kidney from his father. Once he was healthy again, he rejected God. He neglected to follow his treatment plan and developed unhealthy habits. His father died and this angered him even more, then he soon found out that the kidney had failed and he was once again dependent on dialysis. The kidney disease led him to lose both legs from the knees down. Now there is nobody to donate a kidney, and it's not on the priority list for donations. Contrite and with a humbled spirit, he came back to God.

Daniel is married to Alina, but they cannot have children

because of his health. In the many days spent in hospital he met Marius, a boy dependent on dialysis. Marius is an orphan too big and too sick to be desired and adopted by someone. Daniel and Alina decided to adopt him. We met them at a FamilyLife Art of Marriage camp that we organized. At the event, the kids attend a program while the adults participate in an Art of Marriage seminar. We ate meals with this family and got to know them and their story. We talked with Marius about God's love and grace, and that He has adopted us through Christ Jesus. I presented him the gospel, and his eyes were filled with tears. He understood better than anyone the good news!

