

hope for families everywhere

News and information from FamilyLife partners around the world

November 2017



moldova—international family day

by radu cucos

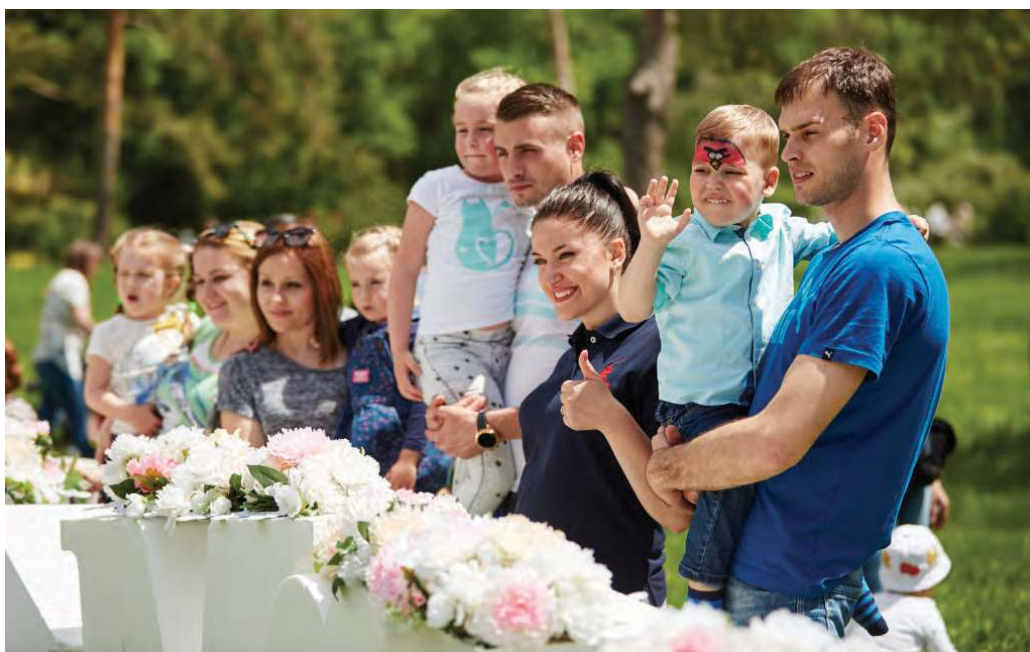
Since the International Family Day has been accepted in Moldova officially, we've had the desire to do something on this day to share about godly families. But our resources are limited.

This year we asked our friends, whose business is making animations for kids, to help us do something for 50 families and their kids. And we were excited about this idea. Also, we appealed to a church that wants to develop a ministry to families to work with us on this project. This was our starting point. From the moment we decided to organize this event, we saw with our eyes how the "waters" parted, just as God parted the waters for the Israelites. After three

planning meetings, we met another couple of Christians who shared the same heart for families. Meanwhile, a mission from the Orthodox Church asked to be part of the event as well. Because of the combined work of all the organizers, we had to change the location—the first one was too small.

Through this event we set out to celebrate the family in the way God intended it to be. We had several goals: encourage people to value investing in family relationships, establish new relationships with other families, invite people to a special meeting for married couples, and connect families more closely with God's plan for marriage.

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But May 14th, the day we were planning to have this event, brought us surprises. We were planning to hold the event outdoors, but the forecast a few days before said it would rain and rain hard. So we were forced to make some changes. These changes consumed me emotionally. All of the organizers were sad, but the burden of the decision was upon me. On May 12th, even though the sun was shining with no rain in sight, we made the decision to change the event to May 20th. Before we changed the event, I had been praying for no rain; after we made the change, I was praying it would rain so we would be justified in our decision! Thousands of people were following us on Facebook, and some of the comments and dissatisfaction had begun to affect me. But then we had to change the day again because our

government designated May 20th a labor day. Many families had to work on that day. So I changed the day again to May 28th.

Two things kept me going on the way: looking to God and what He wanted, and working with our team of organizers.

On May 28th we had a stable audience of 300-350 adults and their kids and a flood of 2,000 people coming and going. Because it was Sunday, we had a lot of people who do not attend a church. We managed to follow up with many of them, and some of them signed up to come to our next event.

The Day of the Family made us experience lots of emotions, both positive and negative. After we talked about the day, we made an evaluation and are moving forward with the desire



to tell as many people as possible about God's plan for marriage as well as for each individual. From the feedback we received, we can see that couples like coming to these meetings and hearing us share about biblical families. And we rejoice that we have the opportunity to do so!



new resource: updated FL app

The FamilyLife app just got even better!

What can you do on our app?

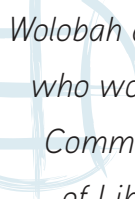
- Listen to the most recent radio broadcasts and search archives.
- Sign up for devotionals and other enriching content.
- Get matched to content through an assessment.
- Connect with others across the globe in special men's and women's groups.
- Find out more about premium FamilyLife resources.

Available for iOS and Android devices. Search for "FamilyLife" in the app store.



liberia—from isolation to unity

Because of civil unrest in Liberia, family values have been on a downward trend. Even Christian marriages are being torn apart by divorce each year



Wolobah and Venessa Taylor, who work with the Great Commission Movement of Liberia, decided to approach likeminded personalities to work out a possible intervention alongside the church to restore moral dignity within Liberian families.

in staggering numbers. Wolobah and Venessa Taylor, who work with the Great Commission Movement of Liberia, decided to approach likeminded people

to work out a possible intervention alongside the church to restore moral dignity within Liberian families. Their initiative led to the organization of a one-day HomeBuilders small-group training in late March, bringing together 77 couples from several denominations.

Two weeks after the training, a pastor who had brought along five couples from his denomination excitedly called Wolobah on the phone to tell the story of one husband and wife who attended the event. This couple has been married seven years. They've both achieved success in their respective careers; the husband has a well-paying job, and the wife runs a viable business from which she saves well every month. The wife, however, revealed that since they got married, the husband had never shared his paycheck or disclosed his salary. Nor had she shared with him the income of her business. Both of them had been living in complete isolation with separate bank accounts.

The wife shared this with the

pastor following the event: "Since we arrived home from the HomeBuilders small-group training, my husband's attitude has drastically reversed. For the very first time after seven years of our marriage, my husband did not just disclose his salary but handed me his savings book. I reciprocated by giving him mine. What is more important to share is that my husband is now playing the priestly role and leads the family to church every Sunday."

Since the HomeBuilders training, four groups have been organized in four communities with 21 couples discovering God's principles that will help enrich their marriages. Additional groups and family ministries in local churches are also beginning to develop, and the couple who have learned to step from isolation into unity are considering ways they can provide leadership and help others.

Europe (Eastern)

Nov 3-5, 2017. Marriage seminar Crikvenica. . . . Croatia (Slovenia team)
Nov 17-19, 2017 Marriage seminar Crikvenica. . . . Croatia (Slovenia team)
Nov 24-26, 2017. . . . Marriage seminar Crikvenica. . . . Croatia (Slovenia team)

Europe (Western)

Nov 4, 2017 FamilyLife course Zurich. Switzerland
Mar 16, 2018. Prepare/Enrich conference Zurich. Switzerland
Apr 14-15, 2018 Marriage seminar Zurich. Switzerland
Jun 22-24, 2018. . . . Marriage seminar Imst. Switzerland
Aug 31, 2018. Prepare/Enrich conference Zurich. Switzerland
Sep 15-16, 2018 Marriage seminar Zurich. Switzerland
Nov 10-11, 2018 Marriage seminar Zurich. Switzerland
Jan 20, 2018 A Day Together London UK
May 12, 2018 A Day Together Birmingham UK
May 12, 2018 A Day Together Gerrard's Cross UK
May 19, 2018. A Day Together Worthing UK
Feb 10, 2018. What is Love Actually Birmingham 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 17-19, 2017 Weekend Getaway Whistler, BC
Nov 18, 2017. Parenting seminar Mississauga, ON
Nov 24-26, 2017. Weekend Getaway Blue Mountain, ON
Feb 16-18, 2018 Weekend Getaway Victoria, BC
Mar 2-4, 2018 Weekend Getaway Niagara Falls, ON
Mar 2-4, 2018 Weekend Getaway Kelowna, BC
Mar 23-25, 2018 Weekend Getaway Waskesiu Lake, SK
Apr 6-8, 2018. Weekend Getaway Montebello, QC
Apr 13-15, 2018 Weekend Getaway Banff, AB
Apr 27-29, 2018. Weekend Getaway Halifax, NS

Latin America

Visit www.vidaenfamilia.org for information about events.

Oceania

Nov 11, 2017 A Day Together Donvale, VC Australia

Quotes from recent events in New Zealand:

"I believe our marriage will be transformed; we were in a rut and now feel real hope!"

"We were on the verge of separation. We now have a plan for continuing our marriage."

"It was like we were travelling together 'somewhere' but now we have a map!"

"This getaway would be the best quality decision we have made together as a couple. Life changing and inspiring."



slovenia—prayer walking by jayna richardson

Dani and Vilma Siter, leaders of the ministry Family and Life Slovenia, have always wanted to walk the Camino de Santiago, a well-known pilgrimage route in Spain (also known as the Way of Saint James). Although circumstances prevented them for many years from

walking alongside the Sitters for a day or two or by opening their homes for prayer and hospitality.

In May of this year, the Sitters' dream of walking the Camino became a reality. Their trip was a time of prayer, spiritual refreshment, and preparation for upcoming ministry opportunities. Because Slovenia is a predominately Catholic country, the Camino is of particular interest to many Slovenians. Dani and Vilma have since organized three presentations on the Camino and have been able to hand out resources such as Weekend to Remember® invitations, a quarterly magazine, and a Campus Crusade for Christ pamphlet called "Five Signs of the Camino" to hundreds of eager listeners.

Vilma were excited to see other couples taking initiative to reach out to people and using this opportunity as a powerful tool to share the gospel.

Many in Slovenia have been blessed by this initiative. One volunteer shared that during her prayer time one morning before she left her home to join the walking group, she was reminded that someday we will leave everything behind—including our earthly home.



The Sitters made it to Finisterre, the end of the Camino.



One volunteer couple shares their testimony at an evening outreach event.

making the trip, in 2014 God used their dream of walking the Camino to give birth to a new idea—the start of a similar prayer walk in Slovenia. That year they took 13 days out of their schedule to walk 257 kilometers (approximately 160 miles) from city to city visiting HomeBuilders® groups, praying for the ministry, and fellowshiping with volunteer couples. That walk became an annual event: the Family and Life Slovenia Prayer Walk for Families. Many HomeBuilders groups throughout the country have gotten involved, either by

Before the Sitters went on their trip, they challenged their coworkers and volunteers to carry on the tradition they had begun of walking and praying through the cities of Slovenia. "We have always had in mind that we are not the 'owners' of these events," says Dani. "They must become transferrable."

The volunteers took up the challenge. Five groups planned their own routes and organized evening events. They spread out in different cities of Slovenia in order to reach more people with their prayers, encouragement, and the good news of Jesus Christ. They prayed, talked, shared their testimonies, and invited couples to join local HomeBuilders groups and sign up for a Weekend to Remember. Dani and

She became aware that if we are in the Lord, we are "no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household" (Ephesians 2:19).

The Sitters agree. "We are at home in the arms of our loving Father, and that is the message of hope we all want to bring to other Slovenian couples and families," Dani says.

Although the Sitters were pleased to see the volunteers continue the annual walk without them this year, they do hope to walk the Slovenian paths again next year alongside Slovenian couples. They plan to invite as many couples as possible to join them, and they pray it will be another incredible opportunity for outreach.

panama—reaching a continent with biblical resources

by jayna richardson

"I am committed to this ministry because I know what it's like to almost lose my marriage and family." Hugo Guerrero is central to a ministry based in Panama that's reaching many families throughout the continent of South America, but it's a path he never would have expected his life to take. Back in 1994, he was living a fragmented life common to many Latin American businessmen—a life of success in the workforce but brokenness at home. When Hugo and his wife, Kenia, reached a low point marked by selfishness and hurt, they decided to separate.

In the cold loneliness of a hotel room, Hugo cried out to God, "If you truly exist, I want to know you." That moment was a turning point, and from then on Hugo began to experience miracle after miracle, including the restoration of his marriage. Over the years he developed a hunger for God and a desire to help others.

Hugo became involved with Cru by helping host a series of events for businessmen. Through those Cru connections, he met Leonel Motta, the FamilyLife director of Latin America, and eventually a partnership began to form. This partnership soon turned into a strategic alliance that involved granting Hugo a license to print FamilyLife resources inexpensively in China and distribute them from Panama throughout the countries of Latin America—an initiative that solved a huge dilemma of getting biblical resources into the hands of families who desperately needed them at a price they could afford.

"When we were challenged by God to embark on this ministry, we really had no idea how far-reaching it would be," says Hugo. Already tens of thousands of resources have been distributed to churches, organizations, and individuals throughout Latin America just in the past two years. "We are witnesses to how God brings together, and continues to add, various components of His body, achieving a powerful and efficient synergy that produces results far beyond our own perspective."

Perhaps the best way to express the impact this has had are the testimonies from the volunteers. Noe Rodriguez from Queretaro, México, said, "These first two months of partnership with you have given us the opportunity to minister to over a hundred couples with the Art of Marriage®. Without your partnership, we couldn't have done it. In the next few months we will be expanding to our neighboring states, and we already have those resources in stock, thanks to your partnership."

Julio Atenas from Santiago, Chile, said, "Having the opportunity to distribute FamilyLife resources from Panama, and at a much lower cost, has allowed us to open doors with different congregations and deliver practical resources to family ministries, which are used in many ways. Many have adopted them for their yearly study plan, and others for counseling. We, as FamilyLife Chile, have created a 'Family University' offering seminars every two weeks on Friday nights, using HomeBuilders®, A Day to Remember, and concluding with the Art of Marriage.



These seminars are attended by people from different denominations and even the unchurched."

The full impact of this partnership will probably never be known, but one thing is clear: God is using Hugo's printing and distribution ministry to reach families with the help and hope of the gospel. Hugo does his work at no charge to FamilyLife, and he's quick to give all glory to God. "From the very beginning, God has made it clear to me that this is His project and not my project," he says. "My responsibility is to obey His will and to have the courage to allow God to remove all the obstacles in my path and to not allow myself to become distracted or fearful in the face of the trials and difficult situations that may come my way."

He admits that the work is challenging at times, but he's learned to have faith that God can do the impossible. "As a businessman you plan your life and you set goal after goal. And to renounce my goals in order to pursue God's goals has been a great challenge," he says. "But I have seen the hand of God that, truly, has been covering me. And seeing all of this has given me the assurance that this is the path that God has traced out for my life."