FAMILYLIFE® GLOBAL

hope for families everywhere

News and information from FamilyLife partners around the world

February 2019

Panama—A Ministry to Police

by Jayna Richardson

Jonathan and Hanna Samudio know that police officers face unique challenges in their marriages. For the last few years, they've been faithfully ministering to the Metropolitan Police in Panama City through FamilyLife's Art of Marriage® . . . and they're seeing powerful results!

This ministry began in 2016 when the Samudios were invited by the commissioner of the national police to present the Art of Marriage to officers and their wives. The commissioner was familiar with FamilyLife because he had participated in an Art of Marriage a year earlier at a church in the city. Since then the ministry has expanded to other departments as well.

"This ministry is very important and strategic in Panama since one of the seven spheres of influence in the society we want to reach for Christ is the government," says Jonathan.

The Samudios have rejoiced over the changed lives they've seen so far. "Husbands have confessed to being sorry for how they've treated their wives and have asked for forgiveness publicly; others have pledged to live lives that honor God and leave their children spiritual legacies. So far forty people have accepted Christ as their Savior."

Although the ministry has not been without opposition and spiritual warfare, Jonathan and Hanna are pressing forward. The police commissioner for the western

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United Arab Emirates: The Launch of FamilyLife

by Jayna Richardson

"Can you please pray for me? I can't think of anything positive to write to my husband." This is what one woman in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said when couples at a Weekend to Remember® were given the task of writing a love letter to their spouses. Application projects throughout the event are often an integral part of producing life change in the attendees. But the projects can be tough, especially for those in a difficult marriage.

FamilyLife international representatives Jim and Judy Burrows were conducting the Weekend to Remember in November 2018 as part of the launch of FamilyLife in the UAE. Judy agreed to pray with the woman right then and there. At the end of the conference, the woman wrote on her evaluation sheet that the highlight of the event was when Judy prayed for her. She added, "Before then I could not think of anything good to say to my husband; after praying, I could not stop finding things to say."

The weekend was filled with positive responses. Of the 130 that attended, two people indicated that they had started a new relationship with Christ, 48 recommitted their marriages to Christ, and 63 indicated that they wanted to join a HomeBuilders® small-group study. This was not just a one-time event, but part of a strategy to help launch a family ministry in cooperation with a strategic fellowship that reaches out to 90 different nationalities.

The UAE has a population of 9.5 million, and approximately 76% of the population is Muslim. Launching a FamilyLife ministry here is challenging, but the momentum that's building now is encouraging. Back in May of 2018, Jim and Judy met with church leaders from Dubai and Abu Dhabi and showed them FamilyLife resources that could help them to launch a family ministry movement. When they returned to conduct the Weekend to Remember in November, they found that these church leaders have implemented Art of Marriage small groups as part of their year-round ministry efforts.

In addition to the Weekend to Remember, Jim and Judy also held a speaker training and a training on how to lead a HomeBuilders group. We look forward to seeing how God takes these seeds of family ministry and brings growth throughout the UAE.

2019 events calendar

Europe (Eastern)

Croatia (Slovenia team)	Feb 22-24, 2019	Marriage conference	Crikvenica
Croatia (Slovenia team)	Mar 8-10, 2019	Marriage conference	Crikvenica
Croatia (Slovenia team)	Mar 22-24, 2019	Marriage conference	Crikvenica
Croatia (Slovenia team)	Apr 5-7, 2019	Marriage conference	Njivice
Croatia (Slovenia team)	Apr 26-28, 2019	Marriage conference	Crikvenica
Croatia (Slovenia team)	Oct 25-27, 2019	Marriage conference	Njivice
Slovenia	Feb 8-10, 2019	Marriage conference	Verzej
Slovenia	May 3-5, 2019	Marriage conference	Rogla
Slovenia	Oct 4-6, 2019	Marriage conference	Rogla
Slovenia	Oct 11-13, 2019	Marriage conference	Verzej
Slovenia	Oct 18-20, 2019	Marriage conference	Verzej

Europe (Western)

Switzerland	Feb 11-12, 2019	Prepare/Enrich conference	Zurich
Switzerland	Mar 9-10, 2019	Marriage seminar	Zurich
Switzerland	Mar 15, 2019	Prepare/Enrich conference	Zurich
Switzerland	Jun 21-23, 2019	Marriage seminar	Imst
Switzerland	Oct 26-27, 2019	Marriage seminar	Zurich
Switzerland	Nov 16-17, 2019	Marriage seminar	Zurich
United Kingdom	Feb 2, 2019	Vision and Equipping conference	Solihull
United Kingdom	Mar 30, 2019	A Day Together	Gerrards Cross
United Kingdom	May 1, 2019	A Day Together	Porto
United Kingdom	May 4, 2019	A Day Together	Lisbon
United Kingdom	May 25, 2019	A Day Together	Manchester
United Kingdom	Sep 28, 2019	A Day Together	Cambridge

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	Feb 15-17, 2019	Weekend Getaway (Mandarin)	Edmonton, AB
Canada	Feb 22-23, 2019	This Day Forward (Marr. seminar)	Abbotsford, BC
Canada	Mar 1-3, 2019	Weekend Getaway	Niagara Falls, ON
Canada	Mar 8-10, 2019	Weekend Getaway	Victoria, BC
Canada	Apr 5-7, 2019	Weekend Getaway	Montebello, QC
Canada	Apr 5-7, 2019	Weekend Getaway	Waskesiu Lake, SK
Canada	Apr 12-14, 2019	Weekend Getaway	Lake Louise, AB
Canada	May 3-5, 2019	Weekend Getaway	St. Andrews, NB

Asia

China	Feb 22-23, 2019	Weekend to Remember	Hangzhou
China	Apr 12-13, 2019	Weekend to Remember	Beijing
China	May 17-18, 2019	Weekend to Remember	WuHan
China	Jun 7-8, 2019	Weekend to Remember	Guangzhou
China	Aug 2-3, 2019	Weekend to Remember	AnHui
China	Oct 18-19, 2019	Weekend to Remember	Beijing
China	July 5-6, 2019	Weekend to Remember	Shantong

Oceania

New Zealand	Apr 5-7, 2019	Weekend to Remember	Auckland
New Zealand	Jun 28-30, 2019	Weekend to Remember	Taupo
New Zealand	Sep 6-8, 2019	Weekend to Remember	Auckland

In answer to "What did you learn?" at a recent event in the UK:

"Commitment to God. Shared vision for our marriage. Continue growing as a couple."

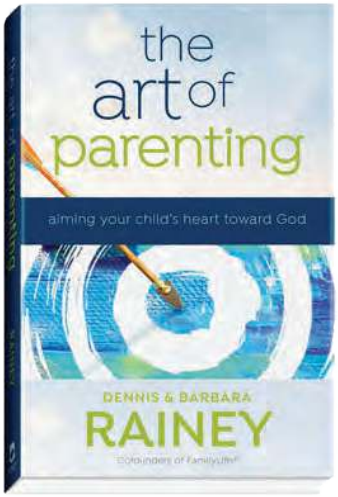
"Never give up!"

"Listening to my wife without interruption. Making time to invest in our relationship."

"To look to God, a cord of three strands. Not to give up."

New Resource: The Art of Parenting (book)

Dennis and Barbara Rainey have spent decades helping families find biblical help to strengthen and transform family relationships. Through radio broadcasts, conferences, and other events, they have been teaching on the foundations necessary for building godly families. Now they bring insights and expertise gleaned from those years of ministry, as well as from their own personal experience of raising six children, to *The Art of Parenting*. Expanding on parenting themes shared with FamilyLife audiences in person and on the radio, Dennis and Barbara offer trusted advice on how to establish Christian values in your home.



In *The Art of Parenting*, Dennis and Barbara will help you to experience God's truth and apply His Word in your family by focusing your attention on four crucial elements in your children's lives:

1. **Identity**—understanding who they are in Christ
2. **Character**—learning to live wisely and honorably
3. **Relationships**—fostering godly connections with others
4. **Mission**—understanding why they are here

When you apply biblical truths in these four areas, you can feel confident your children will have a foundation they can build upon for the rest of their lives.

Panama—A Ministry to Police *continued from page 1*

region of Panama heard about the good work they were doing and invited them to expand their ministry to the Western Regional Police Department. They also have plans this year to organize Art of Marriage events in other institutions such as the National Air Service, the National Immigration Service, the Institutional Protection Service, and others. They pray that they can develop volunteers committed to each of these institutions who will begin HomeBuilders® studies to provide ongoing marriage discipleship.

God is opening doors, but the Samudios know that prayer is crucial as they continue the good work that has begun. Pray for the ministry, the volunteers, God's provision of resources, and that the lives of many Panamanian police would be forever changed by the transformative power of the gospel.

Latin America—Agora 2018

by Jayna Richardson

FamilyLife Global recently had the opportunity to participate in a large gathering of Cru staff and volunteers from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) at Agora 2018 in Brazil. Nearly 1,500 people attended, which presented a huge opportunity for introducing FamilyLife strategies and resources to Christian leaders in several countries.

Attendees at Agora (which means "now" in Portuguese) saw the *Like Arrows* movie trailer and heard about the launch of FamilyLife's Art of Parenting™ in Spanish. FamilyLife presented four breakout sessions attended by 320 people and made important connections.

Layo Leiva, the Area Director for Cru LAC, had asked FamilyLife to send a team to Agora because Cru has identified "family" as a primary target audience. Because everyone belongs to a family, ministering to the family is a way to reach every segment of society. He and Armando Tamayo, the Cru LAC coordinator for FamilyLife, hope that Cru national directors throughout the continent will make FamilyLife a central part of their strategy and toolbox.

During one of the breakout sessions, Bianca Morsen, who serves with FamilyLife in Suriname alongside her husband Armand, shared her testimony. When her parents divorced, her world and dreams for the future were shattered. When she received Christ, everything changed. Her own painful experience has been a door that opens opportunities to offer redemption and restoration to other families. She emphasized the power of blending a FamilyLife ministry with other ministry strategies.

Guillermo and Ana Baños of Guatemala gave their testimony of how HomeBuilders® studies helped them overcome difficult issues three years into their marriage, and they gave an overview of the dynamics of a HomeBuilders small group.

FamilyLife also set up an information booth to answer questions throughout the conference and a booth to display FamilyLife books and DVDs.

The attendees were left with this challenge: "Families are one of the mountains that need to be reached in the city. The family is under attack from all sides. We need to raise up people who will stand in the gap. We hope you will be a part of that."

The response to FamilyLife's presentations at Agora has been encouraging. Cru is asking FamilyLife Global for three regional trainings in LAC, specifically for Cru staff and volunteers. We pray that God will use hundreds of ministry workers and laypeople in mighty ways to reach families throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ukraine—Small Town, Big Impact by Jayna Richardson

How can one couple in ministry make a difference when sin and brokenness are tearing homes apart at alarming rates? FamilyLife Ukraine volunteers Volodymyr and Olga Shvets are seeing this question answered through their ministry in the Khmelnytskyi region of Ukraine. Although ministering to families can be discouraging work, God is taking the offerings of Volodymyr and Olga's time, resources, and passion for marriages, and He's bringing growth, restoration, and new life to those around them.

For the past three years the Shvetses, with the help of a team of volunteers under them, have been organizing family clubs in the town of Dunaivtsi. The clubs are usually attended by 100-120 people and include key principles from FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember®. More than 3,000 people have heard God's plan for marriage through their ministry. The entire population of Dunaivtsi is only about 15,000, so they're making a huge impact in this small area!

Volodymyr and Olga have plans to build similar networks of family groups throughout the Khmelnytskyi region. They are also raising financial support in hopes of joining FamilyLife as full-time staff. May God continue to use this faithful couple and others to do more than we could ask or imagine in Ukraine and beyond!