

FamilyLife® Global

News and information
from FamilyLife partners
around the world



Hope for Families Everywhere

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Moldova—Faith, Family, and Fun

by Jayna Richardson

FamilyLife Moldova's family camps provide an opportunity for families to spend time together and create fun memories—but playing games isn't the only goal. The activities also include marriage enrichment for the parents, Bible stories for the kids, and opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel. The FamilyLife team is seeing God use these camps in powerful ways to bring families closer together and closer to Him.

Over the summer, Radu and Liuda Cucos, FamilyLife leaders in Moldova, were asked by two couples in Budesti to organize a camp for families from



Moldova—Faith, Family, and Fun continued



that village. With some prayer and planning, they and their team put together a program for 160 people.

For part of the time, the campers were divided between children and adults. The children played games and learned about the Bible while parents attended marriage talks with themes like the purpose of marriage, communication, and the covenant of marriage. The speakers led the group through the biblical perspective of a successful marriage and taught salvation through Christ.

One game, called “Real Life,” brought parents and children together to go through various stages of life and attempt to “win a million dollars.” The game was set up so that it was impossible to collect that amount. However, anyone could win if they had the “fully paid” card by hearing the gospel and believing in Christ’s sacrifice. Although it was a game, the gospel portion was real. The presenters explained that although a person can’t earn salvation through his own striving, he can receive eternal life by being “fully paid” by Jesus.

One teenager who attended was sixteen-year-old Alin. He grew up in

a family where there was no talk of God. Alin had many questions about relationships and the meaning of life. He had seen his parents face difficulties and complications in their relationship, and he had watched his neighbors’ family breaking apart because of an affair.

When Alin’s parents and their neighbors (the same ones who were recovering from the aftermath of an affair) received an invitation to the family camp, they hesitated at first but finally agreed to go.

During the “Real Life” game, Alin learned about God. He became curious and began asking questions. The man who played the role of “God” for the game talked to Alin, asked him questions about his life, and shared the gospel. Alin realized his need for a Savior, and he met the real God!

During the last night of camp, while the children met for a program with songs and Bible stories around a campfire, the parents had a romantic evening. The organizers spoke on the covenant of marriage and compared it to the covenant we can have with God through Jesus Christ. The couples had the opportunity to renew their

marriage vows in a touching final ceremony.

After the camp, Alin learned that his neighbors, who had been struggling in the aftermath of the husband’s affair, had reconciled and decided to fight for their family. The wife, who had been struggling with bitterness against her husband, granted him forgiveness, and they agreed to move forward together.

Upon returning home, Alin also told eighteen of his friends about how he had received Christ at the camp. Twelve of them were touched by his testimony and decided to give their lives to God as well!

The adults were also eager to continue building on what they had learned following the camp. Seventeen families from the village have begun meeting together to go through *The Art of Marriage*® in small groups to continue growing in their faith and in their marriages.

What began as a few days of fun at a family camp has turned into a chance for many to experience reconciliation, spiritual growth, or even the beginning of a lifelong walk with the Lord.

New Zealand—A front-row view of transformation

by Jayna Richardson

“My marriage was on the verge of ending. We have hope now.”

This is what one couple shared recently following a Weekend to Remember® in Taupo, New Zealand. The couple had been considering divorce and had very little hope for their marriage, but the event changed everything.

This is just one of many similar stories that show that God is doing something incredible in the hearts and lives of families in New Zealand. Steve and Leanne Hooper, long-time staff members and speakers for FamilyLife New Zealand, have had a front-row view of the many ways God is moving in their island nation.

The Hoopers vividly remember the first Weekend to Remember they themselves attended, which started them on a path of ministering to others. The year was 1994, and they had been married for two years.

“We already had a pretty good marriage,” says Steve, “but I remember hearing the content and thinking, ‘This is fantastic!’ It was something I realized would make a huge difference, and we wanted to be part of making that happen [for others.] So we left our careers and came on board, and the rest is history.”

Over the years as Steve and Leanne have helped organize and speak at



FamilyLife events, they’ve run into many couples with extreme marital dysfunction and little hope of long-term marital success. But they’ve seen many of those same couples renew their commitments and turn to God for help.

“We’ve had a number of couples contact us many years after an event saying they wouldn’t be together today if it weren’t for that life-changing event that they attended maybe ten or fifteen years ago. It’s pretty awesome,” says Steve.

They’ve also seen many couples come to their events who had no interest in church and didn’t recognize their need for God, but they did recognize their need for help in their relationships. Attending a FamilyLife event opened the door for them to hear the gospel.

One couple recently wrote to the New Zealand team and said, “Can you recommend a church for us in our area? We’ve realized that there’s something missing in our marriage relationship, and that’s a relationship with God.”

Others have experienced forgiveness, reconciliation, renewed intimacy, and stronger commitment. Quotes from a recent event provide just a taste of how God is changing hearts and drawing couples closer together:

“Wow. I came here thinking my husband was all the problem. I have forgiven him and feel like now we can start a future, especially to be role models for our kids.”

“Breathed new life and commitment into our marriage... it’s given us courage to be keeping on.”

“We have a good marriage, but this has made it significantly better! We’re having discussions on important things in our relationship and feeling so much closer emotionally.”

The Hoopers count it an incredible privilege to be involved in seeing God work in marriages and families in their country. “We’re so encouraged to see how God continues to gently reach into couples’ lives and change hearts as only He can.”

May they continue to experience the joy of seeing God reconcile couples to each other and to Him!

2021-2022 Events Calendar

Please note that events may be cancelled or delayed due to COVID-19

Asia

Singapore Nov 3, 2021 Art of Parenting preview (online)
Singapore Nov 20-21, 2021 Art of Marriage

Europe (Eastern)

Slovenia Nov 5-7, 2021 Marriage conference Catez
Slovenia Nov 26-28, 2021 Marriage conference Ribno
Slovenia June 2022 Men's hiking retreat
Slovenia July 2022 Men's hiking retreat

Europe (Western)

Germany Nov 13, 2021 Marriage Mentoring Training Leipzig
Germany Nov 13, 2021 Marriage seminar Nidda
Germany Nov 20, 2021 Marriage Mentoring Training (online)
Germany Feb 26, 2022 Marriage seminar Lörrach
Germany Mar 19, 2022 Marriage Mentoring Training Berlin
Switzerland Nov 6-7, 2021 Weekend Getaway Zurich
Switzerland Jan 13, 2022 Parenting course
Switzerland Jan 21, 2022 Marriage course
Switzerland Feb 18, 2022 Prepare/Enrich seminar Zurich
Switzerland Mar 12-13, 2022 Weekend Getaway Zurich
Switzerland Apr 29-May 1, 2022 Weekend Getaway A-Imst
Switzerland May 14-15, 2022 Weekend Getaway Zurich
Switzerland May 20, 2022 Marriage course
Switzerland Sep 8, 2022 Parenting course
Switzerland Sep 16, 2022 Marriage course
Switzerland Sep 19, 2022 Prepare/Enrich seminar Zurich

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 Nov 5-7, 2021 Weekend to Remember Collingwood, ON
Canada Nov 12-14, 2021 Weekend to Remember Whistler, BC
Canada Nov 19-21, 2021 Weekend to Remember Jasper, AB
Canada Feb 25-27, 2022 Weekend to Remember Victoria, BC
Canada Mar 4-6, 2022 Weekend to Remember Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Canada Mar 25-27, 2022 Weekend to Remember Waskesiu Lake
Canada Apr 1-3, 2022 Weekend to Remember Lake Louise, AB
Canada Apr 22-24, 2022 Weekend to Remember Montebello, QC

Oceania

New Zealand Nov 12-14, 2021 Weekend to Remember Auckland
New Zealand Nov 13, 2021 A Day Together Auckland

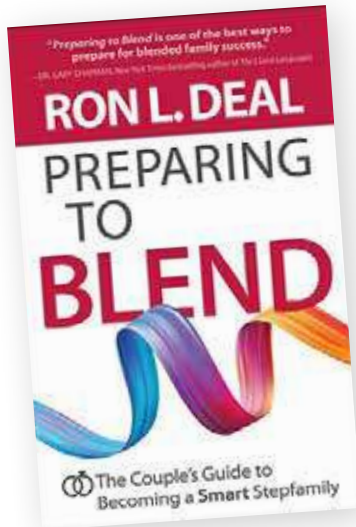
From a recent event in New Zealand:

“My marriage was on the verge of ending. This conference has helped us see our differences and how they are coming between us. We have hope now.”

“Provided space for us to reconnect when we had become so disconnected. Renewed our hope that the future can be better.”

“This has given us amazing tools and biblical, realistic perspectives on marriage to build a thriving marriage together. Thank you!”

New Resource



Preparing to Blend

If you want to enter a blended family marriage well, this is the book for you. Aimed at engaged or pre-engaged couples who have at least one child from a previous relationship, *Preparing to Blend* offers wise counsel on parenting, finances, establishing family identity, and daily routines for your new life together.

Within these pages you will learn how to:

- predict common issues
- define expectations
- create solutions

You, your soon-to-be-spouse, and your children will benefit from exercises designed to accelerate family bonding and help you better understand each other. There is even a chapter to help you plan your wedding with your children in mind, so you can build a strong future together. *Preparing to Blend* is also an ideal premarital counseling tool for marriage coaches, mentors, and pastors wanting to prepare couples for complex blended family dynamics.

If you are considering forming a blended family, *Preparing to Blend* is the resource you've been looking for.

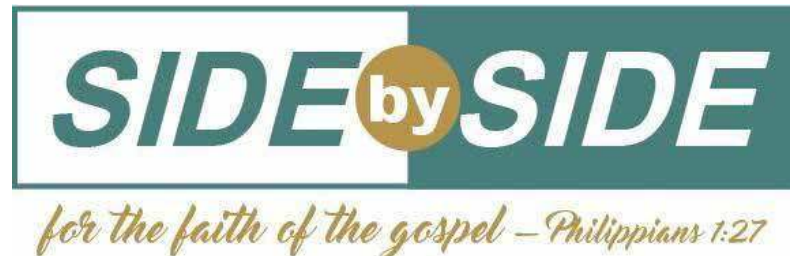
To learn more or order, visit [here](#).

FamilyLife Global: Side by Side

by Jayna Richardson

"I really like seeing all the different couples from around the world... it inspires me and reminds me that I am not alone in this mission of reaching families."

FamilyLife partners and volunteers from across the globe were encouraged and equipped during FamilyLife Global's first ever virtual summit over the summer. The theme, Side by Side, reminded participants





Some testimonies:

“It reminds me of the greatness of God and his passion for families and His commitment to reach them and transform them with His love... I enjoyed the breakout rooms and being able to talk directly with people. That time was priceless.” (Spain)



“This gave us a chance to meet new likeminded people in ministry and to pray with them, therefore forming a lasting bond from far across the world.” (Europe)

that they are all united in their efforts to reach families with the hope of the gospel.

Nearly 200 participants representing dozens of countries joined in for a live two-hour event that included teaching, prayer request videos from around the world, and breakout rooms. FamilyLife radio host and author Bob Lepine shared a devotional on the theme verse (Philippians 1:27), and FamilyLife CEO David Robbins, alongside his wife, Meg, presented a talk full of encouragement and vision casting.

The breakout rooms were a particularly meaningful time for participants to forge new relationships, share ministry updates and practices, and pray for one another within a smaller group.

Participants were reminded that even though ministry can be lonely at times, especially with the additional challenges brought by the pandemic, we are all standing side by side in our hopes and visions of seeing every home a godly home.

“The Robbinses gave a clear vision and direction for FamilyLife ministries: every home a godly home; every nation making disciples; helping families to journey from isolation to oneness to impact. It’s encouraging to see or meet other FamilyLife ministry workers and to hear their stories.” (Philippines)

“I love seeing people across the world that He is using in the same ministry; love to see and hear their passion and struggles, to see creativity and potential. We have some amazing leaders for sure.” (Croatia)

Despite many obstacles faced by FamilyLife teams around the world, God is using their faithfulness to bring help and hope to families. The FamilyLife Global Virtual Summit was an encouraging reminder that they are not alone, and that many like-minded believers are standing side by side with them on the front lines of ministry.