

FamilyLife® Global

*News and information
from FamilyLife partners
around the world*

Hope for Families Everywhere

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Taiwan—Celebrating Lives Changed

by Jimmy Liu



Since 2019, my wife and I have facilitated five Art of Marriage® courses in our city, Taichung, with more than 200 people participating. This course runs at a rather slow pace, with only one session per month. In between the sessions, we meet with each couple or single person to disciple them, coaching them to live out the truth in their marriage, encouraging them to rely on Jesus in difficult circumstances, and celebrating their growth with them. I often feel so privileged that I get to be involved in life-changing moments for these couples and experience the joy of seeing the Holy Spirit work in them.

There was a couple who used to fight with each other a lot, especially on weekends. Sometimes they would go out together, have a quarrel, and end up not returning home together. One day, the wife saw their church promoting The Art of Marriage and decided to ask if her husband would like to attend, thinking perchance he may say yes, and he did! After participating in the course for half a year, their marriage was completely turned around. The wife now admires her husband so much that she often sings her husband's praises publicly. The husband also became proactive in their marriage, taking good care of his wife and children with great joy.

One time when the wife got very tired and frustrated from looking after their children, the husband immediately put down what he was working on and took the kids to the park. The dynamics in this family have been changed completely, and the love of God flows in them spontaneously.

There was another young couple who participated in The Art of Marriage while they were still dating. We journeyed alongside them by leading them in pre-marital counseling, witnessing their proposal and engagement, and finally officiating their wedding. After their wedding, they continued to participate in The Art of Marriage small group. We got to observe their relationship closely and knew that their main source of conflict was money. After learning the truth that husband and wife are no longer two people but one, they started to unify on financial issues. A few weeks ago, another couple in our group had the same financial problems, and this young couple were the ones who provided the answers.

Such life-changing stories are plentiful. Glory to the Lord who works in our lives!

In the second half of 2022, we felt that God wanted to lead us to a breakthrough. We followed His guidance and ended up hosting our first Weekend to Remember. In this three-day conference, couples got to leave their busy lives behind for a while, focus on spending time and communicating with each other, and learn the truth from the Bible together. It was exhausting for us, but seeing the growth in these couples made it all worthwhile.

Here's some feedback we received from the event:

“Thank you for hosting this conference so that we could take time to communicate with each other.”

“We each have our own busy schedule in our daily lives. It's so good that I can talk a lot to my wife here.”

“The biblical truth you have shared here brings me new perspectives on marriage.”

Not only did the participants experience life change, my wife and



I have also been blessed by this conference. As we left our three children behind for a few days to serve together, take a walk hand-in-hand, talk and pray a lot together, it felt as if we were on our second honeymoon. As the Scripture says, “Give, and it will be given to you.”

After the event, most of the participants expressed interest in joining again as volunteers to help other couples. Multiplication is not far away.

In the past three years, we have trained many couples. Several of them are now facilitating The Art of Marriage throughout Taichung, making an impact in their communities. After this current course ends, we will hand over the baton to another couple who will continue running the Art of Marriage ministry, and we will be their coaches, helping them succeed.

It is our desire to impact families in a deeper and broader way. The Lord is leading us to facilitate a new course called The Art of Parenting®. We will keep co-laboring with the Lord and help transform marriages and families in Taiwan through the topic of parenting. We pray that many will partner with us through prayers and offerings to bring about changes in the world!



Romania: A Face from the Past

by Jayna Richardson

Adi and Cristina Tanase were hosting a FamilyLife marriage event in Timișoara, Romania, when Adi looked out into the audience and saw a familiar face smiling back at him. At first, he thought it might be American actor Adrien Brody, but Adi soon discovered this was an acquaintance from his past with an encouraging story to tell.

At the end of the evening, the man approached Adi and reminded him that he had been a student in 2007 and had attended a campus event organized by Adi and Cristina. His name was Cosmin, and Adi and Cristina had met with him one-on-one to talk about relationships and to encourage him in his spiritual walk. Cosmin made a commitment at that event to focus on being the

kind of partner he would like to meet someday and to behave honorably in his relationships. He fully placed his trust in God for his life and future family.

Now, more than 15 years later, Cosmin was pleased to introduce Adi and Cristina to his wife, Ana-Maria, who was expecting their third baby. Cosmin and Ana-Maria had heard that Adi and Cristina would be at the event in Timisoara and dropped everything to come invest in their relationship and let the Tanases know about the impact they'd had on their lives.

“There are times when we invest in people and we don't see an immediate result,” says Adi. “But we know that investing in people's souls

is an investment in eternity, and we are called to speak God's truth in any circumstance. And sometimes the Lord makes us happy, years later, to see that our effort was worth it. He is wonderful!”

The Tanases met as students and became followers of Christ 30 years ago. In their 25 years of marriage, raising children, and conducting ministry, they haven't always seen visible examples of the fruits of their labor. Their meeting with Cosmin was a reminder that God is always at work, motivating couples to fight for unity in their marriages, to demonstrate the power of the gospel in their relationships, and to forever change legacies of families in Romania.



2023 Events Calendar

Africa

Cameroon	May 20, 2023	Single life seminar	Yaoundé
Cameroon	June 17, 2023	Single life seminar	Yaoundé
Cameroon	June 23-25, 2023	Parenting seminar	Yaoundé
Cameroon	July 16, 2023	FamilyLife talk	Yaoundé
Cameroon	Aug 10, 2023	Single life seminar	Yaoundé
Cameroon	Aug 12-14, 2023	Weekend to Remember	Kribi
Cameroon	Sep 16, 2023	Single life seminar	Yaoundé
Cameroon	Oct 22, 2023	FamilyLife talk	Yaoundé
Cameroon	Nov 24-26, 2023	Weekend to Remember	Yaoundé

Asia

Philippines	May 19-20, 2023	Family conference	(online)
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Europe (Eastern)

Croatia	May 12-14, 2023	Weekend to Remember	Crikvenica
Croatia	May 26-28	Men's weekend	Gorski kotar
Slovenia	Jun 23-27, 2023	Men's retreat	
Slovenia	Jul 8-12, 2023	Men's retreat	
Slovenia	Jul 18-22, 2023	Men's retreat	
Slovenia	Jul 27-Aug 3, 2023	Family camp	Veržej
Slovenia	Aug 4-11, 2023	Family camp	Veržej
Slovenia	Aug 12-19, 2023	Family camp	Veržej

Europe (Western)

Germany	Jun 3, 2023	Marriage seminar	Friedberg
Germany	Jun 15-18, 2023	Bike and paddle tour	Spreewald
Germany	Jul 28-Aug 3	Marriage Mentor Training	Thuringia
Switzerland	May 6-7, 2023	Weekend Getaway	Zurich
Switzerland	May 11, 2023	Marriage course	(online)
Switzerland	Jun 8, 2023	Marriage preparation course	(online)
Switzerland	Sep 8, 2023	Prepare/Enrich training	Zurich
Switzerland	Sep 15, 2023	Parenting course	Zurich
Switzerland	Nov 2, 2023	Marriage preparation course	(online)
Switzerland	Nov 4, 2023	Marriage seminar	Aarau

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	May 5-7, 2023	Weekend Getaway	St. Andrews, NB
Canada	May 6, 2023	Marriage ministry training	(online)
Canada	May 13, 2023	Together for Good	Yorkton, SK
Canada	Jun 3, 2023	Marriage seminar	Richmond, BC

Oceania

New Zealand	May 26-28, 2023	Weekend to Remember	Auckland
New Zealand	Sep 15-17, 2023	Weekend to Remember	Tauranga

From recent events in New Zealand:

“The weekend broke my heart, but it also gave me hope that there is still time to be a better husband and father. I’m committed to love my wife and show her I love her. To show my children that I love their mother. Don’t quit!”

“The weekend gave me the encouragement that we are not alone. there is help. For me the biggest takeaway was to know that there is still hope and that God is real.”

“WOW WOW WOW. You all rock. You took two broken people and through your prayers, words and encouragement, gave us hope to use your tools to build a better marriage. I will be recommending this to everyone I meet. Thanks again. God Bless.”



love like you mean it.
marriage cruise

by FamilyLife.

The FamilyLife® Love Like You Mean It® Marriage Cruise

is a getaway for married couples looking for relaxation, renewal, romance, life-long memories, and reconnection with God and each other.

You can look forward to:

- Biblical teaching and refreshing words on marriage
- Great concerts and entertainment
- Fun with like-minded married couples
- Exploring exotic ports
- Lots of quality time with your spouse

It is truly an experience like no other. We invite you to join us on our next sailing of the Love Like You Mean It Marriage Cruise—an unforgettable week on the high seas as you reconnect, relax, renew, rediscover, realign, romance, and remember.

To learn more, visit LoveLikeYouMeanItCruise.com

Reaching and Resourcing the Arabic-Speaking World

by Jayna Richardson

FamilyLife's vision of "Every home a godly home" is reaching further globally than ever before. With the launch of the new Arabic FamilyLife website, www.arabfamilylife.com, families throughout the Arabic-speaking world now have access to free, biblical materials to strengthen their marriages and learn about Jesus.

At a recent leadership conference in the Middle East, FamilyLife

representatives Jim and Judy Burrows gave copies of The Art of Marriage® (AOM) and The Art of Parenting® (AOP) workbooks in Arabic to leaders from 30 countries throughout the Middle East. These books are legally published in Egypt and contain QR codes that take users to the Arabic-subtitled AOM and AOP videos on the website. After spending a few days going through these materials for themselves, the couples made commitments to invest in their

own marriages and/or to use these materials for outreach in their own countries. One country director within Cru (FamilyLife's parent organization) said that he is stepping down from his role to do FamilyLife in his region near the Holy Land full-time with his wife.

Jim and Judy Burrows headed next to Cairo, where they heard how Cru staff in Egypt had set up a booth at the Cairo book fair to help spread the word about FamilyLife's materials as

well as other Christian resources. The Cairo Book Fair is the largest book fair in the world with 3.6 million attending this year and over 2,000 vendors. Cru Egypt Publishing had a great location with their 36-meter booth. Many shoppers from the majority religious group visited the booth and bought Bibles and books, including AOM and AOP (which were the #2 and #3 bestselling items from the booth).

Because Cru Egypt Publishing is a legal entity, they can ship and distribute books throughout the Middle East. The AOM and AOP workbooks will be available at upcoming book fairs in multiple countries. The publisher also had to send six boxes of AOM and AOP books to the Egyptian government for the protection of the copyright. Who knows what impact those books will have on the marriages and families of government leaders!

While in Cairo, Jim and Judy Burrows led an Art of Marriage retreat



for couples. Because half of the audience were non-believers, this was an opportunity to introduce several couples to the gospel and to God's power for marriage. For the believers in attendance, this was a chance for them to learn how to organize their own Art of Marriage event. Half of the attendees signed up to join an AOM small group following the event.

Jim and Judy also introduced volunteers in Egypt to FamilyLife's Art of Parenting resource and

HomeBuilders Bible studies for couples (available free on arabfamilylife.com).

Only God knows how these resources will be used in the Middle East and beyond. As many Arabic speakers are growing in their curiosity about Jesus, we trust that God will put these resources in the right places at the right times to reach people who are hungry for hope and truth.



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