



FamilyLife® Global

News and information
from FamilyLife partners
around the world

Hope for Families Everywhere

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Hungary—Stories of God at Work

by Jeremy Merillat

The FamilyLife ministry in Hungary is still in its infancy. Our team is composed of just three staff couples, but our list of contacts is growing. Inspired by the American Weekend to Remember® event, we decided to create a similar environment for the couples involved in our ministry. We scaled it back, repackaged it, and launched our Evening to Remember series over a year ago. Each month we invite couples to join us from around the city for a fun evening with a romantic dinner, a challenging discussion on marriage, and an enjoyable game or activity. In the beginning, we scrambled to plan these events and practically

begged people to attend. After a year of consistent meetings though, we've overcome many of the initial obstacles. People sign up ahead of time, and we've even filled up our event space on occasion. More importantly, we are hearing stories of how God is working in the lives of those who attend.

Recently, I saw Krisztian and Panni, who, just three years ago, experienced the tragic loss of a child. The grief was crippling, and I remember meeting with Krisztian in a quiet pub on a blustery winter night not long after they first heard news that their child would not survive. He

told me that every marriage in his family had failed, and he was sure their journey would end in divorce too. However, through much counsel and prayer, Krisztian committed to growing in his faith. At the Evening to Remember, he and Panni were smiling and affectionate towards one another as they told us they are expecting again.

Catherine (my wife) met a woman named Csenge over a year ago. After their first conversation, Catherine told me that she'd had the strangest discussion on spirituality she could ever remember. Csenge and her husband lived in an open relationship,

and her beliefs stretched the limits of Catherine’s metaphysical imagination. The only thing Csenge was certain of was that she would never limit herself to the practice of Christianity. She and her husband are regulars at our events now, and they recently reached out to our coworkers saying they want to renew their vows to each other. Csenge said that she is growing increasingly convinced of Christ’s uniqueness and her need to follow him.

Gábor told me about his struggles with alcoholism at an event last fall. His wife wanted to take the kids and leave, but he had managed to curb his addiction to alcohol by replacing it

with marijuana. He wants to be clean though, and he and his wife have started attending an Art of Marriage Connect® group. After a recent event, I saw them speaking to the keynote speakers long after the program finished. The road ahead of them seems challenging, but we are excited to introduce them to God’s great love and power over addiction.

As our ministry grows and we look for ways to increase our impact on this community, we rejoice in the interactions we’ve had so far, recognizing that God is at work in our fledgling ministry to Hungarians just as he is around the world.



Mexico—A Transformative Trip



Through tears, 17-year-old Julia confessed to the group that she had been living “in deep sin” and realized that she desperately needed Christ. Julia’s family was part of a FamilyLife mission trip to the border town of Juarez, Mexico, in March 2023. Although they had gone together with a goal of ministering to an impoverished community, God was doing something special in their own family.

The mission team spent four days partnering with a local Mexican church to distribute water filters house to house through a partnership with a Texas-based church. They also helped

the church with their after-school meal program for kids. The team received training not only for installing the water filters but also for sharing their faith. In those four days, the team shared the gospel with 74 people and saw 19 people trust Christ.

As she witnessed her parents and other team members sharing the truth of the gospel, Julia began to understand Christ’s love for her and the freedom that His grace brings. By the end of the week, she was passionately sharing the gospel herself.

As her heart was opened, she announced to her mom that all of the money she was saving for a CrossFit gym membership would now be used to take a year-long discipleship program after high school that would help her grow more in her love and faith in Jesus.

“I’ve seen transformation in

teenagers on mission trips throughout my seventeen years with Cru High School, but when the students returned home, no one in their household shared the experience with them,” said Oscar Avalos, FamilyLife director of global missions. “This was different. Not only were Julia’s parents and siblings present, they were getting to be a part of God’s work in her life, while on mission together. I am hopeful for Julia and her family’s supportive journey.

“What a joy and privilege it is to witness life-changing experiences in families. There are still hundreds of ‘Julias’ who have yet to experience what God has for them through FamilyLife mission trips. Praise God for what He has done and will continue to do!”

For more information about FamilyLife mission trips, visit www.familylife.com/missions.

2023-2024 Events Calendar

Africa

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
Kenya	Aug 25, 2023	Relaunch of FamilyLife	

Europe (Eastern)

Slovenia	Aug 4-11, 2023	Family camp	Veržej
Slovenia	Aug 12-19, 2023	Family camp	Veržej
Slovenia	Oct 6, 2023	Marriage seminar	Rogla
Slovenia	Oct 20, 2023	Marriage seminar	Izola
Slovenia	Nov 10-12, 2023	Marriage seminar	Crikvenica, Croatia
Slovenia	Nov 10-12, 2023	Marriage seminar	Izola
Slovenia	Nov 17-19, 2023	Parenting seminar	Crikvenica, Croatia
Slovenia	Nov 24-26, 2023	Marriage seminar	Čatež

Europe (Western)

Switzerland	Sep 8, 2023	Prepare/Enrich training	Zurich
Switzerland	Sep 15, 2023	Parenting course	Zurich
Switzerland	Oct 28, 2023	Marriage seminar	Eschlikon
Switzerland	Nov 2, 2023	Marriage preparation course	(online)
Switzerland	Nov 4, 2023	Marriage seminar	Aarau
UK	Sep 30, 2023	A Day Together	Cambridge
UK	Nov 4, 2023	A Day Together	Dorset

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 3-5, 2023	Weekend Getaway	Winnipeg, MB
Canada	Nov 10-12, 2023	Weekend Getaway	Whistler, BC
Canada	Nov 17-19, 2023	Weekend Getaway	Huntsville, ON
Canada	Nov 17-19, 2023	Weekend Getaway	Jasper, AB
Canada	Feb 16-18, 2024	Weekend Getaway	Victoria, BC
Canada	Mar 1-3, 2024	Weekend Getaway	Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Canada	Apr 5-7, 2024	Weekend Getaway	Penticton, BC
Canada	Apr 12-14, 2024	Weekend Getaway	Montebello, QC
Canada	Apr 19-21, 2024	Weekend Getaway	Lake Louise, AB
Canada	Apr 26-28, 2024	Weekend Getaway	Saskatoon, SK

Oceania

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

Quotes from a recent event in Romania:

“I came alone to the Love and Respect event because I just had an argument with my wife before leaving. Now I know what I did wrong and what I need to do. I’m going to apologize!”

“I made a long journey to get here, but it was worth it.”

“I absorbed every word I heard. I made a lot of mistakes with my wife, but I hope I can regain her. We’ve been separated for a while, but now I’ve received hope that we can rebuild our life together.”

Featured Resource: *FamilyLife Global Training Manuals (newly revised)*

FamilyLife Global Resourcing has developed several training manuals to help leaders and volunteers around the world launch and develop their own family ministries and improve their ministry skills. Whether you want to serve your church, neighborhood, or community, FamilyLife can help you make a difference in the lives and legacies around you!

The Global Outreach Strategies and Resources manual is our primary and foundational training manual that explains the overall FamilyLife strategy for beginning an international FamilyLife ministry. Other manuals include Building Strong Marriages in Your Church, Working with Volunteers, Small-Group Training, Speaker Training, Funding a FamilyLife Ministry, and Promoting Events and Small Groups.



For more information on these manuals, visit
<https://www.familylifeglobal.com/movement-makers-training/>

Taiwan—God’s Power for Parents



Last year, Jim and Jo Soon helped roll out several trial sessions of The Art of Parenting® in a Baptist church in Taiwan. About 100 individuals attended the online sessions and experienced a fresh touch of God’s grace. Here are some of the testimonies the Soons collected highlighting the Holy Spirit’s work in the lives of several parents.

Marriage is a Foundation

“I received a wake-up call right in the very first session of The Art of Parenting course: a healthy marriage brings about healthy parenting and happy children. In the class, the teacher kept reminding us of the importance of going on dates with our spouses. My husband even said, ‘The teacher wants you to have a date with me? What a wonderful class!’ It’s been

a while since we have spent time with just the two of us. We just went to the countryside and talked. We shared what we have been learning about parenting as well as the adjustments that we both could make. I was grateful that my husband was willing to discuss and learn with me. After we came home, our children looked more adorable in our eyes! We used a more relaxed and gentle tone to interact with them, and the atmosphere of our family became much better because of that! In the classes, I gained great insights into the various aspects of parenting such as character building, discipline, identity, and relationship with our Lord. Most importantly, I learned that I need to work with my spouse to build up a family that is in line with God’s purpose and the principles of the Bible in order to guide our children to the Lord.”



Discipline According to God's Will

“The chapter on discipline really resonated with a lot of us in the audience, as we often feel that there is no end in sight when it comes to discipline, and we felt a sense of hopelessness about it. This class suggested that our discipline should focus on only one thing at a time (for about six weeks). This not only gives parents a break, but also avoids too much tension in our relationship with our children. Also, we were reminded to reward and encourage good behavior and attitudes, as discipline is not just about punishment.

“After the course, my new perspective on discipline is this: It is not as important how a five-year-old may think of me right now as the kind of person my child will become when he or she turns 25. Making my children happy is not the ultimate goal, but raising them to be healthy

individuals is.

“I used to lower my expectations or give in when my children threw a tantrum on the way to school since we were pressed for time. That was because my focus was only fixed on being on time for school that day. When I keep in mind my goal in the long run, I don't end up compromising as easily.”

The Whole Family is Blessed

“Throughout the course, I was reminded that my spouse should come before children. I started to intentionally make time for my husband in my already busy schedule. We became best friends again, as if there was living water flowing in us, bringing refreshment and a sense of newness. Two weeks ago, I started praying with my children before bedtime. I discovered that God's grace and work were beyond my expectations.

- My children learned to recount the blessings for the day in prayers.
- I can make up with my children at prayer time if we had a fight that day.
- We can come before the Lord together every day.
- I can bring my blessings and supplications for my children through prayer to the Lord. Through praying together, my children get to hear that I have hopes in them beyond the rebukes that they hear so much of throughout the day, such as hope for wisdom and good characters in them. After only a few days, my children have already learned to pray for the whole family. How easy and fruitful it is when we work with the Holy Spirit!”

