

The Riedy Reader

January 2018

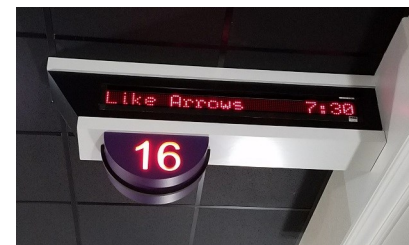


Imagine travelling to seven different cities throughout the United States over the course of 10 days. Now imagine at each stop along the way, hosting a dinner and showing a full length film in a local theater to an average crowd over 150. Well, that's what I, Eric, had the privilege of joining in November.

FamilyLife® is in the midst of one of our largest projects ever as a ministry—a parenting initiative. One piece of this project is a full-length film that will be released in theaters this May (stay tuned in later letters to find a location near you). The film, “Like Arrows: the Art of Parenting™” went on a sneak preview tour of seven cities this fall to: get feedback, prepare for full launch, let people know about the much larger work on parenting and to introduce the new incoming president of FamilyLife, David Robbins.

During the tour, I was responsible for many different portions of the event in three of the cities. Those cities were: Alexandria, VA (near Washington, DC), Harrisburg, PA, and Grand Rapids, MI. All told I was on the road for 9 days, slept in five different beds, drove two different rental cars, took four flights, and hosted nearly 500 people of my closest friends (okay, maybe not my closest friends) to watch a movie with me for free.

In each of the three cities, I helped arrange a special pre-movie dinner for several partners of the ministry to meet the leaders of FamilyLife, including Dennis and Barbara Rainey, Bob Lepine, and David Robbins. During dinner we shared the vision for the parenting initiative and allowed the folks to get to know David. It was a chance for them to hear his heart and vision.



Like Arrows – theater preview!



Eric and David after the showing

One of the highlights of the tour was being able to spend more time with David Robbins. I really enjoyed getting to know him more and start to learn his leadership style. At one point on the trip, he said to me, “At this point Eric, I’ve spent more time with you than anyone except Dennis Rainey in the ministry.” I got to see David interact with several partners of the ministry and explain how he wants to receive the baton being placed in his hands. He honored the past, but also looked forward to the future for FamilyLife.

Welcome

New FamilyLife President & CEO David Robbins

Read more at <http://www.familylife.com/leadership-2>



David with wife, Meg, Ford (11), Mim (9), Roe (7) and Mac (1)

“We love helping people experience Jesus in the most intimate places of their lives: marriages and families. Jesus is the only hope people have to experience real emotional, spiritual and physical intimacy in marriage, and to raise their kids in a culture and world that often seem like adversaries to families.” —David Robbins



I sat in each theater and not only watched the movie, but also watched the audience. It was also great to hear from an audience who largely knows FamilyLife. In every city, we listened to the testimonies of people who came up and thanked us saying, "You saved my marriage!" or "You helped teach me to be a better Christian husband and father". I think you get the idea.

I'm excited to see what God will do with the movie, Like Arrows, and the entire parenting initiative. This is not just another resource, it is much bigger than that.

Why does FamilyLife feel led to do it? Because we think there is a huge need out there. One of the phrases that keeps coming back to me is, "Every parent needs help." I know that I needed help, from that first day of holding our first child in my arms. I still need help today, as we navigate the road of having a college age daughter who is in a serious dating relationship, a high school junior deciding on the next major life steps, and a daughter who wants to start learning to drive (yes, you may have already known or guessed we have 3 teenage daughters). I admit it, I need help!

But where do people turn for that help? And, is it really the kind of help that they need? A recent Barna study reported: 8 in 10 said they found helpful parenting advice on the web, only 20% of households believe that faith is required for successful parenting, and 7 out of 10 born-again Christian parents DID NOT indicate salvation as an important outcome for their child. We believe, this free, unfiltered advice on the internet, although at times can be helpful, at times can also move the next generation away from God. That's why FamilyLife believes God is calling us to offer the Biblical help and hope to point the next generation back to God.

The parenting work will include the full-length film, a small group study, and much more. Watch over the coming months as more material is available and we continue to launch. We're excited to see how God will continue to reach people with the Gospel through FamilyLife and this work.

So, who wants to join me on the next tour?

In Him,

Eric & Deb



To God be the Glory—Dennis w/ David

Tear & Prayer

Pray for the Riedy Family
serving with

FAMILYLIFE
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Pray for Eric's parents as they settle in to a new living situation, and prepare their home for sale. This is a big project hindered by their age & continuing health issues. We all helped out over Christmas & Eric just returned from a second trip but the majority of the work falls on his Mom & sister, please keep them in your prayers through this difficult adjustment.

Praise for health & safety on our holiday trip back East—over 3,100 miles in 2 very full weeks! Christmas day spent with PA family, and a successful surprise party for Grandma Allen's 80th birthday!

Pray for the Arkansas Diamond Jan 24-29—our local speech & debate tournament with over 200 students gathering from 12 states across the country—it is a LOT of work, but a highlight of our homeschool year!