

The Riedy Reader

July 2018



My mind was on packing, cleaning, and getting out the door, not on a 'Gala Event'! As I was asking Eric if maybe we could just skip it and start our trip back East a bit earlier, the girls chimed in...'Mom, the Rainey's are only retiring once, you'll miss it if you don't go.' **They were right!**

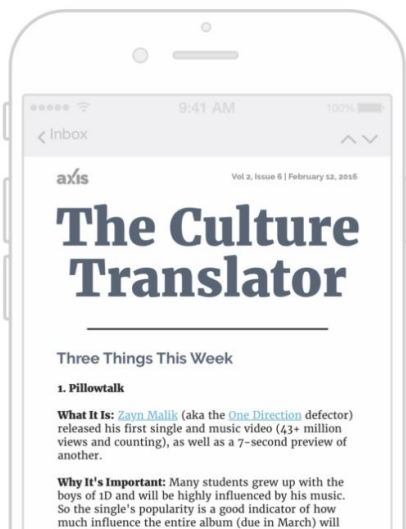
Thursday evening, right before leaving bright and early Friday morning for our long two days of driving, we dressed up and headed out to honor Dennis and Barbara Rainey for more than forty years of service at FamilyLife. Various friends, ministry partners, and family members recounted stories of God's faithfulness and the Rainey's legacy that were encouraging and inspiring! One of my favorite moments, though, was Dennis asking our new FamilyLife president and his wife to stand. Dennis then took a moment in front of all the guests who were there to honor **him** to speak well of **them**, David and Meg Robbins, and share how excited he is about the future of FamilyLife under David's leadership.



Along that line of being excited for our future, I thought I'd share from one of our new President's first presentations to all staff. Seeing the core of how FamilyLife has been led and where we are headed, we pray, encourages your own leadership and following of Christ, as well as, affirming that your giving back to God through our ministry is stewarded well under strong, biblical leadership.

A vision of FamilyLife by David Robbins (installed as President, 12/04/17):

Pursuit of God. If we are going to bear fruit and fruit that will remain, this begins and continues with a pursuit of God. Pursuing God, hearing from Him...not being just believers of God, but lovers of God. Redeemed Ambition. Going after incredible excellence with a holy intent! Not out of perfectionism or any performance-based merit.



Axis.org

Want to better understand the world teens inhabit? *The Culture Translator* provides weekly insight into how pop culture, technology, and media are influencing your students while equipping you to start biblically based conversations.

A few months ago David Eaton, cofounder of Axis—a non-profit ministry that seeks to help the next generation have lifelong faith by resourcing parents and faith leaders, was a guest on FamilyLife today. Now every week my girls and I read our 'Culture Translator' together—they think it is sort of silly but it has lead to some great conversations!

Focused Future. I will have a strong desire to have a focused future. I've stated that during my first 90 days, I will have a posture of learning in order that I may then be a contributor, trusting God for the vision of where He is taking us in the next five years, ten years and beyond.

Connected Collaboration. The world is increasingly a connected place and so having connected collaboration, means internally and externally with other Kingdom-minded organizations.

Agility & Innovation. Building systems that can respond to an ever-changing world, to maximize the opportunities we have to engage the world with an unchanging Truth. Efficiency used to be an organizational premium, but now it's adaptability because the world is changing so quickly. The message we have and the top-of-the line content we provide means we want to be able to pivot well to current opportunities.

Vulnerability & Trust. That we would have an environment filled with grace and truth that leads to growth. Deliberate transparency about information, resources and responsibilities.

Development & Empowerment. I am very focused on leadership development. The best I will be as a leader is how the leaders in this ministry are leading. We will continually invest in our people.

Pursue God. I want to circle back to the center of it all, The Pursuit of God. During a difficult season in ministry, having a sense of obscurity, I began asking God, "what is it that you want to teach me?" Here's what I believe the lesson was, and is - to not just be a believer of God but to be a lover of God because people show and tell of the things that they love. When we love something, we cannot help but live for it. When we love something, we cannot help but talk about it. When we love something, we cannot help but want others to experience it.

Quite a vision, don't you think! I love how it is 'bookended' by the pursuit of God, ministry by the strength of man is meaningless. We, like Dennis Rainey, are excited to see where this new leadership takes us as a ministry!

In Him,

Eric & Deb

Tear & Prayer



Pray for FamilyLife staff conference, including the international staff who will be traveling long distances to attend July 23-27

Pray for wisdom about wisdom teeth-on July 24th both Charissa & Brenna will be evaluated for possible wisdom teeth removal soon-maybe even before Charissa heads back to college mid-Aug.

Praise for health & safety through MANY miles on the road in the month of June-we were blessed to visit friends & family along with hosting a marriage & parenting seminar & visiting local churches

Praise for Charissa doing a great job 'holding down the fort' while we traveled also planning and completing her first wedding catering job