



What actually happens at a FamilyLife Partner Getaway®? In many ways it is a capsule experience of what Eric's role is at the ministry. As a travel rep, he often describes himself as an M&M man. I'd say our four day retreat in D.C. last month was an M&M event. No, not the candy-coated chocolate. By M&M we are referring to both **Ministry** and **Money**. The ministry aspect involves ministry **to the guests** who come, as well as **helping them minister to others**. Let me give you a few ministry examples.

It was such a blessing to see all the FamilyLife® staff given a chance to connect in person with the 44 guest couples! Every evening, long after the speakers were finished, people were sharing updates on wayward children, personal marriage struggles, and much more. The speakers also brought clear messages of encouragement and challenged each couple to strive to leave a Godly legacy. Even the simple

act of bringing these couples together turned out to be a ministry! One night, Eric and I had three other couples at our dinner table, each of them a Christian business owner. As they shared stories of the struggles of integrating their faith with running a business, you could see them each strengthened to face the fight when they returned home.

This same dinner was also a good example of how we were able to help our guests minister to others. One of the business owners had sponsored multiple FamilyLife events as a company benefit. Eric had even helped them put on both an Art of Marriage® and a Stepping Up® event for employees. During our dinner, that couple shared with the other two couples about this idea and even spoke about how helpful Eric and FamilyLife had been. We expect to see these other two couples looking into adding these kinds of benefits to their own companies soon. As a ministry, we were also able to equip these influencers of their communities



## The Twelve Names of Christmas Ornaments

Thinking ahead to Christmas? Consider these faith-building ornaments for discovering Jesus. Each ornament comes with a read-aloud story that sets up practical yet meaningful family time to explore Jesus through 12 of His Biblical names (such as The Vine, The Lion of Judah, The Lamb of God and more). The names of Jesus reveal the many facets of who He is, and knowing these names will lead us to know and adore Him. Hang all 12 at once at a tree-trimming party, or spread the decorating over 12 days leading up to Christmas morning. Find it on <http://shop.familylife.com>



with FamilyLife's Art of Parenting™, Real Parent Life outreach kits, and more.

That brings us to the money aspect of the event. We are up-front and clear with our guests that this is a fund raising event. Many of these guests have been major financial supporters of FamilyLife for many years and attended previous Getaways. This event was a bit different, though...No Dennis and Barbara Rainey! Often when a founder leaves a ministry, many of its major donors leave with him. I truly believe that a number of our guests attended, in part, to get a look at our new president, David Robbins. Would they stick with FamilyLife through this major change? Both David and his wife Meg were able to share their heart for family from the stage, as well as connecting on a personal level with most of the guests. I'm excited to share that the Robbins' heart shown through strong enough for many of our guests to commit financially to FamilyLife's future!

So, that is a little window into what goes on at a FamilyLife Partner Getaway—Ministry (both to and through our guests) and Money—and we are excited to be a part of it. David Robbins often says that, "The family is the greatest untapped resource in our world for good." Maybe this is why it hurts our hearts so much when we see people throwing that precious 'resource' away! It feels like from every corner we are seeing Christian couples giving in to the empty promise of divorce making their lives easier, parents convincing themselves that leaving the family will be 'better for the children', and other such lies. Hearing from David and Meg, connecting with the FamilyLife partners, and working with the other staff has confirmed for Eric and I that we too want to commit to FamilyLife's future. With your prayers and support, and God's blessing, we plan to do just that!

In Him,

*Eric & Deb*

Bob Lepine sharing a radio update with our guests. Never fear, there will be traditional radio, even after Dennis Rainey leaves. We are also looking into expanding with some specialized podcasts.



### Tear & Prayer



In this month of Thanksgiving, we truly have so much to be grateful for, our family's overall good health, three girls who are all doing well in school & who remain interested in the things of the Lord, & so much more. It is with a heavy heart, though, that we share some difficult news. Eric's Dad, Wilson Riedy, has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Due to his age & many other factors, he is forgoing treatment. Hospice care has begun to make him as comfortable as possible during his last few months. Please pray for Wilson, Eric's Mom, Dottie, and the rest of the family. Especially pray for wisdom for our family as we deal with this from a distance. Decisions need to be made of who can visit when, flying or driving, how to balance school & work commitments, and more.