

The Riedy Reader

November 2019



Happy Thanksgiving! In this season of gratitude, Eric and I have so much to be thankful for. We are thankful that Eric's accident was not worse, and that he is healing up well. We are blessed by watching Brenna adjust to college life, totally enjoy her roommate, and learn how to balance the difficult combination of classes and work that is Hard Work U[®] (the nickname of College of the Ozarks). We are thankful for Amanda's good work ethic in both school and speech and debate club. She has adapted well to 'only child' status and is ready for a great competition season. This month, though, we are especially thankful for Charissa as she begins her new chapter as a college graduate. She will be done with classes next month! She has just accepted a personal chef position at Achieving Your Best—a exercise, wellness, and nutrition center in Springfield, Missouri.



As she begins this new chapter, she asked for a chance to look back and share with you her gratitude for the FamilyLife[®] chapter in her life. Back in 2006, when Eric and I first began to consider joining staff at FamilyLife my main concern was our girls. They were three, five and eight at the time and I really struggled with bringing so much change and upheaval to their lives. Though I continued to struggle with this, the words of a friend helped change my perspective, "When God called you and Eric, it was not a surprise to Him that you had kids. If God is calling you, He will use this in your girls lives as well." These are some the ways Charissa as seen God use our FamilyLife journey in her life:

When my parents joined FamilyLife my mom decided to create all three of us girls a scrapbook for our journey to document all of the people we met and places we visited. Moving across the country and leaving our dear friends and church family in Michigan was hard and my mom wanted us to be able to have somewhere to display all of the wonderful things that happened throughout the move. For me though the hard parts about our move were overwhelmed by the outpouring of God's love shown throughout every stage of our lives

Positioning for the Future

By moving to the Cru buildings in Lake Hart, Florida, FAMILYLIFE WILL GET GREATER ACCESS TO:

CAPABILITIES Moving gives us more infrastructure & capabilities to better understand & engage every home.

COLLABORATION Lake Hart houses several Cru ministries & provides access to global partners that we can collaborate with to extend our engagement & impact to every home.

FUNDING Co-locating with Cru saves overhead costs & allows us to reallocate savings to engage every home.

PEOPLE As many of our staff retire in the next 5– 10 years, Lake Hart provides a strong candidate pool that will help us engage every home.

servicing with FamilyLife. In this holiday season I just wanted to share with you all some of the things I'm most thankful for about our family's shift to becoming missionaries with FamilyLife.

Going new places and meeting new people has been a key part of our lives since my parents joined FamilyLife. At first it made me nervous, everyone was so different, they weren't exactly like me and I didn't know how to act or what to say. Through trial and error, we learned, as a family, to knock on strangers' doors and leave after dinner with good friends. These soft skills, people skills, have helped me so much in getting jobs, making friends here at school, scholarship interviews and more.

Our FamilyLife journey has also exposed me to the variety of the body of Christ. I tend to be a more black and white person and naturally think that it's my way or the highway, however this is not reality. God's servants all dress differently, talk differently, eat differently, are part of different political parties, go to different style churches and more. The similarity between them all is their love for their creator. This opened my eyes to accept people who weren't just like me into my friend group as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Another similarity between all the people that we have met along our journey is their willingness to follow God's call to care for people, namely us, missionaries. All of them have different jobs, are at different stages of life, different net worth but still their heart of giving has encouraged and supported our family through the years.

Moving across the country was not easy at all, and I've struggled many times to feel completely connected or at home in Arkansas but that is the beauty of what God has taught me during these years. Through a common connection I can make any place home and any person a friend. FamilyLife has been a blessing in my life and truly shaped me into the person I am today.

As we pray and consider where the FamilyLife move will take Eric and I, we are once again reminded that God is not surprised that we have kids and that He will use this next journey in our lives just as much as He has used all the previous ones.

In Him,

Eric & Deb

Tear & Prayer



Pray for the Riedy Family
Serving in Arkansas with

FAMILYLIFE®
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Eric
Deb
Charissa
Brenna
Amanda

Pray for continued healing of Eric's arm-his next check up is 11/19-we are hoping he will have enough range of motion to be cleared to drive
Pray for Charissa's job & apartment search-she hopes to be settled & working by early Jan '20.
Pray for Brenna as she chooses courses & hones in on her degree program-she plans to add a minor in social media to her public relations degree
Praise for a strong start to Amanda's speech & debate season-2 tournaments in November!
Praise for a great kick off to the Weekend to Remember season, even with all of the transition activity happening here in Little Rock
Praise for the upcoming holiday season-time spent with family and friends!