



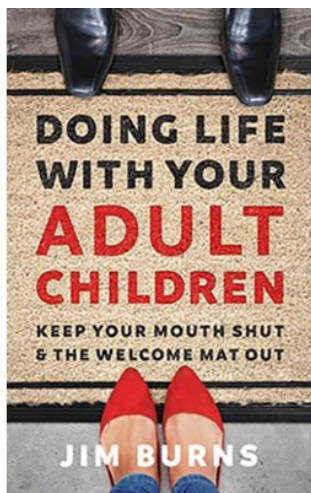
The Charleston Donor Getaway was filled with memorable moments! I'd like to share a few with you.

- * Eric and I flew down to South Carolina, arriving Wednesday afternoon and getting our first look at the memorable location. Our event would take place in the vintage Riviera Theater, a fully restored Art Deco theater from the 1930's converted into a conference center.



- * Our next 'memorable moment' came the next morning just before lunch. No matter the setting for our events, we bring along our own backdrops, screens, and presentation tech. One of the many ways we, as donor staff, serve is to help set up the staging and presentation area. Eric has helped with this many times, but this time he just missed the last step coming down off a ladder, tried to break his fall with his right hand, and knew immediately that something was broken. Yep, we will definitely remember that! The upcoming surgery and weeks of rehab and recovery will guarantee it. (for more info see our blog at abcdefamily.net)

- * I will never forget Thursday night dinner. Our guests had arrived and the event was about to kick off. Eric was in his splint and resting in the room with painkillers. I expected that I would stay in the room with him that first night. Eric, knowing how much he wished to be at the event and that I could do nothing else to help him that night, asked if I'd be willing to go down to host our table without him. Though I was nervous, God smoothed my path in two amazing ways. First, the event organizers gave Eric's empty seat to Crawford Loritts. If you don't know who he is, search any of his messages on YouTube and you'll be glad you did! What a privilege to host a table with him! Second, the guests at the table included a couple that Eric had never met in person. Would you believe that they had been to Connecticut two weeks prior to our dinner and even visited my home church!



Last month FamilyLife today interviewed author Jim Burns about 'Doing Life with your Adult Children' – his new book. I love the subtitle: Keep your mouth shut and the welcome mat out. Eric and I both listened avidly and have passed on the link to many friends, so I wanted to encourage you to head to familylifetoday.com and search for the 3-day broadcast (9/23-25). It brought up many things that Eric and I are heading into as Charissa turns 21 next month and Brenna is at college. It is so helpful to hear from people just a bit further down the line from where we are in our parenting journey. Even the book title is a good reminder that we are heading more toward 'doing life' than parenting as we transition from control to influence. Not every broadcast hits so close to home, but I often end the half-hour glad that I took the time to listen!

The book is available at shop.familylife.com if you would prefer to read it.



* By Friday morning, Eric's splint and medicine had brought his pain level down so that he was able to participate in helping to host the event with me. This meant that we were together for the outdoor dinner at The Governor Thomas Bennett House (circa 1825). What a privilege to gather with so many people passionate about marriage and family in such a beautiful setting! Also a privilege to hear David and Meg Robbins share their passion with this group. For many, this was their first time to meet our new president-a moment I'm sure they will remember!



* On Sunday morning, after worship we give our guests an opportunity to share with the group what the Getaway has meant to them. I will always remember the man who stood with the microphone and confessed before the group that he had argued with his wife the previous evening. That morning God had brought to mind what David had talked about of how a unified marriage could be such a testimony of the gospel and he wanted to publicly apologize for how he had treated her. Or the older man who stood to speak about how he had wrestled with God over the premature birth of two of his children, 'Why had God given him, a man who tried to live for Him, such a difficult road to walk?' he wondered. Now he was able to be at our event with one of his grown children-both he and his son living for the Lord.

David and Meg Robbins shared a bit of their story of being led to lead FamilyLife® during the Getaway. Many times during the process they wondered if they were qualified. One time, during an interview in Orlando they went so far as to say, 'If you had been with our family at Disney this morning, I'm not sure you would be offering us this role!' The pressure to put on a 'perfect family' image was pretty high until David recalled a Alistair Begg quote that they have held on to, "If dependence is our goal, than weakness is an advantage." That phrase really resonated with Eric and I during our memorable Charleston Getaway!

Tear & Prayer

Pray for the Riedy Family
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Pray Eric's upcoming arm/wrist surgery on Thursday 10/17 -His appointment should be ~ 11-2
Pray for Charissa as she looks for a job/apartment in the Branson area for after her Dec. graduation
Pray for wisdom for FamilyLife & Cru leadership as they process the headquarters move to Florida
Pray for God's provision for the ministry & our family as we head toward year end giving season
Praise for a substantial increase in donor pledges from the group at the Charleston Getaway
Praise for a fellow staff member/volunteer fire-fighter being on site when Eric fell-he was able to assess, splint, & sling Eric's arm quickly
Praise for the total sell-out of the 2020 Love Like You Mean It Marriage Cruise