



Our family in the lobby of FamilyLife

January is often viewed as a time of new beginnings, and this has rung true in the Riedy house this year! Change is often a bit nerve-racking as well as exciting, but it is certainly a fact of life.

At FamilyLife®, we were notified last Fall of our big change for 2020. Just this week, though, that change has taken on a more concrete feeling. Our Little Rock FamilyLife headquarters building, built in 2002 specifically for our ministry, is officially sold. The Arkansas Federal Credit Union plans to begin renovating and moving in August

of this year. Yep, that would mean that many of the FamilyLife staff will have to be out by then. We are working on an arrangement that would allow the 'Phase 2' folks to lease a portion of the building for another year. This phase 2 group includes the Development department in which Eric serves, as well as the recording studios for FamilyLife Today® and our other productions. The audio group needs more time to design and build the facility at Cru headquarters in Florida before they move. At this point, we are already seeing fellow staff list and even sell their Little Rock homes in preparation for moving. By this summer, the majority of our staff will either be in Lake Hart, Florida with the rest of Cru staff or in a field location throughout the country that fits best with their role. Those of us remaining in phase 2 are expected to move on by the summer of 2021.



FamilyLife Little Rock building

This change for FamilyLife as a whole has led to a change for Amanda specifically. In August, when the FamilyLife move was announced, Amanda was starting her Sophomore year in high school. If we kept on the current track, she would be moving in the summer before her Senior year—not an easy thing for any teen. One of the difficult things about our position, though, is that we were given news in the fall of 2019 that wouldn't really happen for us till the summer of 2021—lots of things can change and shift in that timeframe. We also don't (and will not for a while still) know for sure where we will be moving. We

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think we will end up in Lake Hart with the rest of Cru/FamilyLife, but we could be asked to take a field position. All this uncertainty was stressful, but then we found the provision that God had already put into place! Amanda, being the youngest, has always been a bit ahead in the homeschool area—she started speech and debate earlier than her sisters and has been a grade ahead in math for the past few years. With a bit of research, we realized that she will have all of the credits that she will need to graduate with our local homeschool group in 2021—a year early. Poof—our Sophomore becomes a Junior! We expect that she will still move with us for a year before going off to college. Maybe we will call it a ‘super-senior year’ or a ‘gap year’, but we will see what the future holds. This plan allows her to graduate with friends in Little Rock, lets us not have to figure out homeschool laws in another state, and gives us more flexibility in our future.



Brenna has a new beginning at College of the Ozarks® without her sister on campus and a whole new batch of classes. Charissa is officially living on her own and has started her new job in Springfield, MO. Eric is beginning the process of being on the ‘goodbye’ end of this major move, adjusting to empty desks and transitioning co-workers. I have celebrated my 50th birthday and begun consideration of my transition to full-time ministry once our nest is empty. As I said, January is a time of new beginnings!

As we enter in to 2020 and face all these new beginnings, we are thankful that **YOU are keeping our family in prayer**. We are thankful too, for your prayers for FamilyLife and staff. The FamilyLife headquarters has been in Little Rock for over forty years. Many people are being asked to move away from adult children or grandchildren, from church ministries that they have been involved with for decades, and established friend groups. We ask you to join with us in our prayer that this will cause people to evaluate their calling to FamilyLife and make us a stronger ministry in the future.

In Him,

Eric & Deb

Tear & Prayer



Pray for the 2020 Arkansas Diamond Speech & Debate tournament-260+ students from 13 states all gathering to compete here in Little Rock! I am one of the tournament directors & feed the judges, Eric runs facilities, and of course Amanda is a competitor-safety & strength for all involved
Pray for David Robbins, our FamilyLife president, as he guides us through this major transition & for his own family of 4 young kids moving to FL after moving to Little Rock less than 2 years ago
Praise for a successful move into her apartment for Charissa despite pouring rain, tornado watches, & an ice/snow storm-phew what a weekend!
Praise for Eric's wrist healing well after the 2nd surgery to remove a problem screw.