



So what does marriage and family ministry look like during a pandemic? Like everyone else in the world, we at FamilyLife® are still trying to figure that out! As families spend more time at home, divorce rates and domestic violence statistics are rising. We KNOW there is a need! The challenge is how to 'be there' with Biblical wisdom and support when restrictions limit our in-person contact.

One example of how we are doing this is the Vertical Marriage with FamilyLife Facebook group. In less than three months, this online marriage support group has gathered over seven thousand members. We have also partnered with Cru Military to offer a two day virtual marriage retreat geared to military families, July 24-25 (<https://verticalmarriagemilitary.com/today>). As we head toward our Fall Weekend to Remember® season, we are praying that these events give us feedback and ideas on how to minister in areas that won't allow in person events.

Speaking of ideas...some of the FamilyLife updates from around the globe are also showing us some creative ways to reach folks with Biblical help and hope during these crazy times. **FamilyLife New Zealand** has been doing marriage mentoring over Zoom called 'Couples Talk'. Here is a quote from an attendee:

*"Marriage mentoring has been such a highlight of our year so far. We've loved having set time to take off our 'parent hats' and really come back to each other and remember what made us fall in love with each other in the first place. Particularly during this time of lockdown, when we are spending more time together than usual, we've been able to keep our marriage as a key focus rather than putting it on hold like a lot of other areas in our lives. It's given us tools to be more intentional and mindful in growing together and we've seen this flow over into being more intentional parents too."*



The Art of Parenting® has been translated and dubbed into Chinese. We are now seeking to promote and distribute the Art of Parenting and Like Arrows® movie throughout **China**. Just after they introduced the Art of Parenting small group videos for sale on a social media platform there, in less than one week over 400 copies were sold. At the same time, the Like Arrows movie had been viewed by over 30,000 homes. Just in the last few weeks they have offered online small-group leader training for leading Art Of Parenting small groups. The first week of training they had 99 Chinese couples join through Zoom and the second training time they had 45 couples!



In **Costa Rica**, they recently offered a fully online Art of Marriage® event. A total of 30 couples attended and 15 individuals indicated that they trusted Christ as a result of the gospel message shared there! This group has led to FIVE virtual HomeBuilders small group courses starting this month—wow!

The God stories go on and on, showing He is on the move here and around the world—even when things don't go according to our plans. Our faith challenge is to see the 'blessing through the raindrops' so to speak. Speaking of both blessings and raindrops...here is a photo glimpse into our FamilyLife building farewell last month. After a morning of video meetings, the

plan was an outdoor picnic and praise concert in front of the building—a reminder of Prov. 16:9 *“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”* This day God established some pretty soggy steps...

In Him,



A VERY wet David Robbins, FamilyLife president, delivers our curbside Chick-fil-A lunch. Was it worth driving up?!? Did I mention it was FREE Chick-fil-A? We pulled around to the front of the building where we could see the soaking wet stage, sang along with our virtual concert on my phone and enjoyed our lunch. Goodbye beautiful building! Only a very small FamilyLife group, mostly related to broadcasting, is still using one wing while the new studio is built in Orlando. The rest will be emptied and fully transferred over to the new owner next month.



**Tear & Prayer**

Pray for the **Riedy Family**  
 Serving in Arkansas with **FAMILYLIFE**  
 Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Pray for the impact of COVID on Fall plans for:  
**Our family**— what does work & school look like for the girls & Jon? Will there be a debate season? How can we best connect with & grow our personal support team without travel?  
**FamilyLife**-what will the upcoming Weekend to Remember season look like? What will Eric's team do in place of the canceled Fall Donor Getaway?  
**Pray** for the financial impact of canceled events  
**Praise** for health for our family & the Cru family as a whole- Cru has reported over 80 COVID-19 staff cases and there has only been 1 death  
**Praise** for the many remote ministries (radio, internet, books & kits) that FamilyLife ALREADY had in place before group gatherings were canceled