



In the midst of COVID-19 and social upheaval, we'd like to share with you excerpts from a prayer from **Every Moment Holy: Death, Grief and Hope** (Copyright 2020). Author Douglas McKelvey lives in Nashville and came to Little Rock last August to talk about his book, which is a collection of prayers and liturgies designed to remind us that God is at work in the everyday events of life. You can listen to the three interviews with him at FamilyLife.com and read the complete prayer at abcdefamily.net.

"Our world is overtaken by unexpected calamity, and by a host of attending fears, worries, and insecurities. We witness suffering, confusion, and hardship multiplied around us, and we find ourselves swept up in these same anxieties and troubles, dismayed by so many uncertainties. Now we turn to you, O God, in this season of our common distress.

Be merciful, O Christ, to those who suffer, to those who worry, to those who grieve, to those who are threatened or harmed in any way by this upheaval. Let your holy compassions be active throughout the world even now— tending the afflicted, comforting the brokenhearted, and bringing hope to many who are hopeless. Use even these hardships to woo our hearts nearer to you, O God.

Indeed, O Father, may these days of disquiet become a catalyst for conviction and repentance, for the tendering of our affections, for the stirring of our sympathies, for the refining of our love. We are your people, who are called by you, we need not be troubled or alarmed. Indeed, O Lord, let us love now more fearlessly, remembering that you created us, and appointed us to live in these very places, in the midst of these unsettled times.

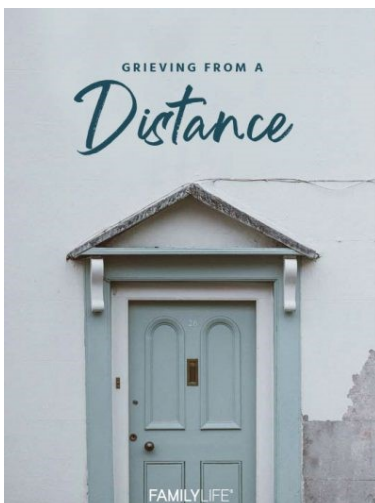
It is no surprise to you that we are here now, sharing in this turmoil along with the rest of our society, for you have called your children to live as salt and light among the nations, praying and laboring for the flourishing of the communities where we dwell, acting as agents of your forgiveness, salvation, healing, reconciliation, and hope, in the very midst of an often-troubled world...

...Father, empower your children to live as your children. In times of distress let us respond, not as those who

Grieving from a Distance: A free download from FamilyLife

So many of us are walking around today with semi-permanent lumps in our throats. We're facing losses; big and small, known and unknown. Friends are moving away without the rituals of goodbye. Friends and family are losing jobs without community support. People we love are leaving this world without us by their bedside. We aren't able to join with loved ones to hold funerals or to celebrate a life well-lived. No one is immune to grief during this current crisis.

How do we face this grief without the usual markers of a house of mourning—our churches, communities, families? We hope this download will help you work through this difficult time. www.familylife.com/grieving-from-a-distance/



would instinctively entrench for our own self-preservation, but rather as those who—in imitation of their Lord—would move in humble obedience toward the needs and hurts of their neighborhoods and communities...

We, your people, know the good and glorious end of this story. Our heavenly hope is secure. In this time of widespread suffering then, let us rest afresh in the surpassing peace of that vision, that your whole church on earth might be liberated to love more generously and sacrificially. Now labor in and through us, O Lord, extending and multiplying the many expressions of your mercy. Amen."

The amount of wisdom found in the archives of FamilyLife Today® is such a blessing! Every episode from 1992 to present day is available to both listen to or read on our website. Pray with us that God will continue to use this resource and provide us with many more great programs (like the one referred to at the beginning of our letter) to reach families with practical, Biblical help and hope!

In Him,

Travel Update: Due to Covid restrictions and Cru guidelines we will **NOT** be making our expected trip to CT and PA this summer. With states opening at different rates and the possibility of virus resurgence, we are being extra-cautious to not put you in harms way by meeting in person with us. We are always glad to connect with any of our partners remotely, but we will be planning extra time to set up video chats (Zoom, Facebook, Skype, FaceTime—whatever works best). Those of you in these areas, **watch your email for more details or feel free to contact us to arrange a time.**



Excited to Introduce Jon & Charissa Vandiver!

Married May 30th in a sweet, small ceremony in Ozark, Missouri where they will make their home as Jon finishes up school & Charissa continues to work for a fitness center as a personal chef.

2151 W. Bingham St, Unit #A22, Ozark, MO 65721



Pray for the Riedy Family

Serving in Arkansas with

FAMILYLIFE
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

Amanda Brenna Charissa Deb Eric

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Pray for wisdom as FamilyLife® considers how to handle the Fall Weekend to Remember® season.

Events are planned all over the country but each state has its own COVID guidelines - complicated!

Pray for our final decision regarding relocation—many staff have already moved & Eric has moved out of the Little Rock building (he will be working from home)—our final decision is due in a little over a month—right now Florida seems the best fit and where God is leading us

Praise for the many creative ways both FamilyLife & Cru have done ministry while socially distanced