

The Riedy Reader

October 2020



In this strange COVID time, we have all seen those 'behind the scenes' pictures of the newscaster wearing a suit and tie on top and gym shorts below, or the teacher with her laptop up on a chair atop a table to teach virtually without her toddler hitting the keys. It is simply amazing what has been able to be accomplished from a distance with technology. No, it is not ideal, but we are all still getting things done. In our home, Eric has not only NOT been on an airplane since mid-March, but has also been working from a 5' X 10' corner of our front room (but hey, it IS a window office!). Both Brenna and Amanda have been doing classwork online, and our speech and debate club has been meeting virtually since August! Recently, we have had to adjust two large events to our current virtual world—FamilyLife Staff Conference and Cru Day of Prayer.

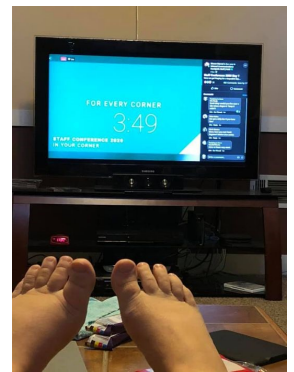
At the beginning of September a box arrived on our doorstep—"Do Not Open Till 9/8" it said across the front. This was the first creative way that our leadership sought to make our separated staff conference feel unified. At our Tuesday night kick-off, the host on the screen opened his box with us, revealing an Every Moment Holy liturgy book by Doug McKelvey (mentioned in our June Riedy Reader), notebooks, FamilyLife tumblers, and a couple of 'movie snacks' for our shared time in front of the TV. Every session began with a joint reading of one of the liturgies from the book. Yes, it felt a bit odd to be on our own couch reading along with the TV, but it was a sweet thought to picture FamilyLife staff families all over the country reading along with us. There were time for devotionals, praise music, prayer, and sharing. We were given exciting updates on where God is leading FamilyLife and ways to be praying for each other. They even provided a marriage encouragement session one evening giving us tips on how to COPE with these crazy times:

Community - find a group.

Openness & transparency - share how you feel w/ others.

Prayer - remember the promises of God's word.

Exercise - get physical. Find a way to move!



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The next virtual event on the calendar was the semiannual Cru Day of Prayer. This meeting is only one day, but on a much larger scale as it involves ALL Cru staff. In the past, FamilyLife staff met at a local church and connected with Cru as a whole through a printed prayer guide. In some ways, this virtual method improved our connection with Cru since we joined the rest of Cru staff for a mid-day prayer meeting. David Robbins was one of eight prayer leaders for that session. He joined the leader of Campus Ministry and the leader of Athletes in Action along with a few friends of the ministry including from the National Day of Prayer task force, the National Hispanic Leadership Conference, and more. Each leader **focused on prayer**—not ministry reports, mini-sermons or promotions, but prayer. It was very refreshing! FamilyLife also provided video devotionals for the beginning and ending of the day, small group prayer, online prayer guides, and encouraging videos.

We have been saying for months that we are thankful for the creative ways that FamilyLife has found to continue outreach in these 'virtual times'. We want to be sure to also say how thankful we are that FamilyLife, and Cru has also used this creativity to minister to us virtually as staff as well. Staying connected without in person connection is not easy—it has to be intentional. As we hang out here in limbo without an office, waiting for our spring move, we are blessed by these intentional moments of staff connection.

In Him,



Lake Hart, Florida Prepares for FamilyLife

FamilyLife staff is very spread out now, with all of Phase 1 staff having completed their moves to Florida or other field locations. The Lake Hart Cru headquarters, though, has been closed due to COVID since March—leaving those new Florida FamilyLife staff working from home. The unexpected benefit of this has been an opportunity to start a complete remodel of our new FL offices into the new 'dynamic workplace' style. Much still to be done but here is a glimpse of one of the new breakrooms.

Tear & Prayer



Pray for the health & growth of baby Vandiver & for Jon & Charissa as they prepare to be parents
Pray for the timing of the sale of our Little Rock home & move to Florida-many moving pieces!
Pray for FamilyLife finances & our own personal support moving into a COVID affected year-end
Pray for wisdom on when to start to travel again
Praise for Brenna completing her first term in her new online degree at John Brown University
Praise for the creative ways both Cru & FamilyLife continue to find to minister virtually during COVID
Praise for a number of transfers from Cru staff over to FamilyLife, bringing some great experienced staff on board with our mission