

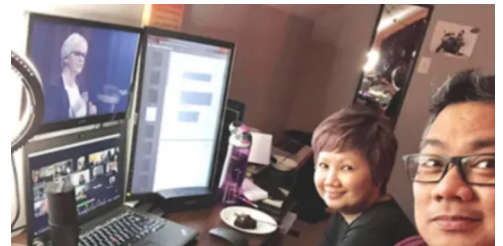
The Riedy Reader February 2022



Join me for a quick glimpse of FamilyLife working around the world! These stories encourage me as I write, and I am thrilled to share them with YOU!

We begin with FamilyLife **Philippines** recently holding an online event to celebrate 25 years of FamilyLife ministry in their country. They were encouraged by many stories and testimonies of God's faithfulness and power at work through the years. The evening also included a time of worship and a message from David Robbins. One of these testimonies shared that around 29 batches of *Vertical Marriage* online studies were conducted in 2021. So far our FL team there has trained small group facilitators and couples to run the whole event. It is amazing how the Lord is using this tool remarkably. To date, 41 *Vertical Marriage* studies have been conducted with 1000+ couples in attendance. We pray that more will be conducted this year."

Now off to **Canada!** *Together for Good* is a video-on-demand marriage workshop hosted by Neil and Sharol Josephson, the directors of FamilyLife Canada. This set of five sessions was developed specifically for use during COVID and gives couples tools, exercises and guided conversations to grow a healthier, more joy-filled and more resilient marriage. Neal says: "The last 20 months have been so difficult for so many people. But for FamilyLife Canada, the pandemic has turned out to be a great gift. For a long season, we were forced to move entirely online, and while we typically engage with about 5,000 people a year through our in-person conferences and seminars, during the pandemic we were able to engage digitally with over 40,000!" One couple impacted were Cathy and Joel Saladaga from Winnipeg who joined in for our *Together for Good* Free Streaming Weekend in November, 2020. They were personally really encouraged and also caught the HomeBuilder vision. So they used *Together for Good* to host their own date night series over Zoom in the spring of 2021 and 38 couples participated. And they sure made it their own! They got couples making special date night dinners at home, doing symbolic hand painting, and even dancing in their living rooms, with the video feed still on!



Dates To Remember™ Kit—three *you've-got-this* moments that bring you closer!



Looking for ideas to connect with your spouse? This 'date box' may be just what you need! Each easy-to-follow moment includes time to:

- ◆ Play a game to warm things up a bit,
 - ◆ Watch a short video from experts who've been there,
 - ◆ Talk through discussion questions to kick-start deeper conversation, and
 - ◆ Get real on a spiritual level.
- ◆ Box also contains [The Story of Us](#) devotional to keep you connecting for 52 more weeks!

Go to [FamilyLife.com](https://www.familylife.com) for details

And speaking of dancing...Let's 'dance' on over to **Hungry** for an update from some of our staff there—Jeremy and Catherine Merillat. "In December, we organized our second *"Morning to Remember"* event around the theme of roles in Marriage. After an entertaining presentation by Zoli and Kriszta, two committed volunteers with our ministry, we cleared the room of tables and a couples



dance instructor took the stage. For the next hour, she explained how to apply the biblical picture of roles through dance. Everyone in attendance expressed their appreciation for the event and one of the attendees told us that understanding the idea of roles through the metaphor of dance had softened her heart towards Christianity by erasing some of the stereotypes and assumptions she had developed in her past."

It is so fun to see how different countries are able to use the tools we create here in their own ways and within their own cultures—to God be the glory!

In Him,



Exciting news a bit closer to home...Grandbaby number two is on his way! Jon & Charissa Vandiver are pleased to announce that they are expecting and we look forward to meeting our new grandson in May!



Tear & Prayer



Praise for a successful start to the Weekend to Remember season—a few of our early locations had major weather events that caused shipping delays, but so far everything as arrived on time
Praise for similar 'shipping mercies' for the cruise—we bring along LOTS of resources & materials—with supply chain & shipping issues we are thankful to report that all arrived on the ship before sailing
Pray for deep, lasting impact in the lives of those who participated in the Love Like You Mean It Marriage Cruise (Feb. 6-13) & wisdom for the planning team as they consider what 2023 may hold
Pray for wisdom as we plan an upcoming trip back east to PA and CT at the end of March/beginning of April

Pray for the Riedy Family
serving with



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