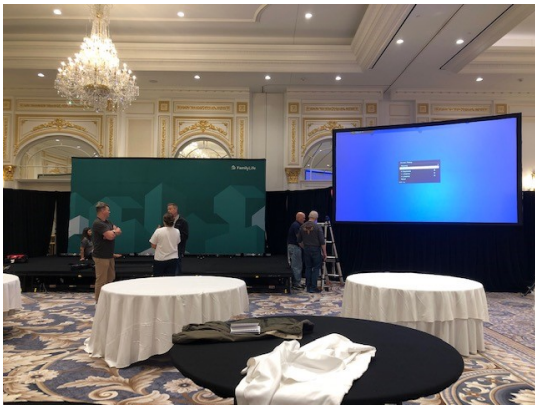


The Riedy Reader

October 2022



The highlight of our month was the opportunity to help staff a FamilyLife President's Getaway donor event in Washington, D.C. Before I get to that, though, I just have to share a bit from the exciting event that David and Meg Robbins attended just days before meeting us in DC, the Latin American & Caribbean (LAC) FamilyLife Congress! 160 key couples from 16 countries gathered in Bogotá, Colombia for three days of teaching sessions, dynamic training, encouragement, prayer, and ministry planning. About 80% of the couples were local volunteers; the rest were Cru and FamilyLife® staff (including 8 Cru National Directors!). The purpose was to empower, strengthen, and grow these key couples in the FamilyLife movement throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. FamilyLife is now the second largest Cru ministry in this area, only student ministry being larger. The FamilyLife LAC team was encouraged to have David and Meg come and share with them. I'd have to say, though, that the Robbinses received at least as much encouragement from those LAC team leaders! We could see the increased passion as David shared about FamilyLife international at our DC event.



Once we all arrived in DC, we began 'set up'. One fun fact you may not know is that our team all participate in getting the ballroom ready for our event. Some groups like this have a set up team, then the donor reps come in to interact with guests. We do both and it is a great way to connect with each other and with our tech team. Eric has learned a lot about rear projection and pipe and drape set up, and I now know how to string together stage lighting and put up the large screens and backdrops.

Congratulations Brenna!

Last month I mentioned that Brenna has finished her undergrad and began her Masters in Information and Library Science. Brenna received her diploma in the mail while we were in D.C. so no ceremony, no pomp and circumstance, just opening an envelope. We want to give her a bit of an extra 'shout out' in this month's letter, though, because **we are so proud of her**. Brenna headed off to College of the Ozarks in the Fall of 2019 but (like many) was sent home at Spring Break 2020 to finish her freshman year at home. When Fall of 2020 began, she made the switch to JBU online in order to be able to focus better during those crazy COVID times. In the end, Brenna completed her degree in Aug. of 2022 instead of May 2023— **finishing faster than expected and with honors!**



Once the guests arrive, it is such a joy to hear their passion for marriage and family and share how we at FamilyLife want to help equip them. A special project for us this time involved an interview of a dear couple who Eric has known for almost the full 13 years he has been on staff. This couple are long-term donors to FamilyLife, but also long-term users of our projects and materials. They are in their late 70's and we wanted a chance to capture their story to share with others. Eric organized a video shoot and took the role of interviewer. After about an hour and a half of recording, they had shared about the divorce from his first wife, her difficult escape from an abusive first husband, how God brought them together, and their passion for premarital counseling and mentoring young marrieds. We also captured their efforts to help other blended families before anyone was talking about such things, and their excitement at watching the development of FamilyLife Blended® resources. We are excited to see what the film company will be able to do in the editing process and know that their story will inspire others to invest in marriage and family for years to come!

Though our main role is to interact with our guests, Eric and I always see it as a privilege that we also get to listen in to our leadership share direction and vision. We heard from Greg Lillestrand, our new FamilyLife Chief Growth Officer, about many more international staff (beyond LAC) around the world. Using the door of marriage and family in many cultures around the world, we are able to share the gospel in exciting places! Another new leadership team member, Tony Wee, had a chance to share about his Field Expansion team. This team is working at the local level to bring FamilyLife guides alongside many local churches and groups. We also got an update on our collaboration with RightNow Media to produce a new version of Art of Marriage®. The intention is not to remove the current version but rather to give another version focused on a younger audience. Our goal is to have that ready by 2023. Overall, the MOST encouraging thing we heard from EVERY leadership person who shared was the overarching vision of our ministry as a Gospel ministry first and foremost, with marriage and family recourses being the tool we use. To paraphrase 1 Cor. 13:1 –'If we help people have a warm fuzzy marriage and well-behaved kids, but have not introduced them to Jesus, we are a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.' What a blessing to hear our leadership affirm this!

In Him,

Tear & Prayer



Praise for safe travels & a well attended, authentic, encouraging event in DC with a strong financial response

Praise for a sweet Cru Worldwide Day of Prayer Oct. 4th as we joined virtually with many others!

Praise for Amanda getting through her first mid-terms with good grades at college & **Pray** for her as she considers summer internships—these are most often decided before Christmas break for Construction Management students

Pray for wisdom for our church in Orlando. We have lost our meeting location due to flooding from Hurricane Ian. Leadership is assessing our options.

Pray for the Riedy Family
serving with

 **FamilyLife**
A Cru Ministry

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