

November 23, 2007

Dear Friends,

Aileen and I pray you had a blessed Thanksgiving! The turkey has disappeared, football games watched and the scale has crept up! In great anticipation, some of us watched our favorite team experience the joy of winning or the disappointment of a loss. Each game was a “team” win or a “team” loss. After experiencing my alma mater’s recent loss, I reflected on how much energy and money is put into something so temporary in importance.



I also reflected on the significance of spiritual victories in building godly families around the world. This year Aileen and I celebrated 35 years on staff with Campus Crusade Christ. We’ve seen some wonderful “Team” victories during those 35 years with high school and campus ministries (1973-1979), the establishment of a master’s level seminary and many trained leaders in Africa (1980-1999), and the development of godly families and FamilyLife leaders (1992-2007). We celebrate because of God’s faithfulness and the wonderful “Team” of financial and prayer partners that He has given us over the years!

Despite the victories, our task is not done yet. In some countries, divorce rates are at 60% to 80% and abuse of children and females runs above 40%. Through our travels to over 28 countries, we have seen the awful consequences of the breakdown of families. Thankfully we are seeing God work through our FamilyLife outreaches and partners. Since FamilyLife began in 1976:

3.5 Million have attended a “Weekend to Remember” in the U.S. and 130,000 have attended events overseas.

“Stress formed a barrier as we were both not able to express our frustrations. If we did, it resulted in an argument. FamilyLife allowed us to understand that we needed guidance as to how to express communication and ultimately understand each other. After attending our first seminar, it addressed both our needs and our frustrations. From that time we made a point to work on our marriage...” (South Africa)

9.1 Million listen weekly to FamilyLife Today and other broadcasts and we are expanding beyond Canada, Belize, India, Philippines, Saipan, Guam, Australia.

20 + Million Resources distributed

“Please accept this donation in memory of my husband. He died on August 9, 2007. He was a great man, we were married 40 years. In 1996 we began reading **Moments Together for Couples** while on a vacation. That opened the door to a daily time together reading God’s word, talking, and praying. I thank God for giving us those 11 years as we struggled as a couple for most of the years prior. God was so good to use your book to grow us up in the faith and as a couple. May God continue to bless your ministry.” (Glassboro, NJ)

2 + Million HomeBuilders are in print and they have been translated into over 45 languages.

One church in Venezuela saw 25 non-Christian couples become believers through HomeBuilders groups.

76 countries outside the U.S. have self sustaining FamilyLife ministries.

As we look to the future, here are some exciting opportunities:

We are conducting the largest missionary marriage and family survey of over 3500 missionaries. Next May we will host 15+ US sending agencies to discuss ways to strengthen missionary marriages for longevity and effectiveness.

We have launched a test to add FamilyLife HomeBuilders & romantic dinner component for already established church mission trips. Excitement is growing!

Our new international training called "Movement Makers" is getting great responses. The *minister's module* for pastors and Christian workers may be the most effective tool we have ever created so that we can see 10 times the growth in 10 years.

We are expanding our global outreach through Spanish radio in Latin and South America as soon as the project is fully funded.

We recently held meetings with two key FamilyLife leaders for Africa from Liberia and Dem. Republic of Congo along with Dennis Rainey (FamilyLife President at center) and Bill Eyster (FamilyLife CEO at right)



Several folks have asked, "**Do you have plans to retire?**" When we wrote the "Title Deeds" of our lives to Christ in the early 1970's, they did not have an expiry date. We have colleagues who are serving Christ effectively, energetically, and globally in their 70's and they are our models! May the Lord bless us with such good health for 15-20 more years!

However, longevity has a problem! While Aileen and I are still going strong, many of our support team members of our parents' generation are now enjoying their heavenly reward. Others are in their retirement years with limited income. Some struggling churches have taken a "time out" to regroup for future support!

**So the "Ostendorff Team" needs some reinforcement and replacements** to enable us to keep on seeing victories in precious lives, marriages, and families around the world. Specifically, we need \$900 in additional monthly investments to replace lost giving. Secondly, we need \$3000 in special gifts to replace funds used this past summer for CCC's every-other-year staff conference.

Would you consider joining the "Team" with a monthly pledge or special gift no matter how small? ...and consider recommending us to several friends? If so, please go to our give tab on the website.



*Howard & Aileen*