

Why FamilyLife's Global Ministry is Biblical & Strategic (Part 1)

(For extra reading)

Why is FamilyLife's global ministry of building godly families so important and strategic?

Reason 1: God has commanded us to go unto the whole world and "make disciples, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded them."

Some think, "We have enough problems in our own country, why should we go outside the US?" When Jesus spoke those words, the disciples could have said: "Our country is occupied by a foreign power and the moral and religious life of our nation is a shambles." Aren't we glad they obeyed the Lord instead? Many today forget that "**teaching all that I have commanded them**" includes how to live successfully in a marriage or family. Good doctrine and biblical teaching divorced from daily living in the closest of relationships, accomplishes little lasting fruit. God is using FamilyLife's biblical teaching, tools and 30+ years experience to build the Body of Christ by helping it be practical and "truth-living". It has greatly helped millions as well as Aileen and me since 1988. How blessed we have been!

Reason 2: The needs of the "family" world-wide are great and practical biblical teaching has great impact for God's kingdom.

One example is Bishop Josias Sendegeya of the Anglican Church of **Rwanda**, who after 28 years of marriage and ministry, attended one of our "Weekend to Remember" marriage conferences last fall. It so impacted him that for the first time, he began reserving a day off to be with his wife! He then took a survey with the pastors of his diocese. Most of the wives said "my husband has a mistress—the church." Bishop Josias is now encouraging all his church leaders to follow his example and has invited our ministry to train and equip his leaders this summer. Can you imagine the impact this will have as these leaders apply practical biblical truths in their marriages, share them with their congregations, and then reach out to their communities? Our conferences are built around having a relationship with Christ...and people are invited to receive Christ at each conference. Tens of thousands will be coming to living faith in Christ just by the impact of this couple.

Another example is the Missionary Marriage and Family Survey we conducted of 3500 missionaries. These missionaries said that greatest determining factor for their effectiveness on the field was the quality of their marriage. That should be no surprise as people watch as we live more than they hear what we say. While in the **Middle East**, I spoke with the mission's leader of another organization. He said that FamilyLife is so important in this area of the world. Those in that part of the world who don't know Christ "want to see how relationships are lived out in a "Christian" home before they will accept the message of the missionaries. The greatest tool for evangelism in this part of the world is our home and having non-Christians in our homes." How do we say, "Relationships, relationships, relationships" are key to winning the world for Christ! A businessman in **Paraguay** was so excited about what he learned that he started "HomeBuilders Couples Series" studies among his factory employees. The work performance of his employees improved so much that other businessmen asked him to help them start groups in their businesses. God's truth and practical Christian living has power!

Reason 3: The multiplication factor for reaching the world for Christ is astonishing!

When you reach one couple, what is the impact? Every child in that home is impacted when a mom and dad are helped through a conference or small group. One child said, "**Mommy and Daddy smile at each other now!**" ...and how many in the extended family or neighborhood are impacted too? When we train one couple to lead a "HomeBuilders Couple's study, it impacts another 4 to 6 couples who impact others. After a training of leaders in **Benin, West Africa**, 11 groups were started. 11 times 12 = 122 group members (61 couples). If they each have 2 children, you have already impacted another 122 children equaling 244 impacted just by training a few. And when those group members start their own groups, the multiplication is amazing.

(to be continued...)