

Hi Family! Hi Friends! **HAPPIEST,** *Happiest of Holidays!*

We had a quick update from our FamilyLife team in China. Fay and Bob, our partners in ministry, had an amazing day! It reads...

"We arrived in Tiajin safely this morning. Yesterday I gave the same workshops I did the previous day. I was so surprised when I saw so many people there. Apparently about 120 people registered to attend but because of people hearing from others who attended the previous day, over 1,000 came! Some also came again to listen for the second time! One lady came to listen for the second time with a box of Harbin sausages for us! The sausage is supposed to be a Harbin specialty. The response has been way beyond our expectation! Praise God for His work in the hearts of people. Pray that we will be able to return to Harbin next year to do a conference and training with selected couples!"

Rob's part in the practical development of material used in China is small, but we are both thrilled to see how God is using our overseas team. It's so exciting how much they get accomplished and how unexpectedly doors are opened. And I can't explain how such a small staff does such a FABULOUS job of reaching

specific people groups throughout Canada and abroad. Each couple at FamilyLife has been given the passion and experience to reach different populations. We have couples extending God's love to the Chinese, Eastern Indian, French Canada and First Nations (native American), not to mention the single parent family, pre-married, and nuclear family.

We're training up leaders in each group to carry on the plan for salvation and marriage. But sometimes the needs are overwhelming, and it seems we're swimming against the tides of culture and moral decay.

Just last week, our small town had its Grand Opening for a new business. In this particular coffee shop, your latte will be served by near-naked young girls wearing bikini's. In a conversation between the local paper and our Mayor, it was written, that the town of Sumas was "quietly accepting" of the establishment and if



Rob & Carrie Green

As a single mother expressed to us...

"Yes, I gave my life to Jesus!"

*I felt that only spiritual guidance could help in my situation. I had a long, troubled relationship with my daughter's father and became very weak. It was his plan for "us" to have a baby, although it was really another manipulation. He was very abusive during the pregnancy. I lost feelings for him and embarked on single parenthood. How do I manage all of this? Is there any way through it? **YES. I gave my life to Jesus from the help I received from Single Parent FamilyLife.***



bikinis are allowed on the street, why not in a coffee shop? Now, doesn't THAT just sound like the enemy sneaking up on us??

Rob wrote a powerful letter to our Mayor, city council and newspaper editor stating the truth about how many of us in Sumas **really** feel... and about the proven repercussions of having adult entertainment establishments in your neighborhood. I hope we're always willing to stand for what we believe, whether it be big or small, public or private, we need to walk our talk. It's not by accident that we now have legalized abortion, euthanasia, and gay marriage. How did this happen? I absolutely believe that the breakdown of the family has weakened our defenses and senses. The breakdown of the family, without God as its head, has left us without a compass.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” Psalm 127:1

It takes a LOT of work to get a hold of God's plan for oneness, communication, intimacy, resolving conflict, and parenting in marriage. Rob and I seem to work at it EVERYDAY! But we know that we have something special, and it's why God has called us to missions with FamilyLife. We love children, and would love to see children growing up with an appropriate picture of who they are in Christ. We know that childhood is a time when the building blocks of life will either be **built up** or **torn down**. Too often our foster kids are coming to us with foundations that are so crooked, or built on so many cultural crutches, that it will take years to reshape their little minds according to God's Word.

“Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body,” Jesus said. “When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!” Matthew 6:22-23

So we fight...we fight to reach the parents of the children, bring them out of the darkness and into the light. In hopes that we can change lives, change communities, change countries in Christ Jesus name!

Our conferences are a wonderful tool, an awesome opportunity for that light to break through. If you know a couple going through a difficult time in their marriage, or like Rob and I, we just need the time to pamper our relationship, find a FamilyLife conference near you, or contact us. It's just another small step you can make to prevent the enemy from gaining a foothold in your family.

We are SO thankful for your love and support in ministry! We are SO thankful for our family in Christ, and the connection we share through God's greatest gift to us... his only Son! We are thankful for a roof over our heads, a table full of goodies everyday, comfy beds and a warm fire burning in the stove on cold mornings! We are simply THANKFUL this Holiday Season!



7 month old Baby Daniel – chunky pumpkin.



Happy Birthday Isaac – Nine years old. Isaac's love language is "gifts" and because of that Carrie always helps him give gifts and a party to his classmates on his birthday.



FamilyLife Marriage Conference at Whistler, BC



Wife: "It has given us HOPE back in our relationship, that it can work out. It has given us the tools that we can apply at home. We have also learned that none of this will happen without knowing God and asking Him to come into our home/relationship. We also learned that living together is not the same as being married."

Husband: "Helps to see my short comings in my life and how I interact with my wife. How I can better serve God. Change is possible."

*Eucharist (thanksgiving) is
the state of the perfect man.*

*Eucharist is the life of
paradise.*

*Eucharist is the only full
and real response of man to
God's creation, redemption,
and gift of heaven.*

(Alexander Schemann)



Max's Thanksgiving symphony. Playing in the high school band.



Happy Birthday Carrie – You're the best wife and momma ever!

Again, Happy Holidays, and many blessings
in the New Year!!!

Rob, Carrie, Max and Isaac

PS. Daniel is still with us, and growing quickly. He'll turn 7 months at this writing. His young parents have visitation twice a week, but they haven't made any steps towards gaining custody. We NEVER expected to be rearing a baby at this point in our lives, but here we are, three boys and blessed.

PPS. Rob has been corresponding with a single mom in England for months. She's had some really tough questions and concerns about marriage and parenting. Just during their last conversation she made the proclamation that "I just said, "Yes!" to Jesus!"

How amazing it will be when we get to meet these folks in Heaven, feel their hugs, see their smiles, hear their songs... it will make it all worthwhile.

PPPS. We wanted to enclosed a neat little story we used as one of our nightly devotions with the kids. Instead you can find it at familylifers.com (click on SCRAP PIECES). I couldn't choke out the ending with out crying! It's a wonderful comparison to how God takes the "little scrap pieces of material" in our lives, considers the plans He has for them in our future, and pieces them together to make something beautiful...with love and perfectly designed thoughtfulness. How neat if we could mimic this small act of kindness to just a few people closest to us. Put aside saving the world for a minute... and just show authentic, sincere, and useful acts of thoughtfulness. 😊



Christmas Eve 1991

**CARRIE, HAPPY TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY, MY LOVE!!!!**

**If I could do it all over again, I would change one
thing... finding and marrying you sooner.**

You're so beautiful in heart, soul, and body.

Lastly...

Rob wanted me to drop a little line concerning year-end giving! (He knows how much I LOVE talking about money!! 😊 Any extra-special financial gift that you give at Christmas is used as a little boost to our budget or special needs in the upcoming year. You can't imagine how fun it is to see those little surprises come in! And we love your family updates... So don't hesitate to send YOUR newsletters our way this Christmas!

Please make checks payable to **Campus Crusade for Christ** for US tax receipt or **Power To Change** for CAD tax receipt. Mail to our address below, or give online at www.FamilyLifers.com/Partnership on secure servers.

Donate Your Year-End Gift thru Dec 31st!