



# MOVEMENTS

PRAYER JOURNAL

*The Great Commission* Global Prayer Movement

February 2008

*this month's focus:*

**FamilyLife**

God's plan  
for families



# Super Glue Your Marriage

By Dennis Rainey,  
President of FamilyLife



I groaned, “Honey, why don’t you turn off the lights tonight?” Barbara replied, “I thought you would because my dad always turned off the lights.” Suddenly, I was wide awake. It dawned on me why I had been suffering occasional minor frostbite on my feet. I shot back, “But I’m not your dad!”

The expectations Barbara and I brought to marriage set us up to buy into the 50/50 Plan. Barbara was sure that I would do my part and meet her halfway by always getting up to turn off the lights. On that night I flatly refused, I was pushing her to do her part and meet me halfway.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 2

1 John 2:15-17

Pray that the national volunteer team would be refreshed, excited and encouraged to make an impact for the spring conference season.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 1

1 John 2:1-11

Pray for Dennis Rainey and the Senior Leadership Team to have wisdom, stamina and good communication as they lead FamilyLife.

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SUNDAY, FEB. 3

1 John 3:1-3

Ask God to guide the development of the new online outreach project, training thousands of mentors to give godly advice to hurting families.

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(...continued from p.2)

## Why the 50/50 Plan Fails

Our disagreement revealed the biggest weakness of the 50/50 Plan: It is impossible to determine if your spouse has met you halfway. Because neither of you can agree on where halfway is, each is left to scrutinize the other's performance from a jaded, often selfish perspective.

Many times in a marriage, both partners are busy, overworked, and feel taken for granted. The real question isn't, who faced the most pressure that day? The important issue is, how do you build oneness and teamwork instead of keeping score and waiting for the other person to meet you halfway?

Neither of  
you  
can agree  
on where  
halfway is.

The 50/50 Plan is destined to fail for several reasons:

1. Acceptance is based on performance. Many people unknowingly base their acceptance of their spouses on performance. Performance becomes the glue that holds the relationship together, but it isn't really glue at all. It's more like Velcro.

It seems to stick, but it comes apart when a little pressure is applied. What a marriage needs is Super Glue—but more on that later.

2. Giving is based on merit. With the "meet me halfway" approach, a husband would give affection to his wife only when he felt she had earned it. If she always cooked tasty meals and balanced the checkbook then he would drop her a few crumbs of praise and loving attention. She, in turn, would lavish affection and praise only when he vacuumed the carpet and always arrived home on time.



3. Motivation for action is based on how each partner feels. As a newlywed, it's easy to act sacrificially because the pounding heart and romantic feelings fuel the desire to please. But what happens when those feelings diminish? If you don't feel like doing the right thing, perhaps you won't do it at all. I didn't feel like turning off the lights that night at our apartment, so I didn't.

4. Each spouse has a tendency to focus on the weaknesses of the other. Ask a husband or wife to list their spouse's strengths in one column and the weaknesses in another, and the weaknesses will usually outnumber the strengths five to one.

Ultimately the world's plan, the 50/50 performance relationship, is destined to fail because it is contrary to God's plan.

(...continued on next page)

TUESDAY, FEB. 5

1 John 3:11-15

Pray for the release of the *FamilyLife Marriage Bible*. May it inspire thousands with God's blueprints for godly marriages and families.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6

1 John 3:16

For hundreds of churches to send representatives to the 4th Annual Orphan Care and Adoption Summit, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., May 1-3.

MONDAY, FEB. 4

1 John 3:7-10

Pray for the test launch of the new FamilyLife.com Web site and associated refinements throughout February.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7

1 John 3:17-24

Pray for FamilyLife's Constituent Team as they address questions that arise when people seek to live out biblical principles in everyday life.

FRIDAY, FEB. 8

1 John 4:7, 8

Pray for the release of *Simply Romantic Nights* — *License to Romance* and that readers find true intimacy as they grow closer to God.

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

1 John 4:9, 10

Ask God to bless FamilyLife's 70,000 financial partners with the resources to give beyond what they imagined.

(...continued from p.3)

## Apply the Super Glue

What a marriage needs is the Super Glue of Philippians 2:3: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself." It's what we refer to as the 100/100 Plan, which requires a 100 percent effort from each of you to serve your spouse.

The Bible describes this plan well in Matthew 22:39: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There's no closer neighbor than the one you wake up to each morning! And since most of us love ourselves passionately, we are well on the way to implementing the 100/100 Plan if we take a similar approach to loving our spouses.

Start by stating the 100/100 Plan like this: "I will do what I can to love you without demanding an equal amount in return." In marriage you will hear a voice that says, "Why are you making the bed this morning when she wouldn't bring you a soft drink last night?" Or, "Why should I not buy this outfit when he spent fifty dollars last weekend on golf?" That voice has to be silenced if you are to live out the 100/100 Plan. Yes, there will be times when one person appears to get the advantage in the relationship. But love requires sacrifice. Stick with the 100/100 Plan and you will see fruit—increasing cooperation and intimacy in your marriage.

A bit of grace always helps too. Sometimes a couple can make issues out of things that really don't matter. Maybe we had parents who did that as we grew up, but that's not the type of person I want to be or one I'd enjoy living with. Barbara and I have learned over the years to let a lot slide; we don't take issue or talk about many minor disappointments.

Marriage is the union of two imperfect people who, in their selfishness, sinfulness, and demands of each other, will cause disappointment and hurt. You must lay aside those difficulties and hold fast to forgiveness, love and Christ's command to love even those who don't at times appear to love you.

You will never have all of your expectations met in marriage on this fallen planet. But if you concentrate on implementing the 100/100 Plan, your life will be so full of satisfaction that you may not care.

"I will do what I can to love you without demanding an equal amount in return."

*Dennis Rainey is the President of FamilyLife, which equips couples and families with practical, scripture-based approaches to real-world issues through conferences, broadcasts and other resources.*



SUNDAY, FEB. 10

1 John 4:11-15

Pray for effective conferences and seminars in the 76 countries around the world that have ongoing FamilyLife ministries.

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MONDAY, FEB. 11

1 John 4:16-18

Ask the Lord to provide homes, within the next five years, for each of the 118,000 children currently waiting in the U.S. foster care system.

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TUESDAY, FEB. 12

1 John 4:19-21

Call upon God to give our staff strength, energy and encouragement as they help develop godly marriages and families.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13

1 John 5:1-5

Pray for the global expansion of FamilyLife's radio outreaches.

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*My Dearest Friend,*

*... should I draw you the picture of my heart it would be what I hope you would still love though it contained nothing new. The early possession you obtained there, and the absolute power you have obtained over it, leaves not the smallest space unoccupied.*

*I look back to the early days of our acquaintance and friendship as to the days of love and innocence, and, with an indescribable pleasure, I have seen near a score of years roll over our heads with an affection heightened and improved by time, nor have the dreary years of absence in the smallest degree effaced from my mind the image of the dear untitled man to whom I gave my heart.*

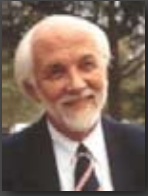
By Abigail Adams

December 23, 1782

Written to husband John Adams, who became second president of the United States



“I’m a man of prayer. I get up early in the morning, and it’s the one place I don’t have to pretend anymore.”



Dr. Steve Brown, Key Life Network  
From the audio series “The Astonishment of Grace”

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

1 John 5:11-15

Pray for the 100 Spring Weekend to Remember conferences and each of the 66,000+ people who will hear God’s plan for marriage.

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SUNDAY, FEB. 17

Colossians 3:8-11

Pray for the new book *Empty Nest — Your Next Great Adventure* (Apr. 1 release) to inspire women worldwide to help build the Kingdom.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 15

Colossians 3:1-4

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the FamilyLife speaker team as they deliver updated messages at Weekend to Remember conferences.

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MONDAY, FEB. 18

Colossians 3:12

Ask God to raise up workers for FamilyLife so they can help build godly marriages and families and bring the gospel to a desperate world.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 16

Colossians 3:5-7

This morning, at 11 Weekend to Remember conferences in the U.S., pray for the expected 8,060 attendees to encounter our creator.

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TUESDAY, FEB. 19

Colossians 3:13

Pray for effective FamilyLife Movement Maker speaker trainings in February/March in Kenya, Eastern Europe and East Asia.

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Something is stirring in the hearts of families. A fresh wind is beginning to blow. A movement of people is starting to emerge, committed to helping restore the family. We've discovered we're not alone. God is raising up advocates for the family everywhere. Momentum is building. And FamilyLife sees an opportunity to partner with a great variety of committed servants who carry a passion for family and a vision of hope. We believe family is about to make a comeback.

Weekend to Remember, FamilyLife Today, Hope for Orphans, FamilyLife Publishing, HomeBuilders, LifeReady — these are among the assets God has created and is leveraging as we join forces with His laborers around the world. The diversity — and yet, unity — of those God is bringing together is both paradoxical and thrilling. God, too, has a family.

Our mission is to build godly marriages and families that will change the world, one home at a time. And God is confirming that it's His goal too. It starts with our passionate conviction that truth really can set families free. And it expands with our compassion for families in need of help, and for those the Bible calls helpless.



## By the Numbers

- 31 years of marriage and family ministry
- 76 countries with ongoing FamilyLife ministry
- 50,000+ decisions and inquiries for Christ (Through conferences and radio)
- 1.1 million audio podcast downloads and audio-video streams annually
- 2 million+ HomeBuilders study guides sold in the United States
- 3.5 million+ FamilyLife marriage conference guests
- 3.6 million visits to FamilyLife.com in 2006
- 9.1 million different people reached weekly with FamilyLife radio broadcasts
- 11 million believers hearing "Cry of the Orphans" campaign

\*Statistics provided by FamilyLife, 2007.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

3 John 2-6

Pray as FamilyLife encourages unity by tapping into the passion and vision of individuals, organizations and churches.

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THURSDAY, FEB. 21

Colossians 3:14

Pray for the FamilyLife Board of Directors and leaders as they seek God's guidance in leveraging what He has created over the last 31 years.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 22

Colossians 3:15-18

Today nearly 9,200 people will have a chance to say "yes" to the gospel as they attend six Weekend to Remember conferences in the U.S.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 23

Colossians 3:15-19

Uphold FamilyLife and 16 agencies meeting to review the findings of the largest Missionary Marriage & Family Survey ever conducted.

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SUNDAY, FEB. 24

Colossians 3:15-20

Pray for God's leading as FamilyLife implements its 2008 communications plan.

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MONDAY, FEB. 25

Colossians 3:15-21

Pray for Weekend to Remember Group Coordinators to have courage and perseverance as they invite others to attend a conference.

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## MY PRAYER LIFE

Notes

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People I'm praying for ...

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My prayer requests ...

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Answers to prayer ...

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# 24/7 Prayer Movement

Ready for more? Willing to invest an hour every month in focused prayer for the worldwide movement of Campus Crusade for Christ? Choose your day and hour to pray at [www.GlobalPrayerMovement.org](http://www.GlobalPrayerMovement.org).

TUESDAY, FEB. 26

Galatians 5:13-15

Pray the marriages of millions in HomeBuilders Couples study groups will be enriched through study of His word and fellowship with each other.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 29

Galatians 6:7-10

Seek God's blessing on the marriages and families of pastors everywhere.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

Galatians 5:16-21

Ask our Heavenly Father to establish a movement of churches with ministries for orphans in every major U.S. metro area over the next three years.

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THURSDAY, FEB. 28

Galatians 5:22-26

Pray that the internal processes for FamilyLife's new database and Internet software will interact correctly with current financial software.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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