

INFOCUS

Families in Canada
are being helped,
healed and given hope
— because of you!

Planting seeds that last a lifetime

How your support continues to change the life of one woman and her family

In 1983, a young single woman heard a *Focus on the Family Broadcast* and a seed was planted.

For the next 35 years, Tammy became a regular listener. From single life to married life, parenting to grandparenting, Tammy has turned to Focus on the Family Canada time and time again, resulting in even more seeds being planted and taking root.

Because of your support, the seeds planted in Tammy's life have grown as she has looked to Focus for practical encouragement in the good times and life-changing support in times of crisis.

Continued on page 3



BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY, WE CAN SUPPORT TAMMY AS SHE SHOWS GOD'S LOVE TO HER GRANDDAUGHTER

FOCUS IN ACTION

**Nearly 9,000 attended
our expanded Date Night
Comedy Tour**

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BECAUSE OF YOU

**Focus on the Family
Broadcast is now on TV!**

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GLOBAL FOCUS

**Costa Rica office is
reaching the masses with
an effective tool and a
hopeful message**

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LIFE IN FOCUS

**Learning to follow God's
leading**

PAGE 11

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Because of you

Families across the country receive life-changing resources and support



TERENCE ROLSTON
PRESIDENT

Every day, we pray God uses our resources in His timing and for His purposes, but we don't always get to hear the depth of how Focus has played an integral role in people's lives. Often we'll hear snippets from people – a broadcast that touched them, a phone call they received at just the right moment, an article that was passed on to them that spoke to exactly what they were going through.

But when I read Tammy's story, I couldn't wait to share it with you.

She started out as a single woman tuning in to the broadcast, and with that, God planted a seed in her life. From joyous moments like becoming

a mother and grandmother to difficult moments like marital stress and a prodigal child, she has continually turned to us for the broadcast, resources like *Clubhouse* and – most importantly – prayer.

As you'll read in her story, prayer from our team here at Focus often came right when she needed it – in moments that shook her world.

And that's why we're privileged to do what we do. Because of your faithful support, we're able to be here for families at any stage of life. We happily provide encouragement and practical advice to help families navigate everyday joys and challenges. But we also know the value of being there for people when their worlds are turned upside down.

Like Tammy, we pray that our resources will plant seeds in people's lives so they know the love God has for them and the support they can find at Focus. We ask you to join with us in praying that God would continue to use connection points like the broadcast, phone calls and resources to reach families so they'll know they're not alone.

Thanks for your prayer and support!

Terence

How has Focus planted seeds in your life? I'd love to hear your story! Share it with me at president@fotf.ca today!

NEWS

The inside scoop

- **Focus on the Family Broadcast is now on TV!** We are so grateful that God uses this program to inspire families – and we're thrilled to bring that impact to television! Learn more on page 7.
- **Together for Adoption Canada helps even more families in 2018!** Every year, foster and adoptive families are encouraged as they follow the sacred call of caring for vulnerable children. This year the conference was at Burnett Fellowship Church in Maple Ridge, BC.
- **Brio celebrates its one-year anniversary!** For the last 12 months, teen girls across the country have been inspired in their faith journey with this much-loved magazine. Know someone who would enjoy *Brio*? Subscribe today at Briomagazine.ca!

A FAMILY IN FOCUS

Planting seeds that last a lifetime

Continued from page 1

For three and a half decades, Tammy has been turning to the *Focus on the Family Broadcast* for help and advice as a mom, as a grandma, as a wife of 32 years and most importantly, as a woman of God.

"I have been listening to Focus on the Family broadcasts for 35 years and because of them, have grown deeper with God, been made more aware of issues in the government and action needed to be taken, have been challenged in my attitudes [about] finances, life and marriage," Tammy explains. "[I've been] encouraged to do well as a wife and mother, and [I've] received encouragement. Those programs helped me prepare for marriage and maintain it through many difficult challenges."

Not only has her daily listening to the broadcast encouraged and empowered her in every aspect of her life, but the regular phone calls she has received from us over the years have often been at God-ordained moments.

"These calls seemed to come just when we needed prayer the most," she recalls. "It amazes me that such a huge organization would take the time to care about one person and her family."

During these calls Tammy would often be informed about counselling that was available, something she never thought she would need. Little did she know, this was yet another seed planted for a moment when she needed to reach out for counselling.

This moment came after a second surgery for a medical diagnosis followed by a court appearance five days later against her daughter's abusive ex-partner. As Tammy explains, "Feeling

overwhelmed by everything, I called [Focus] and asked for counselling. Talking and praying with the counsellor really helped me get through that difficult time."

Purchasing resources for her children, and now her grandchildren, is another way seeds have been planted in her family because of Focus on the Family Canada.

"Our children grew up listening to *Adventures in Odyssey* and reading their respective magazines," Tammy recounts. "Now our two granddaughters are doing the same. They get excited when [the magazines] come and sit down and read them right away."

And Focus on the Family Canada is still here for her as she and her husband deal with new challenges such as job loss, the death of a parent, a college graduation and a new job transition.

"The foundation built over the years from Focus, in resources, counselling, prayers, etc., is what is keeping me together."

Because of the faithful support of friends like you, seeds that have been planted over the past 35 years have grown and forever changed the life of Tammy, her husband, her kids and grandkids. Thank you!



"WITHOUT YOUR MINISTRY, I KNOW THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED INTACT." - TAMMY

FINDING HELP

Enjoy the resources Tammy's grandchildren love!

CLUBHOUSE
MAGAZINE • CHMPK



AGES 8-12



AGES 8+

**ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY #1:
THE ADVENTURE BEGINS**
4 CDS • CC777

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

You're planting seeds of hope in people's lives

"We love the podcast, magazine, *Adventures in Odyssey* and awesome online resources. We are BIG fans of the entire ministry. You've helped us navigate our new family and are shaping the future as well. I can't thank you enough."
- JANICE

527,276

TIMES OUR BROADCASTS WERE
STREAMED ON OUR RADIO PAGE
IN THE LAST YEAR

5,417

CALLS AND EMAILS PEOPLE
HAVE HAD WITH OUR CARE AND
COUNSELLING TEAM IN THE
LAST YEAR

33,330

PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE OUR
E-NEWSLETTERS EVERY MONTH

36,497

ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY
PRODUCTS SENT TO FAMILIES OF
ALL AGES IN THE LAST YEAR

PLUS, YOUR SUPPORT IS ENABLING US TO REACH EVEN MORE
FAMILIES THROUGH FREE DOWNLOADABLE GUIDES:

9,284

FREE PDFS FEATURING PRACTICAL ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT
HAVE BEEN DOWNLOADED IN THE LAST YEAR

FROM OUR BOOKSTORE

Great seed-planting resources

KINGDOM FAMILY DEVOTIONAL • TONY EVANS, JONATHAN EVANS • HARDCOVER • F01617B
THE SINGING BIBLE • RICK OSBORNE • 4 CDS • F00801D
NIRV ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY BIBLE • FOCUS ON THE FAMILY • HARDCOVER • F01645B
THE CASE FOR CHRIST • LEE STROBEL • DVD • C03190V
ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING • MAX LUCADO • PAPERBACK • C03204B

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Because of you, those seeds are taking root and growing to transform lives

Through broadcasts, counselling, resources and free downloads!

Because of you

Every day we hear from people who have been impacted by something they heard online, a phone call they received, a word of encouragement delivered to their inboxes or a resource they've enjoyed.

You make it possible for seeds to be planted in people's lives. These seeds of hope are taking root and growing to sustain people like Tammy through good times and bad.

In the last year, 527,276 broadcasts have been streamed on our radio website, providing regular hope and encouragement for people that cover a variety of topics. From growing together through family devotions to affair-proofing your marriage, developing your child's unique personality to knowing who you are in Christ, the *Focus on the Family Broadcast* is a regular source of support and encouragement. And with your generosity, even more listeners like Tammy can come back to our ministry for help when they need it most.

There are a lot of people like Tammy who need more in-depth help, that's why we're so pleased to be able to connect them with our care and counselling team. In the last year, 5,417 calls and emails have been made and received by our team, providing practical, professional help and a compassionate listening ear.

Every month, 33,330 people receive at least one of our e-newsletters! With *Focus on Parenting*, *Focus on Marriage* and *Focus on Faith and Culture*, our subscribers receive

practical advice on a wide range of topics for wherever they're at in life.

And children of all ages continue to enjoy *Adventures in Odyssey*. Like Tammy, we have parents and grandparents sharing their love of Whit and the gang with the next generation. In the last year, more than 36,000 *Adventures in Odyssey* products have been shipped to families of all ages – including the recently released Bible, the much-loved audio CDs, books, DVDs and so much more!

Plus, your generosity is enabling us to share the love of Christ with even more families through free PDF downloads! In the last year, there have been nearly 9,300 downloads of these helpful guides such as *The Talk* (helping parents talk to their children about sexual development), *Planting Seeds* (a collection of 52 family devotions), and *Parent's Guide to 13 Reasons Why* (a helpful booklet on talking to teens about bullying, cutting, sexting, rape and suicide). We're so excited to reach out to families in this new way – and it's all thanks to you!

Your financial support makes this all possible!

How donations are used

Thanks to your generous donations, we're able to offer many of our resources to families and individuals for free!

The *Focus on the Family Broadcast* is not only available for free on our radio website, but also on our free mobile app and on local

radio stations across the country. Plus, we're currently piloting it on TV stations across the country.

Our monthly e-newsletters are also free, providing relevant and timely information and advice for parents, married couples and those wanting to know how to live out their faith in our current culture.

Most notably, your support enables us to share valuable PDF downloads with families on a variety of topics. From fun seasonal activities to practical advice on difficult topics, we have something for everyone.

How you can help

First and foremost, we once again ask for your prayers!

Pray that God would use our resources such as the broadcast, e-newsletters and free PDF downloads to plant seeds in people's lives that can take root and grow – just like it did for Tammy.

Pray that those who need prayer and counselling support would know they can turn to us instead of going it alone.

Pray that resources like *Adventures in Odyssey* would plant those seed of faith in the lives of children so they can always remember God's love for them as they grow up.

Finally, we also need your ongoing financial support in order to continue providing these life-changing resources for families. Whether it's online, on the radio, on TV or over the phone, **your support is what makes all of this possible. Thank you!**

FOCUS IN ACTION

8,964 people attended our Date Night Comedy Tour!

Because of you, this fun date night out expanded to 11 cities this year



COMEDIAN LELAND KLASSEN ENTERTAINS THE CROWD

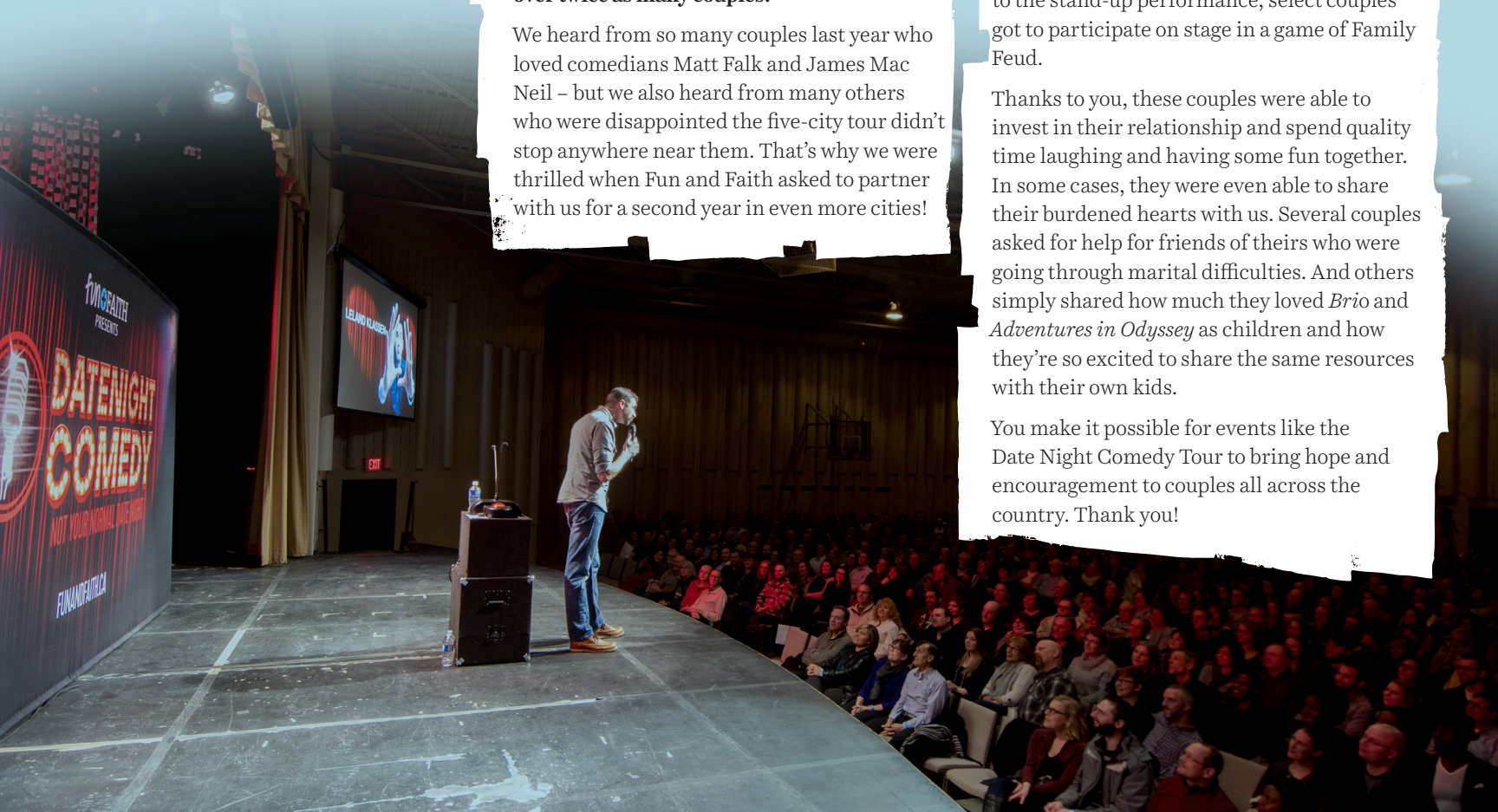
You may remember that last year the Date Night Comedy Tour brought fun and laughter to nearly 4,000 people in five different cities. But thanks to your faithful support, we were able to bring this much-needed date night to over twice as many couples!

We heard from so many couples last year who loved comedians Matt Falk and James Mac Neil – but we also heard from many others who were disappointed the five-city tour didn't stop anywhere near them. That's why we were thrilled when Fun and Faith asked to partner with us for a second year in even more cities!

This year, Matt Falk returned to share the headlining duties with fellow funny man Leland Klassen. These hilarious comedians provided nearly 9,000 people with clean humour and a great date night out. In addition to the stand-up performance, select couples got to participate on stage in a game of Family Feud.

Thanks to you, these couples were able to invest in their relationship and spend quality time laughing and having some fun together. In some cases, they were even able to share their burdened hearts with us. Several couples asked for help for friends of theirs who were going through marital difficulties. And others simply shared how much they loved *Brio* and *Adventures in Odyssey* as children and how they're so excited to share the same resources with their own kids.

You make it possible for events like the Date Night Comedy Tour to bring hope and encouragement to couples all across the country. Thank you!



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Becoming a *Friend of the Family!*

Our monthly partners, called *Friends of the Family*, provide a solid and reliable foundation that allows Focus on the Family Canada to plant seeds of hope in families across Canada every day! This means lives are transformed through the power of Christ, leaving a legacy of faith, hope and love in families and communities throughout our country.

You can become a *Friend of the Family* by joining our monthly donor program today.

Monthly giving is easy and convenient, and you

can choose to give automatically through your bank account or credit card.

Your gift will appear on your financial statement as “Focus on Family” as a reminder of your faithful commitment and support of the family. You can change or cancel your gift at any time.

You can help families thrive all year long! Become a *Friend of the Family*.

Sign up online at Focusonthefamily.ca/friends today!



BECAUSE OF YOU

Focus on the Family Broadcast is now on TV!

For some time now, the broadcast team at Focus on the Family in the U.S. has been filming the interviews between Jim Daly, John Fuller and their guest, making for great potential TV programming.

When the station representatives of Hope TV, Joytv and Yes TV got wind of this, they approached us and said that they see a great need for this type of programming on Canadian television today. After much discussion and prayer – and through the financial support of you, our donors – we are running a three-month trial of *Focus on the*

Family Broadcast on TV to see if it captures the attention of TV viewers.

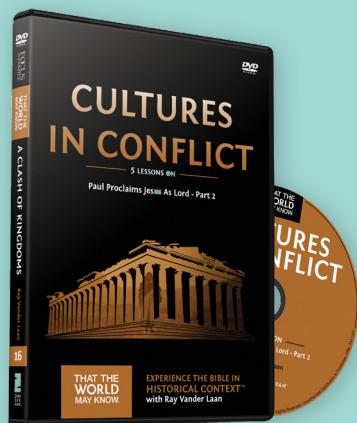
So as of April 23, this exciting new program started airing and has the potential to reach tens of thousands of new families across the country with crucial help and advice!

This increased ministry would never have been possible without you and we thank you for your support! If you want to learn more about this exciting opportunity or you'd like to find a time and channel near you, visit FocusTV.ca for more information.



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY BROADCAST HOSTS JIM DALY AND JOHN FULLER ARE NOW ON TV!

Coming in
June!



\$34.99*
~~\$49.99~~

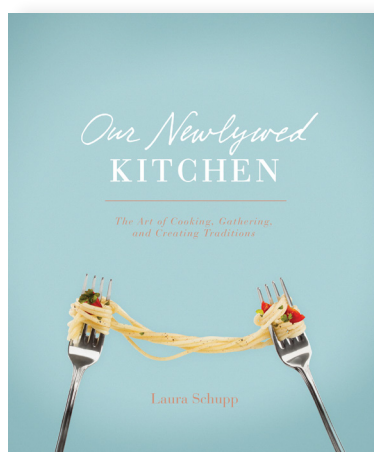
DVD • F01690V

How do you live in a culture where the world view conflicts with Christianity? Learn from Paul as he settled among the Corinthians who valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasure above all else. With volume 16, Bible historian Ray Vander Laan will help you discover how to live in your own Corinth in a way that glorifies God.

Pre-order your copy today at
Thattheworldmayknow.ca!

RESOURCE CENTRE

Discover new faith-filled resources



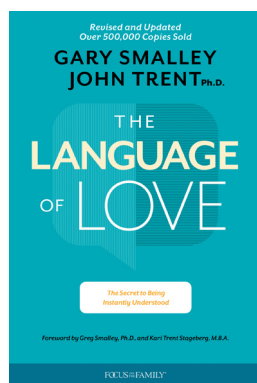
Our Newlywed Kitchen

\$36.99* ~~\$48.99~~ • HARDCOVER • F01683B

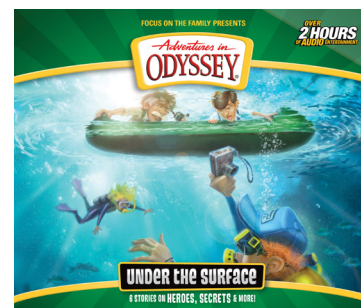
Part planner, part keepsake, this beautifully illustrated guide will help young couples build meal plans, start meaningful traditions, and cultivate the timeless value of gathering friends and family to their kitchen table. A perfect gift for newlyweds!

The Language of Love

\$18.99* ~~\$23.99~~ • PAPERBACK • F01678B



In this revised classic, authors Gary Smalley and John Trent provide practical insight into the time-tested method of emotional word pictures. Find out how to infuse understanding and intimacy into all of your relationships!



Adventures in Odyssey #64: Under the Surface

\$14.99* ~~\$20.99~~ • 2 CDS • F01674D

Mysteries are swirling around lost items! Wooton and Penny are trying to find the owner of a camera, and Jones and Parker are investigating a long-lost manuscript. Back in time, Olivia and Matthew meet King David. Ages 8+

Order your
copy today!

ONLINE: SHOP.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA

BY PHONE: 1.800.661.9800

MON. – FRI. 7 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. (PT) EXCEPT TUES. 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

*Prices subject to change.

YOU RECOMMEND

NlrV Adventures in Odyssey Bible



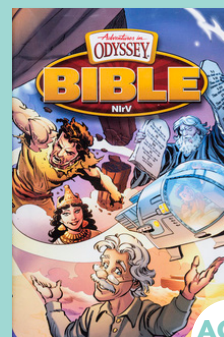
Reviewed by
Todd F.,
Langley, B.C.

As a parent, my wife and I are always looking for ways that we can talk to our children (4 and 1 years old) about God, salvation and big questions like that.

Our daughters love our nighttime book routine and often will flip through books by themselves, taking in all the visuals and pictures. When I first picked up the *Adventures in Odyssey Bible*, I knew that it would be a hit with them and that they would enjoy having Whit and his crew explain all about God, Jesus and every

story in the Bible.

I can't wait to introduce them to this fun-filled Bible and all of the Odyssey characters once they get a bit older. The bits of trivia will be really helpful not only for them to learn more about the Bible, but for me as well; when you grow up reading the Bible, you sometimes gloss over those bits of trivia that make it all come alive. I know I will learn a lot from this Bible as well.



NlrV Adventures in
Odyssey Bible

HARDCOVER • F01645B

\$29.99 * \$40.99

AGES
7+

Brio



Reviewed by
Sherrill D.,
Surrey, B.C.

I love the *Brio* magazine because it's so relatable to any teenage girl.

It has everything from fashion advice, to stories from Christian celebrities, and fun artistic inspiration.

Brio shares everything through a Christian world view and it's

very refreshing to see that I have a community of people who share my faith and perspectives.

Every month I can't wait to get my *Brio* magazine in the mail!



AGES
12-17

Brio

MAGAZINE • BRIO

STARTING AT \$23.99 *

HAS A FOCUS RESOURCE CHANGED YOUR LIFE? IF SO, EMAIL US AT INFO@FOTF.CA!

GET YOUR OWN COPY OF THESE READER-APPROVED RESOURCES AT
SHOP.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA TODAY!

GLOBAL FOCUS

Costa Rica office is reaching the masses with an effective tool and a hopeful message

Social media is a proven way to reach large audiences at a relatively low cost. At Enfoque á la Familia in Costa Rica, staff have witnessed this at a remarkable rate thanks to director Sixto Porras' popular Facebook live seminars. These videos have reached tens of thousands of viewers tuning in to Mr. Porras' interviews and talks!

Thousands of users make online comments and even more share the videos with their own social circles. Esteban Porras, media producer at Enfoque á la Familia, says that what is perhaps the biggest draw is that it allows people to connect with Sixto, who is respected and celebrated in Costa Rica.

"It has felt incredible," says Esteban of the continual positive responses.

Esteban says the seminars that garner the most engagement are those that have dealt with relationships (both marriage and courtship) and forgiveness. "These two subjects move the most profound emotions of each person," he says.

To continue the encouraging momentum from these

live seminars, Enfoque á la Familia plans to invest in professional video equipment, utilize Facebook advertising tools to reach an even broader audience and continue to follow up with people who express interest in the ministry's services.

"People connecting from many places at once is exhilarating," says Esteban. "To help them, counsel them, give them quick advice, or recommend our services is very helpful and effective for generating leads [for further support]."

"Es una bendicion para las familias poder tener esta pagina. Es como un oasis, un refugio en tiempos de crisis. Gracias!"

"It's a blessing for families to have this page. It's like an oasis, a shelter in times of crisis. Thank you!"

"Hermoso escuchar todos esos sabios consejos a mi me ayudan mucho en mi hogar con mis tres adolescentes y hermosos hijos."

"Beautiful to hear all those wise tips to me help me a lot in my home with my three teenagers and beautiful kids."

When you support Focus on the Family Canada, you join millions of other people around the world who help families thrive in their own communities through their local Focus organization.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

First marriage enrichment conference helping couples was a success!

We were thrilled to hold our first marriage enrichment conference at Burnett Fellowship in Maple Ridge, BC, on March 16-17.

The conference, titled The DNA of Relationships, is modelled after the principles found in the book by the same name, and is the basis for the Hope Restored marriage intensive program we're bringing to Canada. Over the course of two days, our marriage therapists Vicki Hopper and Wayne Reed shared practical, insightful information with about 80 people.

Both singles and couples attended to learn more about what a healthy marriage looks like and how to navigate conflict, miscommunication and the consequences of our own brokenness in this precious relationship. Sharing step-by-step instructions on how to communicate ("Heart Talk") and how to address our own triggers and reactions ("Fear Cycle"), Wayne and Vicki provided practical advice for those wanting to improve their relationships.

With your prayerful and financial support, we are hoping to bring this marriage enrichment conference to couples (and singles!) across the country.

"Excellent! Thanks so much for offering this conference."

"Thank you to all those that were involved in any way to make this happen."

LIFE IN FOCUS

Learning to follow God's leading

by Wendy Kittlitz

We are welcoming some new staff this month to our retreat centre ministry. We are delighted to have them join our team and they come with a bit of an intriguing story of God's timing.

They walked our Kerith Creek retreat property before anyone even thought of Kerith Creek. They considered using the property for another ministry to leaders but eventually settled elsewhere, in God's leading.

Now, over 20 years later, they will be moving into the residence on the same property to assist us with serving ministry leaders and distressed marriages. Coincidence? I think not. I think this is a beautiful example of God's timing – His planting seeds for the future.

What elements are part of a story like this that might be relevant to your life?

One dynamic that stands out for me is faithfulness. God is faithful to lead us as we move in the direction He leads. We are called to be faithful to what He calls us to, whether that is a temporary stage of life or a long-term place of service. Today, it might be simply being faithful to our call as parents or spouses. Later, it may be a more complex call on our lives to serve in the local church or in our workplace.

The second is waiting. We wait for God's timing to unfold even though we do not

see the big picture right away, often He is planting seeds that take time to grow. He will place us where He wants us if we wait patiently for His direction, seeking Him along the way in prayer, asking for affirmation or redirection.

A third dynamic is flexibility. When we become rigid, it is hard to follow God's leading. We need to remain flexible, knowing that change may not always be comfortable, but if change is in service of following God's lead, we should be able to make the necessary adjustments.

General observations to be sure, but these elements are applicable across many of the circumstances people call or write to us about daily. Are you frustrated with not being married yet? Wishing for a child to complete your family that seems elusive? Are you wishing for greater clarity in your vocational path or success in your business? Be faithful, trust in God's leading and faithfulness, keep seeking His path for you and be flexible along the way. He will grow the seeds that have been planted in your life.

I have witnessed over and over in my own life and in those I have spoken to, that as we wait on God's timing, it sometimes feels delayed, but when it comes, it is often amazing. As the psalmist says, "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him" (Psalm 37:7a).



WENDY KITTLITZ
VICE-PRESIDENT, COUNSELLING
AND CARE MINISTRIES

SPREAD THE WORD

We would love to hear how Focus has impacted your life!

We all have long, ongoing, complicated stories – and God is always at work in them. Has Focus on the Family Canada been a part of yours?

Whether it was a *meaningful talk* with one of our counsellors that turned your marriage around, a *helpful product* that provided valuable parenting tips, or a *relevant article* on our website that inspired you to walk closer with God, we'd love to hear how Focus has made a difference in your life.

Why does this matter? Because *your story is powerful*. When you share your story, you will:

- *Encourage* others to explore the Focus on the Family Canada resource that made a difference in your life
- *Inspire* people to share their own stories
- *Honour* God by showing His power to heal, renew and restore

We'd love to hear from you! Visit Focusonthefamily.ca/shareyourstory today!

ON THE RADIO

On the airwaves in May

Don't miss our weekday *Focus on the Family Broadcast* hosted by Jim Daly and John Fuller.

Here are just some of the topics you'll hear discussed this month:*

MAY 18

"Making Your Kitchen the Heart of Your New Marriage"

with guests Laura Schupp and Erin Smalley

MAY 21

"Thriving in Your Role As Dad"

with guest Rob Stennett

MAY 23

"Launching Young Adults Financially"

with guest Chris Brown

Visit Focusonthefamily.ca/radio to find the broadcast schedule for your area or to listen online.

You can also visit Focusonthefamily.ca/mobile to download the free app and listen on the go.

** Dates and topics subject to change*

WE ARE STEWARDS. Our programs and services are supported entirely by our donors in Canada. We are committed to keeping our donors informed of our progress and are members of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). Our registered charitable tax number is 10684 5969 RR0001.

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