



eMentoring

We're seeing a lot of great ministry going on in the virtual halls of eMentoring here at FamilyLife. What's so clear is that there are hoards of people who have secret battles that they feel unable to share, but who are finding help and hope through the anonymity that FamilyLife eMentoring provides. This recent comment sums it up beautifully:

"Thank you for your quick and thoughtful response. Very much appreciated. Also, thank you, and FamilyLife, for providing an anonymous-enough platform for some of us to be bluntly open about things that we feel very uncomfortable sharing face-to-face with friends at church, even my Pastor (a good friend)."

Recently we had the opportunity to see one of our mentees move back in with his wife after their marriage appeared to be beyond repair and divorce proceedings were underway. The divorce has now been cancelled and they're on the road to recovery. What a privilege it was to be a part of God's plan to restore that family's legacy.

The need is overwhelming and we need more mentors! This is a great environment, especially for those who like to be able to pray and think about how to respond to needs. If you've thought about doing it but hesitated, it's time to get in the battle. Visit www.familylife.com/BeAMentor and become a mentor. Pass along the invitation to your friends as well.

Finally, pray for the eMentoring team of which Chris provides the technical know-how. There's a tsunami of ministry-need on the way and we're working diligently to build the mentoring team and infrastructure to handle it. Come grab a tool and help us build some homes!

Chris and Lisa

On the Launch Pad

We have recently re-launched or working to launch several new initiatives:

- MomLifeToday.com received a fresh lick of paint and easier-to-use navigation.
- FamilyLife.com will have more mobile-friendly interface coming in September as well as a new look.
- Work continues on our Art of Marriage video conference that will launch officially on 2/11/11. Visit TheArtOfMarriage.com for more details.



Praise Items

- Praise that Lisa's mom has been able to resume work after experiencing several bone fractures over the past 12 months.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for endurance as we wrap up a very busy summer with two weeks of Bible classes.
- Pray for Chris' parents as they both struggle with health issues and for Chris as he tries to assist them from the US.

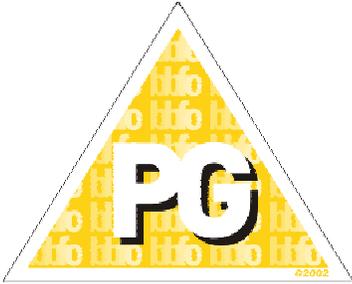
Ethan's Escapades

No, that's not me in the photo. I recently visited a farm to see how they raise hens for eggs, cows for their milk and pigs for, well, bacon.

I was able to collect several eggs that day; and one golf ball!



The Family Under Siege



At our recent staff conference, FamilyLife president Dennis Rainey shared a message that outlined the 10 cultural trends that are affecting marriage and family. It was a really strong wake-up call for us and a reminder that we're facing a battle in today's society that's larger than ever before.

Dennis challenged us, if we think it's bad now, think what it will be like for our children and succeeding generations. Due to the room we have here, this is just the outline of Dennis' message, but it is still a sobering read. Reader discretion advised.

1. **Marriage is no longer "The Honorable Institution"**. The number of unmarried-but-cohabitating partners has risen 1,000% over the last 40 years.
2. **Homosexuality has gone from tolerated to celebrated**. Have you heard the *Today Show* has opened up this fall's wedding contest to include gay couples?
3. **The Gender Blender**. Men are struggling with the *Peter Pan Syndrome* of not growing up (only 33% of 25 year-old men married in 2000 vs. 69% in 1970). Women are falling into what is being termed the *Superior Wife Syndrome* (70% of women say they are the more competent partner in their marriages and 71% say they make the more important family decisions).
4. **Casual sex as normative with no consequences**. 1 in 5 teenagers have sent nude/semi-nude photos of themselves electronically, and 2 in 5 have participated in *sexting* (sending sexually explicit text messages).
5. **A wink and a nod to marital infidelity**. Statistics show that less than 1 in 3 marriages are able to survive an affair. There is now a website that promises you 'an affair to remember' to its millions of clients.
6. **The unexpected legacy of divorce**. Did you know that divorce is contagious? Statistics prove that the closer you are connected to a divorced couple, the higher chances of you divorcing (for example: if your sibling gets divorced, you have a 22% higher chance of divorcing or if a pair of close friends of yours get divorced, your percent goes up to 75%)!
7. **Pornography**. Sexual gluttony has become sexual obesity. 70% of 15-17 year olds have accidentally come across porn online. Note: that's accidentally, not intentionally.
8. **The loss of absolutes and decency**. Kids clothing store Primark recently launched a line of padded-bras... for 7-year olds. Miley Cyrus (Hannah Montana) has shed her decent Disney image. In a recent live performance of her recent song "Can't be Tamed" she even included a staged-kiss of a female dancer.
9. **The new American family: Digitally Deluged**. Believe it or not, men ages 18 to 34 are the biggest consumers of video games, and average about 3 hours of gaming a day. Social networking, texting, and screen time are replacing real relationships in our culture.
10. **Devaluing Children**. Birthrates worldwide have declined by more than 50% in the past 30 years. Why this decline? Today in western culture, almost one in two marriages end in divorce. The children of divorce are less likely to marry and form families themselves.



Wow! We know that if it's not affecting you directly, it's probably affecting those around you. It's very real.

Thank you for your part in standing behind us as we seek to make a positive difference for families today and tomorrow.