

We hope your holidays were so much fun that the laughter echoes into the new year.

This month, we're reflecting on last year's milestones, sharing what's unfolding now, and offering a glimpse into our plans for the year ahead — all in our State of the Family — 2026.

LOOKING BACK

This year began with a significant milestone: **Luke and Kristina Middendorf were installed as FamilyLife's new president** in February 2025. His leadership brings fresh vision and energy, ensuring that FamilyLife's next chapter builds on a legacy of faithfulness while pressing boldly into the future.

Regional highlights included **Napa and Lake Tahoe getaways selling out**, a clear sign of the hunger for hope and renewal. While the Sacramento getaway was cancelled due to hotel challenges, that pause opened doors for us to invest in the Spanish-speaking community. Bev and I hosted a **One Day to Remember** event in the Bay Area which was well received and provided a springboard for future outreach opportunities. We also had the privilege of leading a **Vertical Marriage One Day Event**, giving couples practical tools and biblical encouragement to strengthen their relationships in a focused format.



Luke and Kristina Middendorf

Nationwide, **FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember** continues to stand as a frontline outreach. In 2025, **more than 50,000** people attended a getaway, with **over 1,000** individuals indicating salvation decisions. **Nearly 19,000** participants expressed a desire to actively help bring hope to families, showing that the impact extends far beyond the weekend itself.

Alongside the getaways, the **2025 FamilyLife Love Like You Mean It Cruise was a complete sellout, welcoming over 3,300 attendees**. Couples experienced renewal and recommitment while sailing together, surrounded by worship, teaching, and fellowship at sea. The cruise continues to be a powerful extension of FamilyLife's mission, offering both rest and restoration in an unforgettable environment.

CURRENTLY

The cultural landscape of marriage and family in America reveals both deep challenges and urgent opportunities. **Barna's 2025 New State of the Family report** highlights three realities that shape the mission before us:

- **Family structures are shifting:** The nuclear family is no longer the norm, with only about one quarter of U.S. adults living in a married-with-children household. Many families today are blended, single-parent, multigenerational, or nontraditional — yet often feel overlooked by the church.
- **Marriage is valued but fragile:** Roughly half of U.S. adults are married, but first-time marriages are happening later in life, and divorce remains steady. Younger generations still long for covenant commitment, but financial and cultural pressures make it harder to pursue.
- **Resilient families are rare:** Only 14 percent of married parents fit Barna's "Resilient Family" profile — marked by shared values, healthy communication, emotional connection, and faith practices. The scarcity of resilience underscores the urgency of strengthening families in Christ.



LOOKING FORWARD

This year, as FamilyLife celebrates **50 years of ministry**, we also mark another milestone: the **15th anniversary of the *Love Like You Mean It Cruise***, anticipated to be another sell-out voyage drawing thousands of couples into renewal at sea. These anniversaries remind us that God's faithfulness has carried this mission for decades, and His provision continues to open new doors.

- **Lake Tahoe Expansion** – We are increasing capacity by 100 seats, allowing more couples to experience gospel-centered renewal.
- **Napa Continues to Sell Out** – Demand remains strong, underscoring the hunger for hope and truth in Northern California.
- **Sacramento Re-Launch** – We are encouraged by the strong possibility of re-introducing the **Sacramento *Weekend to Remember*** at a new downtown hotel this fall. Previous venues have been hindered by unsafe surroundings, but this move ensures a welcoming environment for couples and strengthens our regional presence in California's capital.
- **One Day to Remember – Multilingual & Multicultural** – We are pursuing the opportunity to host another *One Day to Remember* in Spanish, continuing to serve Hispanic couples with culturally accessible ministry. At the same time, we are beginning to explore the possibility of English one-day live events for new communities. More research needs to be done, but our first endeavor may be to step into the African-American community. These concentrated formats show promise as replicable outreach tools that could extend FamilyLife's reach beyond traditional getaways.

FamilyLife enters its 50th year with renewed vision and momentum. From ballrooms to cruise ships, from regional events to national outreach, the mission remains clear: to strengthen marriages, restore families, and advance the gospel in homes across America. Together, we have the opportunity to multiply this legacy for generations to come.

GRATITUDE

As we step into 2026, we are humbled by God's faithfulness over the past 50 years of FamilyLife's ministries and the 15 years of the ***Love Like You Mean It Cruise***. From ballrooms to cruise ships, from regional getaways to One Day events, we've seen countless couples encounter Christ and experience renewal. We cannot do this alone. Your prayers, encouragement, and partnership make it possible for families to be strengthened and hope to be multiplied for generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us in this calling. May God's grace continue to guide and sustain us all as we press forward.

Happy New Year!
John & Bev