



MARCH 2026

# Staying in Step WITH THE SPIRIT

By the grace of the Lord, it's now been about a year and a half since David Robbins stepped into his role as Cru's president. As he's reflected on this season, he shared a simple but meaningful way God has been meeting him.

Last August, after he and Meg returned from several back-to-back conferences, the pace finally slowed. When the adrenaline drained, exhaustion caught up with him—along with a surprising undercurrent of doubts and fears. He realized he had been living off momentum more than margin, pushing forward without always staying in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25 reminds us, "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." David saw how easy it is to drift into striving—trying to stay ahead, relying on discipline and productivity instead of attentiveness to God's presence. As his second year began, he felt that familiar pull toward control, the kind that crowds out the quiet places where the Spirit speaks.

The Lord's invitation to him has been simple and kind: Stay in step with Me.

Sometimes that means slowing down, even when everything in us wants to speed up. It means choosing presence over pace and attentiveness over efficiency—not because slowing down is virtuous, but because we meet Him more easily

when we make room for Him.

David was reminded again that he doesn't have to prove his worth before stepping into God's presence. God isn't asking him to strive, but to abide. And like a marching band member who falls out of rhythm, the answer isn't to step aside—it's to quickly return to the beat and keep walking with the Spirit.

One practical way this has taken shape for him is by guarding the first voices he hears each day. If his phone is the first thing he reaches for, he's already late to the conversation that matters most. So he's recommitting to a simple habit: Scripture before screen. It re-centers his heart and reminds him whose voice he wants shaping the day.

David leaves us with a few questions worth sitting with:

**Where is the Lord inviting us to stay in step with Him?**

**Where might He be asking us to slow our pace, loosen our grip, or listen again?**

**And where might He be nudging us to take a step of faith?**

We walk this journey with a God who always welcomes us back into His rhythm of grace.

[ This article was excerpted from David Robbins staff article Feb 24, 2026. ]

Last month we opened our 50th Anniversary series by remembering how FamilyLife began with a simple conviction: God builds His work through ordinary couples who walk in step with His Spirit. This month, we turn to one of the earliest moments that shaped that calling—a quiet,

unexpected encounter staff still describe as the holy hush.

And one of the clearest early reminders of that came in a moment staff would never forget.

There was a moment in those early days that people still talk about — not because it was dramatic, but because it was unmistakably real. After visiting a staff couple whose marriage was quietly unraveling, Ney Bailey returned to a national team meeting carrying the weight of what she had seen. As she tried to describe the pain in that home, the emotion rose faster than she could contain it. She began to weep — deep, uncontrollable sobs that brought the entire room to a standstill. And in that sudden stillness, everyone sensed that God was pressing on something they had not yet fully faced.

What settled over the room became known as the “holy hush.” It wasn’t about Ney losing composure. It was about clarity — the kind that comes when God exposes a need that has been sitting in plain sight. Ministry was expanding, but marriages were straining under the load. These were faithful, committed couples who loved Jesus, yet they lacked the tools to build oneness at home. In that shared moment of brokenness, the team realized they could no longer treat marriage struggles as private or peripheral. God was putting His finger on the very foundation of their work.

That holy hush became a turning point. It reframed the mission and reset the priorities. If they were going to help others follow Jesus, they needed to begin by strengthening the homes of the people doing the ministry. That moment didn’t just stir emotion — it set a direction. It became the seed of a ministry that would take marriage seriously because God takes marriage seriously. Fifty years later, it’s clear that the quietest moment in the room was one of the loudest ways God spoke.

*Grateful to be part of  
the story God is still  
writing —*  
*John & Bev*

# 1,593 Couples

## *One Unforgettable Moment*



**G**uinness World Records has officially certified the largest marriage vow renewal ceremony ever recorded, with 1,593 couples standing shoulder to shoulder and speaking their vows in unison. It marked a meaningful moment for so many marriages and a beautiful reminder that choosing each other again and again is worth celebrating.

Thinking of taking an upcoming cruise? Why not consider the 2027 Love Like You Mean It® Cruise over Valentine’s Day next year? [LoveLikeYouMeanItCruise.com](http://LoveLikeYouMeanItCruise.com)



### FAMILY UPDATE & PRAYER

- Kristin is in the U.S. and has a teaching position at Crosspointe Christian School—part of our sending church in Poulsbo, WA. Pray for transition back into the states and her new job beginning March 15th.
- Praise! The *Napa Weekend to Remember* over Valentine’s Day weekend was fantastic. New volunteers did well, several people came to Christ, and about a quarter of the couples indicated they wanted Christ to be the head of their marriage!
- Bev and I travel to Frisco, TX to attend the *Legacy Grandparenting Summit* this month. Pray for safety and a fresh vision.