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Dear Friends,

This month on  
"FamilyLife Today"

**Jan 4-5**

**Pray Big for Your Family**

Pastor Will Davis and his wife Susie talk about praying big, hairy audacious prayers as a couple for your marriage.

**Jan 6-8**

**Hero: Unleashing God's Power**

Derwin Gray tells how his own life was changed when an injury ended his NFL career and a colleague led him to make the biggest decision of his life.

**Jan 11-13**

**Love Renewed: Clint and Penny Bragg**

How can something that seemed so right at first go downhill so fast? That's what Clint Bragg was wondering when his marriage to Penny ended after less than two years.

**Jan 14-15**

**No Greater Love**

Executive producer Russ Rice, talks about his new release, No Greater Love, a Christian romantic drama.

**Jan 18-20**

**Hidden Joy**

Today Wendy Blight opens up about the rape that caused her to shrink in fear and desperately search for God.

**Jan 21**

**National Bible Bee 2009 Highlights**

**Jan 22**

**Christian Camping**

Mario Zandstra, president and CEO of Pine Cove, a Christian camping ministry, talks about the fun and adventure that can be had at a Christian family camp.

**Jan 25-26**

**Treasures in the Dark**

Andy and Nikki Bray talk about how they started FamilyLife New Zealand and what they've seen in the lives of countless couples as a result of this ministry.

**Jan 27-29**

**Parenting Heart to Heart**

Reb Bradley, a father of six and the director of Family Ministries in Sheridan, CA, tells why parents shouldn't put their hope in their child-rearing methods, but in the Lord.

We trust that all of you had a Merry Christmas, the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. We were able to travel to Indiana to be with Ben, Karen and their three boys. We had a great time with them and almost had a white Christmas. There was snow on the ground when we arrived, but the next day, Christmas Eve, it warmed up and disappeared. A couple of days later, just before we left, they had another snow storm and were blessed with nearly six inches of snow.

Speaking of the weather, like much of the south, we have had a couple of weeks of unusually cold weather. It had been very cold and windy for several days, never warming up to above freezing at all during the day. This has created a few challenges for some, like frozen and burst pipes, but this week it has finally reached temperatures above 32 degrees by mid-day. Arkansas homes are just not equipped for prolonged cold temperatures.

We had shared how we are selling our house in preparation for becoming field staff with FamilyLife and moving back to Vermont. We have been working on some improvements to the house before we officially put it on the market, but in the interim we put a "for sale by owner" sign on the front lawn figuring it wouldn't hurt. We have shown the house to a few prospective buyers and last week we thought we might be getting an offer. Well, it didn't materialize due to problems that the couple was having with selling their home. We are still hopeful that they will get their sale worked out soon. If we had sold the house last week, the buyers wanted us to be out by January 21<sup>st</sup>, less than 2 weeks from when we showed them the house, so the trouble with their sale could have been a blessing for us.

The biggest project has been emptying my woodworking shop and finishing-off that space into additional living area. Everything that was in my shop ended up in the garage which is so full that we can barely walk through it. All of that stuff is scheduled to be put into storage this weekend. Meanwhile we are continuing to "de-clutter" the house by packing up odds and ends and cleaning out closets to put it all into storage.

We aren't done with all of these improvements yet, but we are getting close. One of the improvements was improving the drainage in the crawl space which involved moving 7 tons of gravel delivered onto our driveway, carried in 5 gallon buckets in a wheelbarrow, to the back of the house and then inside and dumped into the crawl space. A lot of backbreaking labor! The last of the major items will be replacing the carpets in the house. They are over ten years old and are showing their age.

Valentine's Day weekend is the big kick-off for our spring "Weekend to Remember" conference season. Perhaps we will see you at an event this spring! Why not plan on attending an event near you?

We appreciate all of the response that we received for an extra year-end gift. While the total response was less than we had prayed for, never the less we are grateful for what God did through you.

We would appreciate your prayers for selling our home, relocating to Vermont, and all of the many details associated with staying on-staff with FamilyLife at a remote location.

Partnering with you to make a difference,

Matt & Lorraine

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