LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

CFL Family,

The year 2020 began with great expectations! We continue to pursue our vision of “Marriage Discipleship in every community, every church, and every country.” Despite the challenges, through premarital counseling, increasing online content, and virtual 2B1 training, mentoring, and small group meetings, we have been able to get a few steps closer to realizing our vision.

We hope as you read through the report that you would be inspired to continue on mission with us to train marriage disciplers around the world who build, enrich, and reconcile relationships.

The message of “Faith Love” continues to be a primary value. We know that it is only by faith that we can have a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, and without faith it is impossible to please God. Our faith then allows us to experience God’s unconditional love, and gives us the capacity to love others the same way. That’s “Faith Love”!

Moving forward together, we know things are going to look different in 2021, but we couldn’t be more grateful for all the Lord has done. Prayerfully and boldly we go in to this next year with great anticipation of helping marriages thrive!

– CFL President, Roland Martinez

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Don and Sally Meredith founded Christian Family Life, Inc., in 1971 to further the training of professional counselors as well as laypeople. In 1976, they helped Dennis and Barbara Rainey start the Family Life Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, which later became FamilyLife.

The Merediths, who are marriage counselors, developed a discipleship course designed for married and engaged couples. Two Becoming One, originally released in 1981 as Becoming One by publisher Thomas Nelson, teaches engaged and married couples God’s faith principles for marriage so they may know Christ more intimately and be free to serve him more effectively.

The ministry of Christian Family Life is extended primarily through small groups, publications, Sunday school, Bible classes, and online.

“The question, “If God created marriage can He make it work?” was what led Don to God’s Word. The first two chapters in Genesis provided the catalyst for the message of “Faith Love” through exploring God’s original intent for relationships. The question quickly became a statement, “God created marriage He can make it work!”

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No one says, “I do,” expecting his or her marriage to become a source of frustration. Yet most couples spend more time planning for the perfect wedding day than they do learning how to build a thriving relationship that will endure. It doesn’t take long to realize that your spouse—like you—is not perfect. The good news is that even though we didn’t marry a perfect person, the guarantor of our relationship is perfect.

Marriage is the first human institution established in the Bible (Genesis 1:27). As you might expect, if God designed marriage he can make it work. Scripture is full of clear guidance for couples. The relationship between husband and wife is spiritually important and integral to the building of the kingdom of God.

Marriage is important to society as well. Nearly 70 percent of the population believe it’s important for men and women to be married if they plan to spend their lives together and more than 2.1 million couples said, “I do” in 2016. But as the population grows, the percentage of couples marrying is not keeping pace. More than 800,000 divorces were recorded that same year and, as in the past, they have counseled hundreds of couples. The five Faith Principles they discovered are unique to Two Becoming One resources and have become the cornerstone of thousands of marriages. The popular FamilyLife Weekend to Remember seminars have reached tens of thousands.

The writer of Hebrews tells us in verse 11:6 that, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Without faith it is also impossible to build a thriving Christian marriage.

No human relationship is static. In marriage, we’re either moving towards God and His promises or away from Him. Sometimes couples in a strained relationship call a “truce” and simply resign themselves to living together physically while remaining emotionally and spiritually apart.

Four in ten children are now born outside of marriage and by age twelve will have spent at least some of their lives in a “cohabiting household,” usually with their biological mother and her partner. These families are more likely to be impoverished, have less formal education, and be less stable. Society benefits when men and women take the extra step of commitment and marriage. Don and Sally Meredith founded Christian Family Life over 40 years ago because of struggles they experienced in their relationship. Since then, they have counseled hundreds of couples. The unique to Two Becoming One resources and have become the cornerstone of thousands of marriages. The popular FamilyLife Weekend to Remember seminars have reached tens of thousands.

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DOES MARRIAGE MATTER?

At Christian Family Life, we believe that marriage matters. When Dad and Mom love each other the way Christ loved the Church, couples are empowered, children thrive, and communities get stronger. Our goal is to have a Marriage Discipler in every community around the world to help marriages thrive.

ONE divorce happens every 36 seconds

90% of runaways come from fatherless homes

50% of all marriages end in divorce

43% of single moms are on welfare

8 years is the median time together when most couples divorce

85% of kids with behavioral problems live without dad

Your marriage matters more today than ever
Many platforms exist to live out the Great Commission. Sports camps, Vacation Bible School, construction work, providing clean water, and medical missions are just a few of the ways that believers establish a platform to share the gospel and disciple others.

What about the marriage relationship? Could investing marriages around the world create a platform to point people to God and His Word? The answer is yes! Through 2B1 small groups in communities and churches domestically and internationally, CFL has lived out the Great Commission through the platform of marriage. Shouting from the rooftops the need to move from a performance-based relationship to faith-based one.

The US expansion continues as we partner with missions organizations, para-church ministries, and local churches.

Our global expansion has taken us to Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica as well as several other countries. CFL has called national directors in each of these countries, and divided up those countries to assign coordinators who work within their boundaries. We thank God for abundantly blessing over the last 50 years!

There is no slowing down for the next 50 years. While continuing our efforts domestically and internationally, CFL’s vision is to acquire acreage to expand our headquarters in Huntersville, NC to accommodate 2B1 trainings, couple’s retreats, counseling intensives, and events.

We invite you to join us!
OUR TEAM

Roland and Tammy Martinez
President—Charlotte, NC

Don & Sally Meredith
Founders—Charlotte, NC

Ryan and Ashlie Cook
Vice President of Domestic Ministries—Charlotte, NC

Kent & Michelle Sterchi
Missionaries—Dominican Republic/Costa Rica/Madagascar

Ike and Courtney Chukuka
Missionaries—Abbotsford, BC

Gio and Suzy Llerena
Vice President of International Ministries—Charlotte, NC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Meredith (Founder)
Bud McKinney (Chair)
Chuck Merritt

Brandon Ruby
Christian Werner
Tiffany Haines

IN LOVING MEMORY:
BUD MCKINNEY

Bud McKinney chaired the CFL board for 20+ years. His leadership and friendship will be sorely missed. Bud went home to be with the Lord on the morning of December 24, 2020.

In his life, Bud had many earthly accomplishments, but the greatest and most precious identification is as a follower of Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior. Serving the Lord was an important aspect of his life and he did so through various positions in churches over the years but most often in music ministry. He said music was not just instruments and words, but worship of our great God.

The qualities that Bud brought to many areas of his life, including CFL, are found in Psalm 15. Here are some highlights from this Psalm that describe who Bud was as a man of God:

1. He was a man of integrity
2. He had a right standing with God and man
3. He spoke truth
4. He did not slander
5. He was a good neighbor
6. He was not critical toward others
7. He honored those who feared God
8. He kept his promises
9. He was generous

Bud will be missed but he has left us a great gift and legacy by living out these qualities. We will continue to honor him by living this out in our ministry at CFL.