

Annual Report

2020



Christian Family Life

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

Roland C. Martinez



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CELEBRATING OUR FOUNDERS: DON AND SALLY MEREDITH

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAYS!



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.



"Margaret and I met Don and Sally in the mid 1980's and were immediately impressed with their heart for God. They were instrumental in starting a Bible Church with Barry and Mary Leventhal and we joined in with them. A significant incident that bonded our hearts with theirs was when I was on assignment out of town, and because of the nature of my job, I was not able to respond to an urgent family problem. Don stood in my stead to not only protect and provide for my family, he also blessed us with his action of Agape (unconditional faith love based on his trusting God). That was the

start of a Jonathan and David relationship between Don and me, and through that bond, benefiting my family. In 2005, when Margaret and I decided to move from Atlanta, we chose Charlotte because of our relationship with Don, Sally, Barry and Mary. That year, Don asked me to serve on the Board of Directors for Christian Family Life and we continued to strengthen our fellowship with them. Don and Sally have been a blessing in our growth in our faith with God."

— Bud McKinney
(former CFL Board Chair)



Christian Family Life



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!"

50 years later Christian Family Life is still building, enriching, and reconciling relationships through the message of "Faith Love".

***"MOVING MARRIAGES FROM
PERFORMANCE TO FAITH"***

WHY WE EXIST

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 marriage as an institution faces serious challenges. More than 800,000 divorces were recorded that same year and, as the population grows, the percentage of couples marrying is not keeping pace.

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 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.

Christian Family Life exists to help couples avoid these pitfalls. Our resources are designed to help couples embrace their spouse and apply Christian relationship principles to strengthen their marriage.



OUR MISSION

Strengthening marriages around the world by training Marriage Disciplers who **BUILD**, **ENRICH**, and **RECONCILE** relationships.

THREE PATHWAYS

BUILD

Engaged couples prepare as much for marriage as for the wedding.



Ryan Pierce & Marissa Martinez

Ryan and I met in the workplace, and our upbringings and personalities couldn’t be more different. My parents lived out an example of a godly marriage beautifully. Ryan experienced brokenness growing up in a divorced and unchurched home. We hungered for godly counsel and examples, even before we were engaged. Two Becoming One is helping us to build a strong marriage on a foundation of the gospel and real love.

ENRICH

Strengthening marriages so couples grow together rather than drift apart.



Gio & Suzy Llerena

Suzy and I have always felt that our marriage was in a good place. When we were given the Two Becoming One book, it opened our eyes on ways to improve our marriage and provided us with tools we didn’t even know were missing. We now use it in all of our pre-marital counseling as well as leading discipleship classes at our church. It is a vital tool to make your marriage as God intended it To be: **THRIVING!!**

RECONCILE

Providing hope and healing for broken marriages.



Charles & Buffy Wimmer

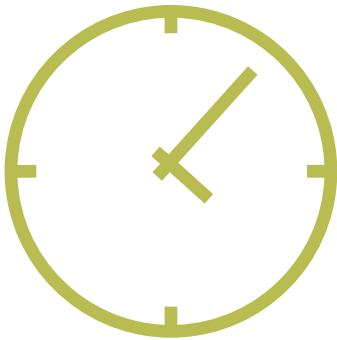
Early in our marriage, there was infidelity on my (Charles) part. I was convicted that for our marriage to go forward, confession had to take place. After confessing this to Buffy, and allowing her to work through her emotions, we began the process of reconciliation by joining a Two Becoming One small group. What had been an imploded marriage was rebuilt the way God designed marriage to be. We love each other more today than the day we got married over 40 years ago.

Marriage discipleship can transform the world by creating healthy, lasting relationships the way God intended.

IMPORTANT STATISTICS

DOES MARRIAGE MATTER?

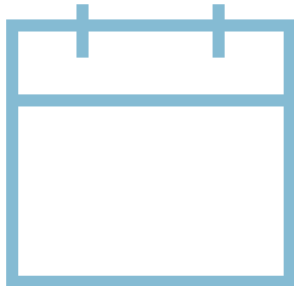
At Christian Family Life, we believe that marriage matters. When Dad and Mom love each other the way Christ loved the Church, couples are empowered, children thrive, and communities get stronger. Our goal is to have a *Marriage Discipler* in every community around the world to help marriages thrive.



ONE divorce happens every 36 seconds



50% of all marriages end in divorce



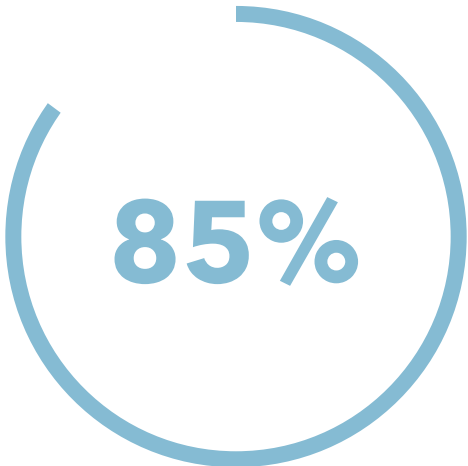
8 years is the median time together when most couples divorce



of runaways come from fatherless homes



of single moms are on welfare



of kids with behavioral problems live without dad

Your marriage matters more today than ever

OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS



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 IMPACT

Here and around the world

12,566

US couples working on their marriages

2,400

Pastoral couples trained internationally

19

Countries teaching Two Becoming One

Translations

- English
- Spanish
- Mandarin
- Korean
- Hungarian
- French

Countries with Marriage Disciplers

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Cuba | France | Madagascar |
| Costa Rica | Spain | China |
| Dominican Rep. | Switzerland | Korea |
| Peru | South Africa | Malasia |
| Canada | Lesotho | Vietnam |
| Hungary | Tanzania | Mexico |
| | | Honduras |

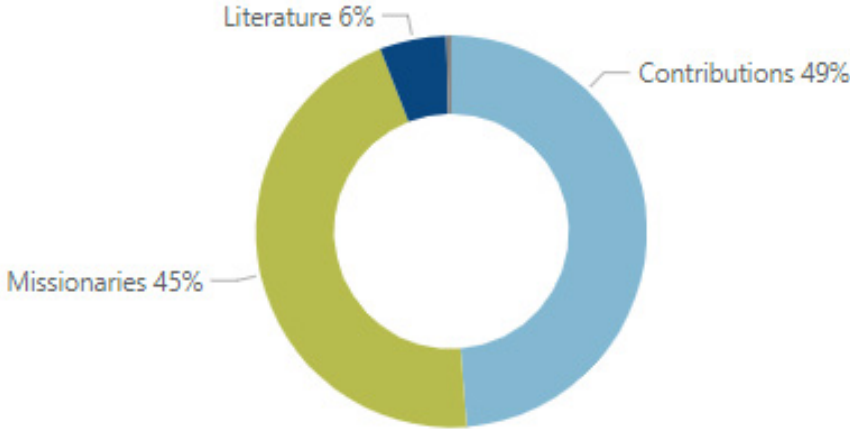
On Facebook: United States @Christian Family Life
Costa Rica @Christian Family Life Costa Rica
Cuba @Dos Haciéndose Uno en Cuba
Dominican Republic @Christian Family Life RD

On Instagram: United States @ChristianFamilyLife
Costa Rica @ChristianFamilyLifeCR
Dominican Republic @ChristianFamilyLifeRD

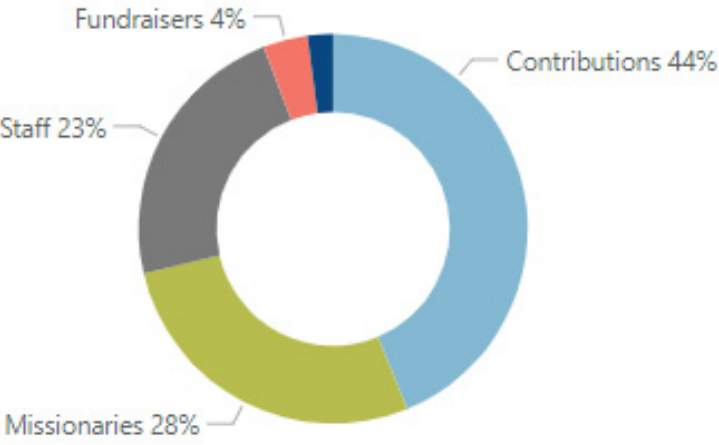
On YouTube: Title @ChristianFamilyLife
Views 8,688 total views
Subscribers 100 subscribers

FINANCIALS: REVENUE

2019

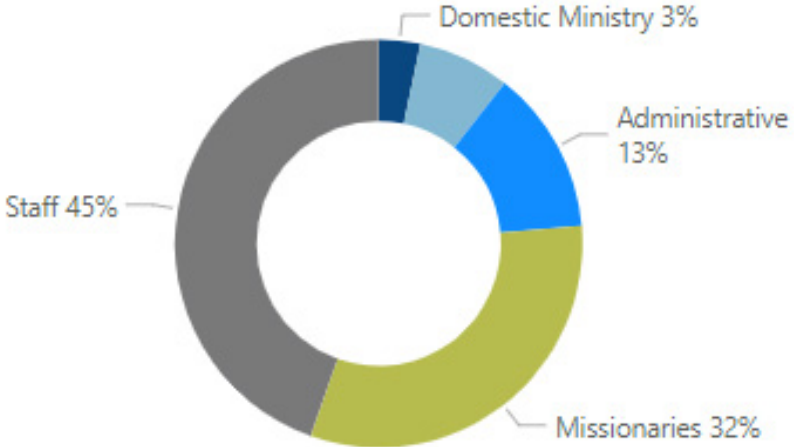


2020

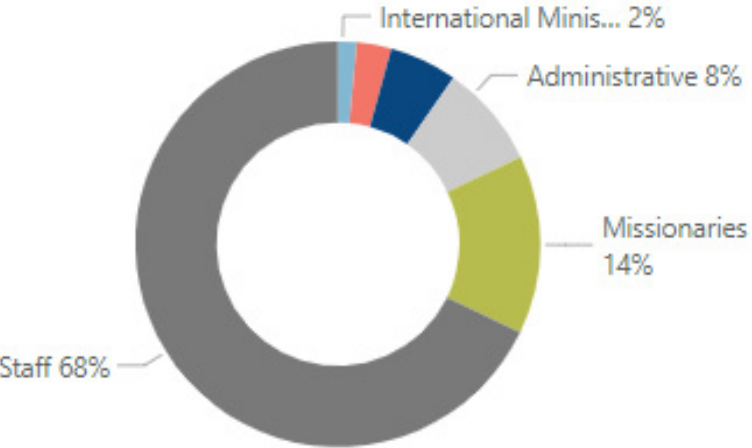


FINANCIALS: SPENDING

2019



2020



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



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 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

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.





Christian Family Life

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