EDITOR'S NOTES

Extraordinary Families for Extraordinary Times

Last week I got a phone call from my husband’s longtime friend. He and his wife had made a 24-hour trip from their home in Paris (leaving four children under the watchful eyes of church friends there) to Provo, Utah, where their daughter is a freshman at Brigham Young University. She was in the hospital—doctors determined that her appendix had burst two days before she came to the emergency room. (She thought she had the flu.) Now, she’s in the intensive care unit, sedated and breathing with help from a respirator, fighting a severe infection. At first, her parents and grandparents and older sister were told to prepare for the worst—but then she started to improve, little by little. At this writing, she is making progress each day.

One wonders how people tolerate the disasters and tragedies of life, which we’ve witnessed and experienced this autumn. We learn the answer when something happens close to home and involves someone we love. Then we see that daily acts of love and care can help us strengthen each other in a crisis. The humor we share in our families, the efforts to teach and improve, our attempts to learn more about good relationships—all lead to extraordinary abilities to comfort and be comforted, bless and be blessed, by familiar and ordinary people and things. Thank heaven we have each other.

I write this the week before Thanksgiving, knowing it will not reach you until a time near Christmas. With the new year comes change for me, as I will be leaving Marriage & Families after seeing the magazine launched and seven issues published. Jim Bell will be the new editor and will do a tremendous job. I’m thankful for that and especially for the principles that guide this magazine and the talented, enthusiastic people who live those principles at work, school, and home. To them and to my friends and family, especially my forever sweetheart Alan, I can only repeat: Thank heaven we have each other.

Lisa B. Hawkins, editor

Marriage & Families is a peer-reviewed journal for young couples, husbands & wives, parents, and professionals—including educators, counselors, therapists, psychologists, physicians, social workers, nurses, public health people, teachers, clergy, experts in family law, and everyone interested in marriage and families. Our editorial board members belong to many faiths—with a common belief in the importance of traditional families. Marriage & Families is dedicated to strengthening families. Without apology, our name begins with the word marriage—a concept that many dismiss or completely ignore these days. However, since marriage and fidelity are essentials, not options, in a healthy society, we are pleased to bring you a publication containing credible data supporting this and other time-tested principles and values related to the family.