

February 2010

Greetings to you,

By the time you receive this letter we will have crossed over the Idaho-Utah border. No, we aren't on vacation, and we also haven't packed all of our stuff in to a U-haul quite yet to move across the country. But we have been plotting our course over the last 4-5 months on a six foot wide map in our living room.

If you don't know the story yet, soon after we returned from our New Staff training we wanted to find a creative way to chart our progress during this fundraising process. We'd been given examples of different "fundraising thermometers" that people had used before, but we're the Laras. We wanted something memorable, something our kids would never forget.

So we had the girls draw a humongous map on the wall and we traced over it with markers. And now our weekend ritual is to fill in our progress on the map. We've divided the 2170 miles from Grandview to Little Rock by 100 and for every 1% of our monthly support goal we receive we draw a pin, write the week number, and color in 21.7 miles of the road to Arkansas. For our girls it's one of the highlights of their week to see how much closer we're getting to moving.

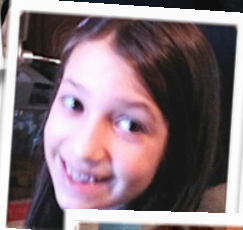
Having said that, it's not always cheers and grins. In reality, there are some weeks that we make no progress. We make calls, we meet with people, we pray, but still some weeks no new support comes in. And so we have to draw a pin in the same spot for two weeks in a row.

The first time this happened and we saw our daughters' reactions we knew we had to model for them our faith in God and our commitment to our calling.

Would we like all of our remaining support to flood in during the last two weeks of February? YES!! We feel the urgency of our calling to minister with FamilyLife and would like to get there as soon as possible. Why? Because there's a generation of marriages, couples, single parents, kids, and families that need the help and hope that God is offering.

Is God big enough to provide all of our support by the time the calendar says March? Again, YES!! We serve a mighty God, and despite what the economy looks like. Our God has promised to provide for "all of our needs according to *His riches* in glory." (Phil. 4:19) And God is still in control over all and is "able to do immeasurably beyond what we can ask or imagine." (Eph. 3:20)

At the same time though, we knew that we had to *teach* our daughters that no matter what the circumstances, **we will trust in God**. Our God is worthy to be



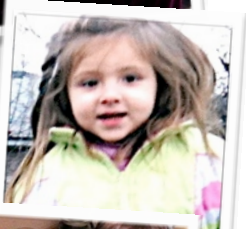
Anna
(9)



Danielle
(7)



Julia
(5)



Rachel
(3)



Sarah
(23m)



Naomi
(23m)

- **Anna:** with Danielle, planned a creative Valentine's day party for the whole family;
- **Danielle:** and Anna, recently started piano lessons;
- **Julia:** enjoyed her visit to the dentist "when they took out the cavity it was so fun";

- **Rachel:** favorite phrase to say: "raise your hand if you want to go to Arkansas!!" (with markers in hand to fill in the map)
- **Sarah:** she's a real swimmer in the tub at bath-time;
- **Naomi:** enjoys dancing to any music.

praised, even when He doesn't act according to our time table. And our faith in Him must not waiver even when things don't seem to be going our way.

So that's how our journey has been going. And there are several other couples on this journey with us, striving to join the ministry of FamilyLife. Each family is different; different ages, backgrounds, number of kids, ages of kids, jobs, ministries, difficulties. But we've been called by God, and we can't ignore it. So we give God glory when he moves on our behalf. And we give him glory when we have to wait on Him and His timing.

So where is your faith today? Sometimes it's easy to forget to praise God in the good times, because it's easy to feel like we got there in our own strength. But it's just as easy to neglect to praise and give thanks to God when life doesn't go as we planned.

*“Be thankful in all circumstances, for **this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.**” - Thess. 5:18*

Fighting for families,



Abraham & Deborah Lara

Giveaway: We'd like to update our contact info for all our our supporters including address, phone numbers, email addresses, plus some other fun questions. We've set up an easy to fill out survey on our website. As an incentive everyone who fills out the survey is entered to win THREE great resources from FamilyLife: a "Moments with You" couples devotional, a "Rekindling the Romance" audio series, and a "I'm No Rockstar – Tim Hawkins" comedy DVD. Even if you think we already have all your info please fill out the survey anyways. Go to: theacousticlife.com/familylife/survey; and enter the password – **giveaway**. Deadline for survey is 3/12.

Weekend to Remember: In last month's newsletter we encouraged as many of you as possible to register and attend a Weekend to Remember conference in your area. We've included a brochure of upcoming dates and locations for your convenience. Or you may also go online to familylife.com/groups/lara and then click "join my group" to get started. (although, in order to receive the supporter discount, you must mail in the certificate you received from us.)