

May 2010



Greetings to you,

I've heard this conversation hundreds of times.

Nice Person: *Would you like some coffee?*

Me (Abraham): *No, thanks. I don't drink coffee.*

Confused Nice Person: *Really?*



Anna
(9)

There are a couple of reasons why I don't drink coffee, but that's not the reason for this letter. What this letter is about is the times in our day, week, month, and life that we need a "pick me up". We need just a little more *umph* or motivation to keep us going.

Danielle
(8)



For many people that is the perfectly brewed cup of coffee. Heck, sometimes it doesn't even have to be perfectly brewed, just any cup of coffee will do. For others it's some form of exercise that gets the endorphins flowing again. And still for others it's time with friends, or time alone, or a good book, or a nap, or that one song, or an encouraging word at just the right moment that helps us face what life's throwing at us.

Julia
(6)



Rachel
(3)



Deb and I recently had one of those times when we attended a Follow-Up Conference with Campus Crusade for Christ. From April 22nd-27th we were once again in the beautiful state of Arkansas. We stayed at the Arkansas 4-H Center, a campground/retreat center type of place. It's been since the end of September '09 that we truly began our fundraising efforts to join the staff of FamilyLife (or as it's known to those of us in the midst of it: MPD - Ministry Partner Development). Campus Crusade in their wisdom scheduled this Follow Up Conference as a means of re-motivating us for the journey still ahead of us.

Sarah
(2)



We didn't come to the weekend terribly downtrodden or discouraged. We've had our ups and downs over the last several months, but we've continued to feel God calling us to this ministry. We didn't come with any glaring mistakes in the way we present our ministry to prospective ministry partners. But we did come away relaxed, refocused, and reenergized.

Naomi
(2)



We got to spend a night with one of our supporters (and fellow FamilyLife staff members), as we stayed up late talking and laughing while eating chocolate

- **Anna:** played a piano solo at church for Mother's Day
- **Danielle:** loves reading and is simply devouring the American Girl series of books
- **Julia:** broke her left leg on Mother's Day, but is healing well. The cast will be off in 3 weeks.

- **Rachel:** likes playing with sidewalk chalk and playing hopscotch
- **Sarah & Naomi:** enjoyed their first swim of the year in their cousin's pool.

chip cookies. We were able to see five of the eight couples who began with us last June this journey to join the staff of FamilyLife. We reconnected with other new staff that were joining other ministries of Campus Crusade. We also spent a night with our coaches and buffed up our newly acquired “Settlers of Catan” playing skills.

However, I think the best part of our trip was being able to spend half a day back at the FamilyLife headquarter offices, and then a full day with the staff at an ‘All Day of Prayer’ meeting. Each time we visit the headquarters, or get to hang out with other staff couples, or attend a FamilyLife event we leave more of our heart there. We’ve already invested many hours of prayer, time, finances, and energy into this journey. We’ve developed many friendships and memories in the process so far. So now more than ever we are determined to finish the race set before us.

Thank you for your support thus far in helping us as we progress on our road to Arkansas.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” - Heb. 12:1



clockwise from top left: the beautiful 4-H center in Arkansas, Deborah always finds a piano to play, other FamilyLife new staff

Ben (& Barb) Noell
Dan & Emily Scheaffer
Abraham & Deborah Lara
Gene & Heather Muckleroy
Steve & Linda Ingerson