



Sandy & Cheryl Spangler

Serving with FamilyLife to make every home a godly home

June 17, 2010

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

After a few minutes of getting acquainted at IHOP, Mark and I began to talk about his marriage and the struggles he and Amy, his wife of 2 years were facing. He told me they are really busy in this season of their life with careers and don't have much time for each other. Mark also told me the more they try to deal with these issues the more issues seem to develop and both of them are just tired of talking about them and often don't communicate for weeks at a time. He is convinced that if she would just look at things from his perspective she would be far better off, but she refuses to budge and they have been stuck there for the past 6 months seemingly getting worse. So worse, that Amy had fallen into the arms of another man.

After Mark was done talking, I asked him about his relationship with Christ. He informed me he really didn't like religious people and didn't see how that was relevant to our conversation. After assuring him I wasn't crazy about religious people either he allowed me to share the Gospel with him. As we talked more about the Gospel and the five essentials for a thriving marriage, it became obvious to him that without a deeper relationship with Christ, addressing these issues in his marriage probably wouldn't be possible. He was open to hearing more about Christ, but right now was really only looking for answers to fix his marriage. Mark couldn't connect the dots.

How did God orchestrate this meeting? I recently received a call from Bob, a ministry partner in Louisiana with a need from one of the men in their small group named Bret. He had a close friend, Mark who lived in Little Rock and was struggling with his marriage. During my conversation with Bob he asked if I would be willing to contact Mark to help him. I agreed. Later that evening I set up a time to meet him the next morning at the local IHOP.

Unfortunately, at least for now, Mark is not ready to accept Christ. Yes, I was discouraged I didn't have the privilege to lead him to Christ right then and there, but I did accomplish the mission Christ assigned to me... to share Christ and leave the results to God. Please pray for Mark and Amy. Pray they would come to Christ and be willing to work on their marriage.

Five Essentials for a thriving marriage...

Be thankful for your spouse.

Practice communicating from the heart.

Be intimate.

Practice the power of forgiveness.

Be teachable.

After reading the insert, how would you rate your marriage? Would your spouse agree with you? These are some great topics to discuss during your date night.

Thanks for your partnership in this ministry at such a critical time!

♡ Sandy & Cheryl

Praises and Prayers

- **Praise** that God provided a new roof for us!
- **Continue to pray** for both Cheryl and my responsibilities in the reorganizational changes here at FamilyLife in the Human Resources Dept. We are working lots of hours, but see light at the end of the tunnel.
- **Praise**, the Lord brought Randy & Nedra Sharp to our team last month. They will transition in early June.
- **Praise** for a new reporting staff couple that will complete our team in MPD Staff Support, Todd and Deven Smith (pray that their final support team would be completed by early July so they can join us here at headquarters). Looks like they are on track to report.
- **Pray** that Cheryl and I would continue to focus on our relationship amongst our busy schedule. Pray that we would have some rest time.
- **Finally Pray** for our summer travel schedule that runs through mid-October.