

jan/feb 2008 ministry update

# Green FamilyLifers

Reaching People for Christ Through the Felt Need of the Family



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Our beautiful Mt. Baker - 16 1/2 feet of snow




## HELLO FRIENDS & FAMILY



What a wild and woolly year 2007 was for our family! What a hope-filled and busy 2008 we have planned!

### FIRST, AN UPDATE ON OUR MINISTRY LIFE ...

 Rob and I flew to Colorado Springs, Colorado in January to attend a seminar and speak to leaders with backgrounds in developing single parent ministries for the Church. Attached with this newsletter is a copy of the report we sent to the team at FamilyLife Canada as an outline of what we learned - [click here for outline](#). (What you WON'T get a glimpse of are the many other mounds of research, books and thoughts that lay PILED around our house!) You will notice that we, as a group, have big decisions to make in the year ahead on content and target audience before the training material can be written.

**What we are especially excited about ...** Rob and I now feel confident enough to begin owning some personal responsibilities in our local church and with the online mentoring program at FamilyLife.

## update on family life -cont.



Deep snow, yes, but the Gray Jay is the real eyecatcher

Please continue to pray for Rob and I personally. We have such large goals for the future... in ministry, in our marriage, in our

home, and with the boys. **Speaking of marriage ...** Rob and I have tried for the last two years to

make it to a FamilyLife Weekend to Remember. Well, this is the year! (We may even make it to TWO, one in beautiful Canada and another at one of our local U.S. conferences on the Bay.) It has been a year of change, growth and stretching for our marriage. We need to push through several long-term goals that we have set for ourselves and for our family. We are prepared to get all of the help that we can get!

**Won't you please join us???** Go to either of our websites: in Canada, [familylifecanada.com](http://familylifecanada.com), or in the U.S., [familylife.com](http://familylife.com). You can pull up any of the upcoming conferences for spring 2008. Then get on the phone and call us, or

email, for your *discount* and details.

### **NOW AN UPDATE ON OUR FAMILY LIFE ...**

We started out our first year here with some pretty shocking support loss. As of January 1st, our income dropped nearly \$800 a month. OUCH! That's both hard to absorb and recover, but God willing, we will!

When I was thinking of how to write this bit in our newsletter, God reminded me of an old hymn, "Count your Many Blessings, Name them One by One ... Count your Many Blessings, See What God has Done!" So I did ... and I had some things to share.

Rob and I were NOT led to do a year-end ask for

special needs ... and the reason why? Because we had been SO blessed by special needs giving throughout last year. After my surgery, our bills were paid for in full. Our move to the Pacific Northwest was covered. We had many friends and family who gave in very special and meaningful ways over Christmas. I remember thinking at the beginning of our Canadian adventure that God was going to bless us abundantly and through our finances this year. (I thought that might look a little differently ... like owning our first cell phone, a trip to Disney World, or a closet full of new shoes!) 😊 But it was more than that, better than that ... our God

“ update on family life -cont. ”

delivered abundantly for yet another year of ministering and provision for our family! In the past we would have had to make payments for years on my surgical bills, now we can focus on the tasks at hand.

For the friends, new and old that we've lost as supporters ... we miss you ... and consider you a part of our family.

**My health in a nutshell...**

If you ask Max why it was important for Mom to be in the hospital last year ... he will wholeheartedly tell you "to share God's hope with the people there." It makes me rejoice to hear those words! Yet it is so natural for us to

always see ill health as "something lacking" in the Victory department of our lives, instead of what it is ... a brush stroke in the big picture of what God desires and has for us in His refuge. It is not "unfortunate" to find ourselves in the midst of a trial ... it is unfortunate to miss the abundant life God has for us each and every day.

*"Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him.*

*He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken.*

*My victory and honor come from God alone.*

*He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.*

*O my people, trust in Him at all times.*

*Pour out your heart to Him, for God is our refuge."*

*Psalms 62:5-8*

The Crohn's has returned to my small intestine, and life was greatly different after the last surgery. There simply isn't enough intestine left for a normal existence. I have a short gut, and other than God growing another 12 feet of intestine, which He is more than welcome to do, nothing is going to change that. Going shopping and wearing jeans can cause some

pretty painful side effects, not to mention the "unmentionable" issues we deal with at home. I do have a strong medication that I can take to help me function for travel and fun with the family, that is if I can stay awake long enough to enjoy myself! 😊 I know that this is not what you want to here after receiving an answer to prayer last year ... but that is exactly why it is not just the things SEEN that solidify my trust in God. How I "feel" has nothing to do with my level of Faith in God. I trust Him unconditionally.

You know, Rob and I haven't had the easiest journey, as I'm sure some of you haven't

either. But, then there are others who seem to have been untouched by many hardships or serious trials. And, what I come across time and time again are Christians attempting to put me or themselves into the category of "blessed" or "unblessed" instead of asking, "Have you sought God's will for your life? And if the answer is YES, then you are right where God can use you the most, and you are safe in His refuge."

You can set your life up to *look* as if you are being blessed ... you can buy a beautiful home, avoid friends and neighborhoods that aren't as outwardly attractive as yourself, or enroll your kids in the

“ update on family life -cont. ”

safest schools available, but if you HAVEN'T done it with the leading of the Lord, then I believe that you are MISSING a blessing. NOW, that said, if you have sought God, and find yourself in all of those good places, you ARE right where you need to be. God bless you!

God has taken our family to some of the “uglier” places in our walk. Maybe we were simply willing or that He knew we could relate, but whatever the reason, we need to stop viewing it as necessarily a BAD or sin related issue. Rob and I have questioned God about many of life's trials, and have checked ourselves for those “sin issues” that could

hinder our release from difficult situations. But trust us when we say that we have done our best to seek His face and hear His voice and these are the places He has allowed us to be BLESSED. That said, those “blessings” 😊 have not always been easy, and if we want to walk in accordance to His will, we NEED your prayers!!!

Through the MIRACLE of Jesus Christ neither death, illness, trial or tribulation can keep us from the love of God. Circumstances do not define who we are or what He can accomplish through us.

**In Love,**  
**Rob & Carrie Green**

*“For you know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11-13*

Is that Carrie or the abominal snowman? hmmm



Rob & Isaac sledding



## GREEN'S PRAYER SUPPORT

Updates, prayers, tidbits ...

► The boys are beautiful. Max is trying to adjust to a different grading system and curriculum in 4th grade. He would LOVE if you prayed for his friendships, health and God's peace to surround his heart and mind. Isaac likes preschool, and continues to be

shy, good natured and ever-so-polite. His prayer requests tend to sound more like praise ... usually for his home and family!

► Rob has had longer commutes during these winter months. His drive can be as long

as 1 1/2 hours each way. Pray for his safety and patience as he travels daily to British Columbia.

► Vanya has been moved from the Russian hospital that he was born into, to a group home for other children with HIV/Aids.

God has given us the privilege and responsibility to be his prayer family, so don't forget our little boy when you pray!



Now is this a snowman or is it Carrie?  
hmmm



Max hibernates like a bear after building his snow tunnel



Unusual sighting of Sasquatch

# “SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY MINISTRY (SPFM)”

## FIVE FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

### 1. Wholeness – Believing what God believes about you

- a. single parent families are valued in God's eyes
- b. they're families without marriage, not singles w/children
- c. their primary focus should be on parenting, not on their singleness
- d. they are whole families (perhaps experiencing brokenness), not broken families
- e. they are in desperate need for the Church to give them permission to stay unmarried if they choose

### 2. Truth – Being honest with your kids

- a. "above the surface" reasons for your situation
- b. "beneath the surface" reasons for your situation
- c. full disclosure
  1. Why?
    - \*it's not their fault
    - \*breaking the cycle
    - \*\*"aunt janie" will tell them
    - \*satan is given an opportunity
    - \*the truth shall set us free (john 8:32)
  2. How?
    - \*age appropriate communication
    - \*give kids permission to talk

- \*non-offensive towards former spouse
- \*package the good with the bad—leave out the ugly
- \*time and truth walk hand in hand

### 3. Relationship – Kids need both Mom and Dad

(Two Values and Three Dilemmas)

- a. relationship
  - \*God's importance
  - \*parents' rights
  - \*children's rights
  - \*three holes in our heart (needs to be expounded on!)
- b. safety
  - \*a higher value
  - \*protection from abuse and neglect
  - \*supervised visits
- c. you sabotage the visits
- d. the kids don't want to go
- e. the other parent shows no interest

### 4. Control – Serenity, Courage and Wisdom

- a. the 80/20 principle
  - \*80% of time wasted on worry and control, 20% of time spent on loving and parenting
- b. the serenity prayer
- c. fear or faith?
  - \*is God watching over our kids?
  - \*whose children are they?

\*why do we worry?

### 5. Forgiveness – Modeling this to your children

- a. ask your kids for forgiveness
- b. extend forgiveness to your spouse
  - \*why?
  - \*how?

## SEVEN NON-NEGOTIABLES – PRINCIPLES OF SPFM

1. Love the Sinner, Not the Sin
2. Ministry Triage (further explanation available!)
3. SPFM is Messy
4. Walk Alongside (key on relationships, not on programs)
5. Meet Practical Needs: kids, car, house and money
6. Have Events: feed them, provide childcare, offer scholarships
7. Jesus is the Rescuer and Savior, You are the helper

## PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION – MINISTRY W/ SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

Learning Objectives

- a. leaders will be informed and made aware of the value of SPFM
- b. leaders will be able to overcome the obstacles in starting a SPFM
- c. leaders will see the possible target audiences involved in SPFM

- d. leaders will be equipped with techniques in developing a SPFM
- e. leaders will be given resources in helping them deliver SPFM

## THE MODERN-DAY ORPHANS – MINISTRY TO KIDS IN SINGLE-PARENT OR BLENDED FAMILIES

Learning Objectives

- a. identify who these modern-day orphans really are
- b. explore the biblical basis for why we should minister to them
- c. identify the goals in how we can effectively minister to them
- d. explore what the hurdles to recovery might be with these kids
- e. provide you with a program model to minister to them
- f. equip you with practical help for them

## NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE FOR SPFM

This incorporates extensive training with many Special Seminars with multiple teachers offered over a 3 day span.