



Dear Friend:

Happy Fall from Focus on the Family! As we move into cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and shorter days, it's my hope that you and your family are experiencing the Lord's sustaining grace no matter what your circumstances might be. Whether you are thriving and enjoying a season of health and prosperity or walking through a dark valley, your friends here at Focus are praying that you will draw ever nearer to Christ, rely on His limitless love and strength, and seek to bring others into the Kingdom as you glorify Him.

Honoring the Lord and sharing the Good News of the Gospel go directly to the heart of the work you make possible at Focus on the Family. Of course, nurturing families is the specific mission we feel called to pursue, and we are tremendously grateful that God has seen fit to bless our efforts toward that end. Your support helps husbands and wives flourish in their marriages, equips parents to raise godly children, ministers to those facing a family-related crisis, empowers our fellow believers to exercise biblical citizenship, and advocates for the most vulnerable among us, including the preborn and those awaiting their forever families in foster care.

Your labor alongside this ministry is bearing fruit that you can see through both statistics and testimonials.

With 2022 on the horizon, I'd like to provide a "year in review" of how God has used the support of friends like you throughout 2021. Even as our world has grappled with the impact of the ongoing pandemic, political upheaval and unrest, rising inflation, and many other challenges, the Lord has graciously sustained the ministry you provide so that we can continue coming alongside families during these turbulent times.

Over these past months, God has been at work in these areas:

### **Marriage**

Strong marriages truly form the most fundamental building block of society. Not only that, but husbands and wives who treat one another with honor, love, and respect are a powerful, tangible representation of Christ's love for His Bride, the Church. Your support allows Focus to help married couples preserve and nurture their relationships.

God is using print and digital content, one-time counseling consults via phone, various marriage-building events, and the Hope Restored marriage intensive program to save and restore marriages. Over the past 12 months, we estimate that at least 568,000 couples have built stronger and more satisfying marriages with the help of the Focus resources you provide. Meanwhile, you've helped over 105,000 married couples resolve a major crisis in their relationship.

### **Parenting**

You are also having a significant impact on countless moms, dads, and their kids. Through broadcasts and podcasts, books and other print resources, online content, counseling resources, and more, parents find practical suggestions and biblical advice to help them raise mature, caring, successful kids. In fact,

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our surveys indicate that, over the last year, you've helped strengthen and better equip at least 724,000 parents as they bring up their kids.

I love this testimonial we received detailing the way our ministry has touched three generations in one family:

*I remember my mom listening to Focus on the Family on Christian radio while I was growing up in Olalla, Washington. She had recently become a Christian and as she tells me now, she was figuring out how to raise kids God's way. I saw God's faithfulness over the years as my parents raised us to love and follow Jesus. Now, I listen regularly to the Focus podcast to and from work. My wife and I are applying what we have learned from our parents and Focus to our parenting. We are excited to learn new ways we can help our kids to find and follow Jesus. Thank you for your faithfulness through the generations. —Grant, Washington*

### **Media Discernment**

There's no question that today's entertainment choices present families with the Herculean task of discerning which media offerings will be permitted in their households. Our culture's understanding of right and wrong has been turned upside down in recent decades — and our children are being targeted with a constant barrage of damaging messages expressed in movies, songs, books, shows, and even on video games and social media channels. Monitoring these messages can feel overwhelming for many parents, but that's where *Plugged In* comes in.

You support the efforts of this dedicated team of media reviewers to analyze today's youth culture and its media offerings in an effort to help parents navigate popular entertainment. We hear often from folks who tell us *Plugged In* has been invaluable as they have made decisions about what their families will watch, play, and listen to. Here's just one example of the type of feedback we receive regularly:

*Focus on the Family provides many essential tools to living a life that honors your faith. The one that I probably appreciate the greatest is the Plugged In website. This tool is simply critical to anyone who has set any standard for their television and movie viewing. The reviews are excellent in their own right, but their sensitivity to the needs of a discerning audience make them essential. These times are an absolute battle for the hearts and minds of people. Media is an important, if not the most important, component of that battle. Focus on the Family is an ally of anyone who cares about what they watch. Truthfully, I don't know if I would go see any movie that I was not familiar with if it wasn't for the reliability of Pluggedin.com. —Wardell, Maryland*

### **Raising Highly Capable Kids**

Parenting in a post-modern world is an incredibly daunting task, and many moms and dads are feeling overwhelmed by the challenge of raising children who will courageously go against the flow of the culture and become productive, responsible, moral adults. *Raising Highly Capable Kids* is a curriculum we developed based on the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets that, when instilled in children, give them the best foundation for personal growth and maturity.

*Raising Highly Capable Kids* helps kids resist the negative influences surrounding them by equipping their parents to bring them up in the most effective ways possible. This 13-week, bilingual program is making an incredible impact on families all over the country — and particularly those in underserved communities. One participant said this about *Raising Highly Capable Kids*:

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*The classes helped me learn how to treat others; how to treat my wife and children better. And now I'm another person; a good person. My life has changed completely. It's an excellent program.*

### **Wait No More**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in 2019 there were more than 423,000 kids in the foster system, with over 122,000 awaiting adoption.<sup>1</sup> We take seriously Scripture's mandate to care for vulnerable children, which is why we established *Wait No More* to encourage families to consider how the Lord might be calling them to serve children in the foster care system. The program you make possible partners with churches and local agencies to help thousands of kids who are longing for their "forever families."

### **Broadcast**

Focus on the Family's flagship radio program continues to be one of the most effective and dynamic ways your support reaches families across the globe. Whether listeners tune in online, via the app, or by way of the radio dial, God is enabling us to deliver family-related wisdom and encouragement to millions of people every day.

Following is feedback from two members of the audience:

*As a young professional raising two small children in a new city, Focus on the Family's radio show was my faithful friend at lunch hour, spurring me on to excellence in marriage and parenting when other voices were demanding all for career. The program built my faith and calmed my stress. It helped me know many others were facing the same challenges I did, finding the same Rock to stand on that I did. Our whole family appreciates you guys! –Leah, Oklahoma*

*Focus has been with us for 44 of our 50 years of marriage. To summarize, Focus on the Family has been a source of wisdom and help through military service, joblessness, mental illness, child rearing, homelessness, hoarding, our child's school success, cancer, welcoming a godly son-in-law and two grandchildren, and a future so bright we have to put on our shades! Praise God! –Bill, New Jersey*

### **Adventures in Odyssey**

Kids need uplifting resources, too! That's why we are so grateful God is using you to air our award-winning, faith-based audio dramas for kids for nearly three-and-a-half decades and counting. We hear from *Adventures in Odyssey* fans all the time as they share how God has used Whit, Connie, Eugene, Wooton, and the whole cast to strengthen their faith or that of their children. Here's just one example:

*I just wanted to say that my kids have listened to Adventures in Odyssey for about 12 years, and they love this program very much. It has been very impactful to them spiritually and something they all enjoy together, regardless of their personalities. Thank you so much for being a light in my children's lives and for helping us raise them to love Jesus in a crazy world. –Matt, Pennsylvania*

### **Counseling**

While Focus' vast library of broadcasts, books, and articles is incredibly helpful for families facing any number of issues, we often hear from those who are confronting especially difficult and complex situations that require a more "personal touch" from a trained professional. Your support provides a staff of caring, experienced counselors are tasked exclusively with speaking one-on-one with folks who call in need of specialized help.

*Focus has been an invaluable resource during the parenting journey, helping us to balance love and*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcarsreport27.pdf>

*discipline, to resolve issues in our marriage in a godly way, to deal with teen rebellion, and to obtain godly instruction and encouragement throughout our nearly 40 years of marriage. On a couple of separate occasions I was able to speak with your counselors by phone when we hit rough spots in raising our children and I was greatly blessed by the kindness and wisdom – and prayer! – of the wonderful counselors serving through your ministry. –Donna, California*

### **Option Ultrasound**

*Option Ultrasound* grew out of a desire to help expectant mothers choose life for their babies. Since this program was launched in 2004, we estimate that more than 472,000 little ones have been spared from abortion!

In 2019, “Alive from New York” featured inspiring speakers, powerful music, and a live ultrasound on giant, digital screens in Times Square. More than 20,000 people packed into Times Square for that event with tremendous feedback!

A similar event was held last year in virtual form, and this year a series of six pro-life videos on a weekly basis started in July. Then, on August 28, the live See Life 2021 event in Dallas culminated our See Life 2021 campaign. Once again, the positive stories poured in. The Lord is moving in hearts and changing minds to impress upon people the beauty and sanctity of life in the womb.

As you can see, we are as committed as ever to saving and strengthening families. However, that mission depends on the generosity of friends like you.

**As a non-profit ministry, we simply couldn't accomplish even a fraction of these things if it weren't for God's blessings and your heartfelt prayers and generous contributions. Please consider giving today to help us impact even more lives.**

Your gift today will save marriages, rescue mothers and babies from the pain of abortion, give hope to children and families in foster care, equip parents to face today's challenges and impact culture. Your gift today will be an investment in lives for this year and the next! Use the enclosed response card or go to [FocusOnTheFamily.com/MW21](https://FocusOnTheFamily.com/MW21) if you would like to share a gift.

Please give us a call at 1-800-A-FAMILY (232-6459) if there's some way we can minister to you. God's richest blessings to you and your loved ones – and have a wonderful autumn!



Jim Daly  
President

P.S. Our efforts are made possible through the support of friends like you. Please consider a generous gift to help us close out this year strong and make plans to help defend, nurture, and strengthen families in the coming year.