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Merry Christmas

The Board of Directors and Staff of Family Builders Ministries send our warmest wishes to you and your family as you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.



Jere & Brenda Vincent

In the song of Zechariah, the Scripture says Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: **“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago). . .to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham”** (Luke 1:67-73). Zechariah, in this song correctly saw that what God was doing was not an isolated incident in the history of the world, but wonderfully connected to a process and plan which God had been carrying out from the beginning. It was not something new, but a continuation of what God had always been up to in the world. God’s plan in the beginning was always to create for himself a people with whom he could share his life. We begin to see this most clearly in God’s relationship with Abraham. God comes to Abraham and does something with him that becomes the norm for God establishing a relationship with someone: He establishes a covenant.

The other day, I was speaking with one of board members who attends Gordon Conwell Seminary. When I called, she was studying about all the different covenants in the Bible. A covenant is not just an agreement between two people; it is not like a legal contract. It was a binding agreement where the parties involved committed themselves to each other and the terms of the covenant under pain of death. It created a binding relationship between them. The covenant was based on the character of the persons involved. God’s part of the promise was that he would fulfill the covenant and redeem his people by bringing his Messiah into the world, and this Messiah would bring God’s people back to him and give them new hearts. As he said, **“this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people”** (Jeremiah 31:33).

As we celebrate this season, Christmas is the time to acknowledge the fulfillment of God’s covenant with his people. The birth of his Son brought to pass what Zechariah now understood: God had come to redeem his people, raise up the horn of salvation and fulfill his holy covenant with Abraham. This is important to remember because it means that God is relational. Sometimes we think that since God is God, he does not need anybody. I would suggest to you that because God is God, because he is perfect, he needs people. So, the closer to God and the more like him we become, the more we need other people. It’s the nature of a perfect and holy God to be in relationship — so should it be with us. This is the calling we have at Family Builders, to support and grow these relationships in the

This is the calling we have at Family Builders, to support and grow these relationships in the areas of Marriage, Parenting and Grandparenting. Here are a few areas where we praise God for your support making a difference:

- **“This conference has challenged my wife and I in our roles as grandparents, it has challenged us to talk to our kids to find out what we can do to be more intentional in our relationship with them and our grandkids”** We have been approached to bring our Intentional Grandparenting conference to two other parts of country in 2019.
- *Iron Sharpens Iron* has utilized Family Builders to present *Fatherhood Tune Ups* to churches in New England to help challenge father’s in their relationship with their wives, children, and grandchildren.
- Over the last year, Family Builders hosted several marriage retreats in New England strengthening couples and equipping them with biblical tools to help their marriages
- Family Builders is collaborating with Gordon Seminary to present our *Created For Connection* retreat to enrich seminary students and as an outreach to the local community.
- The launching of *Critical Conversations to Build Lifelong Faith: How to Teach a Biblical View of Sex, Gender, and Marriage* to churches to support a biblical worldview on sex and marriage has had a wonderful response.
- God has brought us to an African church in Portland Maine to minister in family relationships and marriage.
- Our newly developed curriculum on parenting has been positively implemented in several churches.

Brenda and I remain in awe in the opportunities God has given us and the relationships we have seen changed as we share the Lord’s powerful precepts and His perfected word. And never forget, dear friends, that YOUR prayers, encouragement and financial support are indispensable in helping us reach the people of New England and beyond, giving God glory for the work we have been able to accomplish over the last year. We thank God for you daily and praise Him for your generous contributions.

Daniel 9:18: “We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.”

Your financial gift for 2018 before the end of December would be greatly appreciated to help us move into 2019 financially healthy. That’s why our goal for this campaign is to **raise \$9,800 by December 31st**. If we raise that amount, we’ll be able to provide marriage seminars, grandparenting initiatives, parenting, webinar’s and other tools to more people this year than last year. We need your help to make it happen!

Would you be willing to make a special year-end donation of \$50, \$100, or consider becoming a monthly supporter and help restore relationships in the areas of marriage, parenting and grandparenting?

Blessings!

Rev. Jere & Brenda Vincent



President Family Builders
Ministries

*A return response envelope is enclosed for your convenience or you can give online at our website:
www.familybuilders.net/donate*