

FAMILY MATTERS

More than you know

WHY THE FAMILY?

1. Family was God's idea

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

GENESIS 2:24 ESV

2. Family is God's plan

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

JEREMIAH 29:11 ESV

3. Family displays God's heart

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

EPHESIANS 5:25 ESV

“Governments are organized, walls are built, and battles are fought for the sake of families. It is the core of civilization and a primary influence on the human condition. The heart of the family affects the direction of every child and the future of every nation.”

...The remnant there in the province who have survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.

NEHEMIAH 1:3 ESV

| THEN | TODAY |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Jerusalem's Gates | Marriages |
| Jerusalem's Walls Families | Families |

...¹⁷ Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision... ¹⁸ And they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

NEHEMIAH 2:17-18 ESV

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50% | Of Guatemalan children grow up without their biological father — one of the highest rates in Latin America |
| 40%+ | Of births in Guatemala occur outside of marriage |
| 70% | Of Guatemalan teens cite family conflict or instability as their primary stress |
| 3 in 10 | Guatemalan women experience domestic violence — broken gates in the marriage covenant |
| 2X | Children from intact, faith-practicing families are twice as likely to stay connected to faith (IBERO, 2022) |

What has broken the walls?

- **Economic pressure and poverty** — men leaving for work cause it families to be separated for years at a time.
- **Digital technology and social media** — bringing outside influences into homes faster than families can process it.
- **Ancient enemies that are still at work today:** Infidelity, unforgiveness, jealousy, addiction.

We all play a part

Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a rebuilders of walls and restorer of homes.

ISAIAH 58:12 NLT

“If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.”

— Mother Teresa

“When you care for your family, you change the world.”

— Jim Burns

Ph.D. / Founder of HomeWord

“When we reach the family, we reach the world.”

— Bill Bright

Founder of Cru / Campus Crusade

Closing prayer

“Lord, we declare that the gates of our marriages and the walls of our families will be rebuilt. We are not here by accident. Our families are not accidents. We rise up and build — in Your name, for Your glory, for the generations that will come after us.”