

INFOCUS

Families in Canada
are being helped,
healed and given hope
— because of you!

Passing faith on to the next generation

How one woman continues to unabashedly share her faith and change lives for Christ

Every morning for the last few years, Elizabeth Walmsley has sat down at her kitchen table, turned on her local Christian radio station and tuned in to the *Focus on the Family* broadcast. Since then, she's also ordered Focus resources and subscribed to *Focus on the Family* magazine, which she

shares with a family in her church.

Elizabeth is 98 years old this year and continues to reach out into her community, adopting families as her own and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Continued on page 3



"I WAS BROUGHT UP ON THE WORD AND MY PARENTS LIVED FOR THE LORD AND I GREW TO LOVE THE LORD. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED HIM."

FOCUS IN ACTION

**Nearly 4,000 attended our
Date Night Comedy Tour**

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money for adoptive
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GLOBAL FOCUS

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**How the little things you
do can change a person's
life**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Because of you

People across the country are shining God's light in their communities



TERENCE ROLSTON
PRESIDENT

As we balance hectic schedules with raising our children and working on our marriages, it can be easy to let our worlds become small. But the truth is, God wants our communities to extend beyond our immediate families, into our local churches, our schools, workplaces and even grocery stores. There is no limit to where we can shine God's truth, light and love.

That's what I love about Elizabeth Walmsley's story.

Despite being nearly a century old, she shows no signs of slowing down when it comes to witnessing for Christ. She actively seeks out opportunities with people

she meets and when asked to invest prayerfully in a family in her church, she didn't check her schedule first, she didn't weigh the pros and cons of taking on the spiritual responsibility of these four children, she said yes!

What would happen if more of us said yes when God gave us opportunities to share His love and truth? What would happen if we were more like Elizabeth, caring for those around us, unabashedly sharing how God transformed our own lives, and simply offering prayer to those in need?

Passing on our faith is not limited to our children and grandchildren. The call to pass on our faith extends

beyond family borders, much like Jesus demonstrated when He walked this earth.

Please join us in stepping outside of our circles, simply offering what we have – a Focus magazine, an online article or even a prayer – and pray that God's love would be shown in our own lives as much as it is in Elizabeth's.

Thanks for your prayer and support!

Terence

How has Focus helped you share God's love with those around you? I'd love to hear your story! Share it with me at president@fotf.ca today!

A FAMILY IN FOCUS

Passing faith on to the next generation

Continued from page 1

As a child, Elizabeth Walmsley was brought up on God's Word by two loving, godly parents. As a result, she quickly grew to love the Lord herself. It's a love that's spanned nearly a century and continues to grow despite the illness, loss and grief that she and her family have endured.

Now, as a 98-year-old, her friends, family, church and community know her as a strong, humble woman of God. This has enabled her to share with one particular family her heart for God and resources she receives, like the *Focus on the Family* magazine.

"They know that I'm a prayer warrior for different things in the church and this mother came to me and she said, 'Betty, we've just lost our grandmother and she used to pray for my children all the time. Now they have no grandmother. Would you be their grandmother and would you

pray for them every day?' And so I said, 'Sure I will!'"

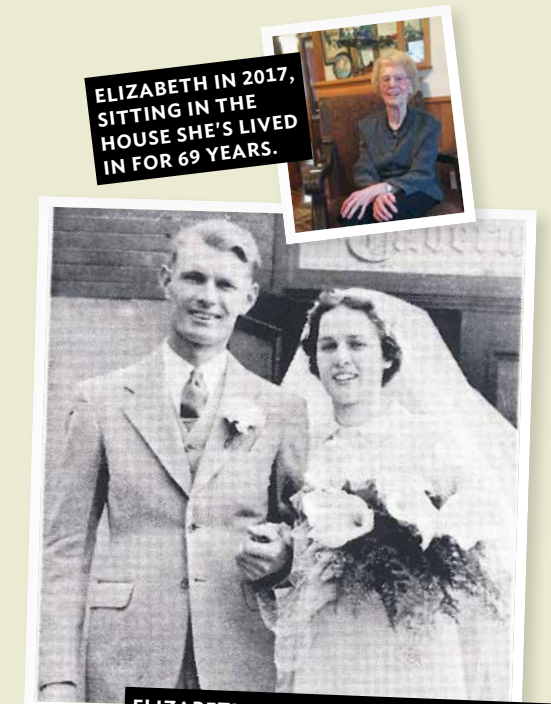
It's been two years since she was first asked to be this family's unofficial grandmother, and for two years, she has faithfully prayed every night for those four beautiful children.

Elizabeth came across the *Focus on the Family* radio broadcast when she was 95 years old. After she started listening on a daily basis, she subscribed to the *Focus on the Family* magazine and now makes sure she passes it on to this family as often as possible.

"I give them the magazine," she explains. "I've got one right now out here to take to church to give to them!"

Because of your support, Elizabeth is able to tune in to the broadcast every morning, has access to books such as *Fierce Women* and *Men Who Love Fierce Women*, and passes on resources such as our *Focus on*

ELIZABETH IN 2017, SITTING IN THE HOUSE SHE'S LIVED IN FOR 69 YEARS.



ELIZABETH AND HER HUSBAND, RUSS, ON THEIR WEDDING DAY ON APRIL 20, 1940.

the Family magazine. With no signs of slowing down, Elizabeth is an inspiration for us all to use whatever we have to share the gospel truth with those around us!

In her own humble words: "I just do what I can."

NEWS

The inside scoop

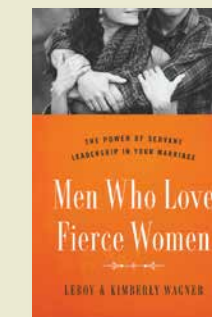
- **Brio is back and the first issue is out this month!** Perfect for girls ages 12 to 17, this magazine will help teens navigate areas of faith, friends and family. Visit Briomagazine.ca for more!
- **Adventures in Odyssey turns 30!** We're so excited to celebrate this big birthday and we'd love to hear from you! Email letters@fotf.ca and tell us how Whit and the gang have impacted your family!
- **Join Focus on a cruise!** To celebrate 40 years of helping families thrive, Focus U.S. is inviting you to join them in the Bahamas from November 13-17 aboard the Disney Dream. Over half of the rooms have been sold! Book yours at Focuscruise.com today.

FINDING HELP

Read the books Elizabeth loves to share with friends!



FIERCE WOMEN
KIMBERLY WAGNER
PAPERBACK · C02551B



MEN WHO LOVE FIERCE WOMEN
LEROY AND
KIMBERLY WAGNER
PAPERBACK · C03076B

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

“I am responding to the recent mailing I received about whether I wanted to continue to receive the Focus on the Family magazine and the answer is most definitely YES!! Although I was never able to have children, I used it as a resource for me to offer to others with children or just know some tips of how to best encourage young families as well as my own marriage . . . God blessed us very unexpectedly with a huge surprise of me being pregnant at year 17 in our marriage. I love reading ways others have done parenting and incorporating Christ into their teachable young lives.”

REBECCA C., INNERKIP, ON

You're equipping people with resources to share their faith

43,188

free Focus on the Family magazines were given to families and churches across the country last month

7,979

boys and girls ages 3 to 12 received Clubhouse and Clubhouse Jr. magazines from parents, grandparents, friends and family each month

2,884

teen girls are set to receive the first issue of Brio magazine from their parents, grandparents, friends and family this month

Hundreds of thousands

of Canadians are reached every month by our social media accounts and access our websites to find articles and resources they can pass on to their friends and family

THE MOST SHARED RESOURCES

- FOCUS ON THE FAMILY BROADCAST
- FOCUS ON THE FAMILY MAGAZINE
- CLUBHOUSE AND CLUBHOUSE JR. MAGAZINES
- BRIO MAGAZINE
- KIDS OF INTEGRITY LESSONS
- ONLINE ARTICLES THROUGH FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND MORE

FROM OUR BOOKSTORE

Recommended resources for sharing your faith

KINGDOM FAMILY DEVOTIONAL · TONY AND JONATHAN EVANS · HARDCOVER · F01617B
CHAMPIONSHIP GRANDFATHERING · CAREY CASEY · PAPERBACK · F01627B
RAISING KINGDOM KIDS · TONY EVANS · PAPERBACK · F01596B
GRACE BEHIND BARS · BO AND GARI MITCHELL · PAPERBACK · F01623B
THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW #14 · RAY VANDER LAAN · DVD · F01592V

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

You're helping thousands impact their communities for Christ

Through magazines, broadcasts and more, families are changing lives

Because of you

You make it possible for people across the country to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with their friends, family, neighbours and communities.

Because of your support, **43,188** free *Focus on the Family* magazines were sent out to families and churches across the country last month. What's great about this high-quality publication is the ease with which people like Elizabeth are able to share a helpful article or fun family activity with someone they know.

Not only do people love our *Focus on the Family* magazine, but **7,979** children received their *Clubhouse* or *Clubhouse Jr.* magazines last month! Packed with creative stories, puzzles and crafts, parents and grandparents are teaching children how much God loves them – every month of the year.

We're thrilled that *Brio* magazine is back – and we're even more excited about the response. So far, **2,884** teen girls are set to receive the first issue of *Brio* magazine thanks to their parents, grandparents, friends and family members! With the first issue coming out this month, teen girls across the country will be encouraged to grow in their faith as they develop healthy relationships and embrace Christ-honouring habits.

Plus, our websites and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest reach **hundreds of thousands** of people looking for hope and encouragement every month! And thousands have shared, retweeted and passed along online articles, helpful resources, relevant broadcasts and more to their friends and family. **Your financial support makes this all possible!**

How donations are used

Every day, your donations are hard at work, equipping people across the country with the tools they need to share God's love, hope and saving grace with those around them.

Thanks to you, we're able to offer the *Focus on the Family* magazine for free, so anyone can sign up and get Biblical encouragement and inspiration on a regular basis.

Not only that, but our *Focus on the Family* broadcast airs on over 170 stations across the country, and is also available online and through our radio app. Whether someone hears a broadcast that speaks to them right where they're at, or they pass it on to someone they know is struggling with a similar issue, we're so thankful your support enables us to offer the broadcasts for free.

Plus, you ensure thousands of articles about marriage, parenting, faith and life challenges – as well as our *Kids of Integrity* lessons – are freely available to anyone who needs it through our websites.

How you can help

As always, your prayers are what we need most!

Pray that God would continue to use our resources to speak His truth and light into people's lives. Pray that people across the country would be courageous in passing on a magazine, sharing a book or even simply asking, “Did you hear today's broadcast?” in order to open doors and start conversations where God is at the centre.

Pray that more people like Elizabeth can continue to step outside of their family and generational circles and reach those in their community.

Finally, we also need your ongoing financial support in order to continue equipping people with the tools and resources they need to share God's love with those around them. Whether it's the *Focus on the Family* magazine, an online article or the *Focus on the Family* daily broadcast, **your support is what makes this possible. Thank you!**

FOCUS IN ACTION

Nearly 4,000 people in 5 nights!

Because of you, the Date Night Comedy Tour brought fun and laughter to couples across the country

During the week leading up to Valentine's Day, nearly 4,000 people attended our Date Night Comedy Tour in select cities in Ontario and Alberta!

Thanks to comedians Matt Falk and James Mac Neil, this fun date night had couples doubled-over laughing for most of the evening. After each comedian shared their side-splitting comedy, Matt invited five men and five women on stage to participate

in a game of Family Feud. And each night, Matt wrapped things up with a reminder of finding our identity in Christ. All in all, couples walked away encouraged and with a smile on their faces.

One night in Oshawa, 350 people even braved a blizzard to enjoy this date night out!

At the events, couples shared with us how Focus has made a difference in their lives. One couple let us know

the broadcast saved their marriage. Another woman told us Dr. Tony Evans helped her through her divorce. And others let us know how much they loved the *Focus on the Family* daily broadcast app, *Adventures in Odyssey*, *Brio* and more! Your support makes this all possible!

Because of you, we're able to provide resources and events like this to people from coast to coast!

COMEDIAN MATT FALK HOSTS A ROUND OF FAMILY FEUD



COMEDIAN JAMES MAC NEIL ENTERTAINS THE CROWD



CANADIANS MATT FALK AND JAMES MAC NEIL SHARE A CANADIAN COFFEE



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

You can leave a legacy!

Most of us understand that it is important to update our will, but getting to it usually just sits somewhere on our to-do list.

We procrastinate because we think that it will be difficult, time-consuming, confusing and expensive. Delaying keeps us from making important decisions that will make a big difference to our families and our legacy.

We have partnered with **ADVISORS with Purpose** to help you finally get to that item on your list! Their trained estate specialists will meet with you by phone, listen to your wishes and hopes for future generations, and provide you with

information and a plan to help you make the decisions best suited for you and your family.

Because of our partnership with them, **this service is free and confidential** and there is no obligation to you – they will never sell you any product. Contact them today to speak to an estate specialist.

*For more information about estate planning, please fill out the enclosed survey, call **ADVISORS with Purpose** at 1.866.336.3315 or email them at plan@advisorswithpurpose.ca.*

BECAUSE OF YOU

Local school raises money for adoptive families

When our office received a phone call from a teacher at Credo Elementary in Langley, BC, we had no idea they were about to impact us the way they did.

"Our school does an annual fundraiser," she told us, "and we would like to suggest that this year we raise funds for your Waiting to Belong program. We've noticed that we have quite a few foster and adoptive families in our school and we'd like to highlight that in our fundraiser."

One of the ways our Waiting to Belong initiative helps foster and adoptive families is sending free resources to families to support them on their post-adoption journeys. This was exactly where the children at Credo Elementary wanted to help.



CREDO ELEMENTARY TEACHERS BRING IN THEIR SCHOOL'S DONATION

Over several weeks, children did extra chores, brought in their allowances and talked to their families, raising over \$1,300!

Not only were we able to build our library of resources to give to adoptive families in need, but we were also able to bless one Saskatchewan family with a selection of resources at our Together for Adoption Canada conference.

We were so thrilled to see these children – a number of whom were adopted themselves – giving back to families. Thank you, Credo Elementary School, for your generosity and vision to serve others!

Visit Waitingtobelong.ca to learn more and read real-life stories from foster and adoptive families.

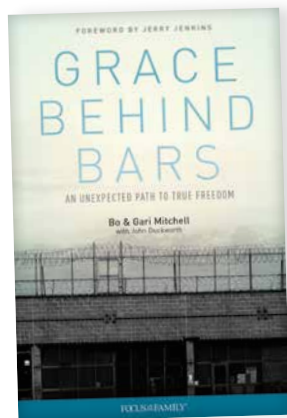


With each issue, teen girls will be encouraged to grow their own vibrant faith, develop healthy relationships and embrace Christ-honouring habits. The first issue is out this month!

To order, visit Briomagazine.ca

RESOURCE CENTRE

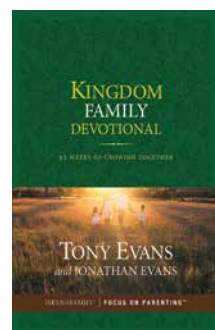
Reaching into your community with faith-filled resources



Grace Behind Bars

\$17.99* \$22.99 · PAPERBACK · F01623B

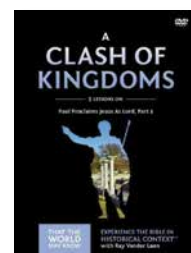
When Bo Mitchell, businessman and chaplain for the Denver Nuggets, inexplicably ended up in prison, his wife, Gari, began her own life “behind bars” with illness-induced depression. Their stories will inspire you and those around you to look for God’s path to freedom in your life.



Kingdom Family Devotional

\$19.99* \$27.99
HARDCOVER · F01617B

Dr. Tony Evans and his son Jonathan will help lay a firm foundation for lifelong spiritual growth. With 52 weeks of five readings each, this family devotional covers many essential Biblical concepts, from basics of the faith to Christlike living.



That The World May Know #15: A Clash of Kingdoms

\$34.99* \$49.99
DVD · F01641V

Ray Vander Laan will take you and your friends to Greece to see how Paul presented the gospel to worshippers of Roman false gods, and what that means for you today. Coming in June!

YOU RECOMMEND

Abandoned Faith



Reviewed by David K., Abbotsford, B.C.

This book has become my number one reference for Millennials. Why? It is amazingly balanced. It is well researched. It provides hope. It is extremely practical.

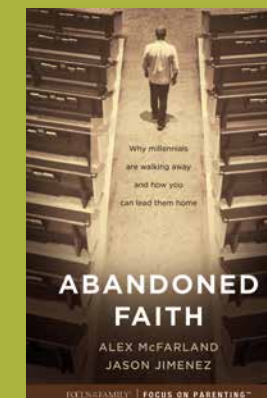
Millennials who have a great desire to be significant and yearn to make a difference will focus on those activities that help them to achieve these goals. This book brilliantly shows the reason why Millennials are leaving the church is because the church is a symbol of the past and, in consequence, has little significance for them.

The section on hope is very timely. Parents need to be involved. Relationships need to be strengthened. Millennials need to know they belong,

they are loved and they have someone to speak to with their struggles. I am a Baby Boomer who lived through a time of immense material growth, but the Millennials are now living in a vastly different world where wages are low, education cost is high and economic growth is low. Life is tough. They need encouragement. They want to know truth. The authors, with great care and sensitivity, shows how we can connect with the Millennials.

Abandoned Faith challenges us to relook at our faith, to commit ourselves to be part of the solution rather than the problem.

I highly recommend this book. You will be moved to action!



Abandoned Faith

PAPERBACK · F01624B

\$16.99* \$20.99

Fierce Women



Reviewed by Elizabeth W., London, ON

Leroy was a pastor, a minister of the gospel, and his wife, Kimberly, worked in the church too. But they didn’t get along well. She was quite a fast-moving lady, very strong in her thinking. She was so good at everything and it infuriated him because he felt she was putting him down all the time. And they went on like that for quite a few years and he got so discouraged and down that he left the ministry! They had a little cabin up north and she decided to go up there. She told God, ‘God I’m going up there, You show me. I think I’m going to divorce him. I

can’t go on like this.’ Up she went and she stayed there one or two weeks. And God showed her she hadn’t humbled herself before her husband. She cried and wrote notes about everything that was going through her head while she was there. And she said, ‘But God, I’ll have to go back and tell him I’m sorry, ask him to forgive me, and I can’t do that.’ And God told her to put her pride in her pocket. And she went back and she wept before him and begged him to forgive her.

I gave this book to my neighbour and to my daughter-in-law. I loved this one.



Fierce Women

PAPERBACK · C02551B

\$16.99* \$19.99

ONLINE: SHOP.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA
BY PHONE: 1.800.661.9800
MON. – FRI. 7 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. (PT) EXCEPT TUES. 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

HAS A FOCUS RESOURCE CHANGED YOUR LIFE? IF SO, EMAIL US AT LETTERS@FOTF.CA!
GET YOUR OWN COPY OF THESE READER-APPROVED RESOURCES AT SHOP.FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA TODAY!

Order your copy today!

* Prices subject to change.



GLOBAL FOCUS

Focus on the Family Australia develops suicide-prevention program

In 2011, 2,273 people in Australia died from suicide. In one community alone, 42 people took their own lives in a span of two years. Though there were already several suicide intervention courses in place, the leaders of this community wanted to know if they could be doing more to help the hurting and prevent more deaths.

That's when Focus on the Family Australia was approached.

They believe that the prevalence of suicide – even with preventative programs from the government and health sectors – may be partly due to the

hopelessness and malaise that exists in our secularized modern society. So they wanted to create something that could help communities deal with the local issues surrounding suicide, including these spiritual and philosophical dimensions.

The result was *Born Survivors*, a training program that not only offers evidence-based intervention and response strategies like other existing programs, but also explores the key elements of resilience and well-being.

“Many people who are going through a crisis don't go to seek professional help,

but they may mention it to a peer,” Focus on the Family Australia CEO Brett Ryan explains. “That is why this content is so important to get to a wider audience, not just professionals, leaders, teachers or pastors.”

While *Born Survivors* is designed for communities to share vital information with teens and adults, part of its strength lies in the opportunity to share stories, build networks and forge relationships.

“I am currently exploring how to create a digital version so it can get to an even wider audience,” Brett adds.

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When you support Focus on the Family Canada, you join millions of other people around the world who help families thrive in their own communities through their local Focus organization.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Together for Adoption Canada in Calgary!

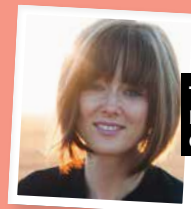
On May 12-13, families, churches and communities are gathering together at Centre Street Church in Calgary, AB, for this year's Together for Adoption Canada conference.

This national event builds a community of foster and adoptive families in Canada, encouraging and equipping those families who follow the sacred calling to care for vulnerable children.

Every year, the conference aims to inspire, educate and celebrate families, churches and agencies in order to serve the needs of waiting children and those who care for them.

If you missed our event this year, but you or someone you know is interested in adoption, we encourage you to check out Waitingtobelong.ca for more resources to help adoptive families thrive.

While you're there, you can also join our mailing list to stay connected through our *Waiting to Belong* e-newsletter. Stay up to date on the latest articles, real-life stories and event updates.



THIS YEAR, WE'RE EXCITED TO FEATURE ANN VOSKAMP AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER!

LIFE IN FOCUS

How the little things we do change lives

by Wendy Kittlitz

In the spring of 1975, a high school classmate of mine boldly shared with me what he was reading in his Bible early one morning before class. Another classmate was willing to tell me her faith journey when I asked her. A pastor's wife asked me a number of weeks later whether I had ever invited Jesus into my life. Each of these people and their seemingly simple actions set me on a path to life in Christ that has endured for over 40 years now.

This issue of *inFocus* tells the story of a 98-year-old Elizabeth Walmsley who prays daily and shares our magazine with a family in her church. “I just do what I can,” she humbly says. I suspect, though, that the impact she has on that family is much greater than she realizes.

I am so thankful for the people in my pre-Christian walk who “just did what they could.” None of these people were spiritual giants. What they all have in common is faithfulness to reach out to impact others in the name of Jesus. Jesus said that whatever we do for the least of these, we do for Him, even just giving a cup of water. Whether we are 98 years old, a high schooler or even your preschooler who just asked Jesus into her heart, we all have a role to play in spreading the Good News and passing on the love of God.

I fear that we are sometimes deceived into thinking one of two lies: first, that the seemingly little things we do don't make much of a difference, or second, that if I can't do something that seems big and significant for God, I might as well not bother trying.

Little things matter. Encourage your children to show love to their friends (and the “not-yet-friends” at school who need a friendly face) in tangible ways. Challenge your teenager to share their faith at school – somebody might just be waiting to be told, like I was. Reach out to a neighbour or co-worker with a word of kindness, a helping hand, a fresh loaf of bread or a cup of coffee offered in the name of Jesus. Pray for people and tell them you did so – they will be blessed. Share a book that touched you or a verse that inspired you. Ask God to show you regularly some way you can serve someone even in apparently simple ways. If you know somebody with significant needs, ask a few others to join you in preparing meals, offering child care or keeping them company.

Each of us can only do “what we can do.” But if we all do what we can do, in the love of God, His love touches people and genuinely makes a difference.



WENDY KITTLITZ
 VICE-PRESIDENT, COUNSELLING AND CARE MINISTRIES

SPREAD THE WORD

How has *Adventures in Odyssey* impacted you?

This year, *Adventures in Odyssey* will be celebrating their 30th birthday! And we want to hear from you!

Help us celebrate by sharing how the gang in *Odyssey* have made a difference in your life or your children's lives. Your story could be featured in the July issue of *inFocus!*

Email us at letters@fotf.ca and share your story!

Focus on your social media

Join our more than 29,000 Facebook followers and more than 7,400 Twitter followers who get inspiring quotes, practical parenting and marriage tips, and timely ministry updates every day.

[TWITTER.COM/FOTFCANADA](https://twitter.com/FOTFCANADA)

[FACEBOOK.COM/FOTFCANADA](https://facebook.com/FOTFCANADA)

ON THE RADIO

On the airways in May

Don't miss our weekday *Focus on the Family* radio broadcast hosted by Jim Daly and John Fuller.

Here are just some of the topics you'll hear discussed this month.*

MAY 18-19

"Encouraging Dads to Be Heroes"
with guest Dr. Meg Meeker

MAY 22-23

"Understanding Your Teen's Behaviour"
with guests Jeramy and Jerusha Clark

MAY 24

"Learning to Relish Life With Your Spouse"
with guest Alexandra Kuykendall

Visit Focusonthefamily.ca/radio to find the broadcast schedule for your area or to listen online.

* *Dates and topics subject to change*

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19946 80A AVENUE
LANGLEY, BC V2Y 0J8

1 800 661 9800
FOCUSONTHEFAMILY.CA
LETTERS@FOTF.CA