



# The Life of Riley

Bryan, Tara, Tanner,  
Keaton and Regan

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## FJ Ministries

### Stones of Remembrance Lay Foundation For The Future

When the Israelites first crossed the Jordan River, God told them to lay stones of remembrance that would be a foundation for the future of their Nation. Recently a friend of ours told us we should do the same. As we did God spoke to us about the future of FJ Ministries.



Two years ago my wife and I created a ministry, FJ Ministries, to enable our move to full-time mission work. We left our jobs as a corporate attorney and occupational

therapist and took the plunge, taking a Crossroads Discipleship Training School with YWAM at The King's Lodge, a YWAM base in England.

As we began our journey we prayed and asked God what FJ Ministries would do. He had already given us the name, which is the story below, and we knew He had a specific purpose in mind for us. His Word tells us that in *Ephesians 2:10*, and we were prepared to follow His direction and His path after spending too many years chasing our own dreams and seeing our best efforts crumble. We had seen how following our own way was destroying our marriage, impacting our children negatively, and leading us down paths we never dreamed we

would follow.

In spite of our weaknesses, God, in His amazing grace, told us that we were to be a family who would reach other families, training those families to be a family to reach other families, and that we would do all of this through participation in international missions. He told us to teach people about the greatest commandment - loving God passionately and loving others compassionately - and to bring justice to those who faced injustice. In sum, we would have a family ministry and we would work as international missionaries.

With those thoughts in mind we began a two-year journey across four continents with  
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*"Sometimes it takes getting out of your culture to see how culture has captivated you."*

*-Beth Moore*

*"The car trip [and especially the international mission trip] can draw the family together, as it was in the days before television when parents and children actually talked to each other."*

*-Andrew H. Malcolm*

### What Does FJ Stand For?

FJ were the two letters God gave us individually on July 26, 2006, in Kona, Hawaii, as we prayed over what our ministry should be.

For Bryan, FJ was "Finding Jubilee." Jubilee was our

first "child." We were both in school, without any income, and we saved to buy a poodle. Her name was Jubilee and we paid \$400 for her. Ten days after we received her, she died from a head injury in an accident.

Jubilee also is the year God told the Jewish people to rest for a second year of Sabbath, letting the land lay fallow, the slaves be set free, and all debts be forgiven.

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## FJ Ministries Jumps On The Fireproof Bandwagon

Just this week I was listening to Family Life Today and the guest speaker was one of the creators of the new movie "Fireproof." He explained that his team had spent six months after Facing the Giants seeking God's will for their next production. God spoke clearly to them to focus on marriage. I see God's desire for us to focus on marriage cutting across all aspects of our society and all around the world. When we were in Africa this summer we saw the impact of a nation being practically fatherless.

It is no accident that the bible begins with a marriage (Genesis 2:4-25) and ends with a marriage (Revelation 19 to the end). God consistently demonstrates His heart for relationship and showed us through His life on earth that love is the greatest of all things.

We believe participation in God's Plan, the Great Commission and His promise to bless so that we can bless the Nations, will strengthen marriages and families - what FJ Ministries is about.



*"...[A]nd in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

*- Genesis 12:3*

**Let's fireproof our relationships together by serving the poor and needy around the world!**

## What Does FJ Stand For - Tara's Story (Continued from Page 1)

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For Tara, FJ was "for Jim." Jim was a teenage friend of Tara's who had a heart for God and missions. He had gone to Haiti as a young teenager and wanted to see that ministry furthered. Unfortunately, for reasons only God truly knows, Jim decided to end his life. In the wake of the grief over that loss, Tara told God that she wanted to do whatever it was God had planned for Jim to do. As we prayed together about what our ministry was to be, God reminded her of that promise.

We hope that through our ministry we can teach others about entering God's rest and Jubilee--that God would increase all of our faith and bring us to unity and to the fullness of our gifts so that the world may know that Jesus is their salvation.

Jesus taught that "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." John 12:24-26. We now know that the deaths God reminded us of as we

***"In the wake of the grief over that loss, Tara told God that she wanted to do whatever it was God had planned for Jim to do."***

prayed about this ministry, and our own willingness to give up our own lives, will produce many seeds in the lives of innumerable people, thus bringing God glory and showing that Jesus is the reason for our hope to all the world.



**The McCarty Family go to the Philippines in 2007**

Since 2006 we've realized that "FJ" also stands for such things as Families in Jesus, Family Journey, Family Journal, Faith and Joy, Following Jesus, Finding Joy, Fellowship in Jesus, Friend of Jesus, Faithfulness and Joy, and so much more.

**What will FJ mean to you?**



**The shacks of a township in South Africa**



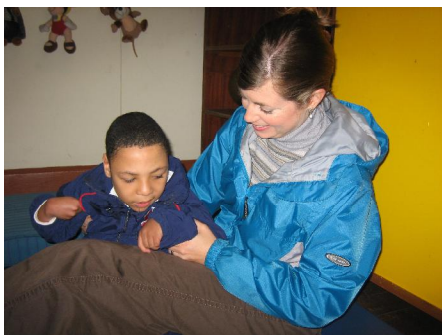
## Stones of Remembrance Lay Foundation For Future - continued

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our three children in tow: Tanner (9), Keaton (7) and Regan (4). When we started the journey they were 7, 5, and 2!

God took us on a whirlwind of travel, living out of suitcases for 2 years, sleeping as a family in some 30 locations, flying on 40 different airplanes over 60,000 miles, and sharing the gospel as missionaries in England, the Philippines, and South Africa. We really didn't know at the time why we were doing all of it, but we knew that each step was the step God has asked us to take. So, we took each step, one at a time, by faith. The steps were one month here, three months there, five months there and so on. It was wonderful, hard, crazy, chaotic, and lovely all at the same time. We saw amazing growth in our family, our children, and in our marriage. We saw 100s of people begin to follow Jesus in faith. And we saw our family inspire other families along the way to take steps of faith. We have been so blessed by God simply by putting one foot in front of the other by faith in God's vision for us.

And, now, we realize where it has all been leading. We now understand how FJ Ministries will do both international



Tara is working with Sergio, a blind, disabled child at the Sean Kelley Treatment Center in Worcester, South Africa

missions and family ministry.

FJ Ministries will organize short-term mission trips for families. These won't be your typical mission trips. These "Family Journey" outreaches will be all that a mission trip normally is—**PLUS**. They will be like a Survivor Trip for the Family, but Survivor with God's purpose at heart. Survivor where what will outlast and survive will be your family.



So what will these mission trips look like? They will be days filled with discipleship for your family, designed to impart God's heart for relationship, His Father heart, His heart for family, marriage, and parenting, the effects of generational sin, blessing, and curses and the like. This will not only provide focused discipleship training to you while you are on outreach, preparing you for the ministry you will be doing, but it will also be a part of strengthening your family for the long haul. And, they will be days filled with ministry opportunities specifically designed with you in mind. When you go places where people have very little, whatever your unique passions and gifts are will be needed and can be utilized. You will find yourself doing things you love because there's every type of need. Seriously, whatever you love doing can be a ministry in a third-world country.

We've found ourselves simply talking and praying with people, taking care of disabled children, distributing bibles in



The entire Riley family taking Jesus to Smokey Mountain in the Philippines

native languages, treating people with first aid, performing dramas and dances, teaching, testing eye-sight, cleaning up neighbor-

*"You will find yourself doing things you love because there's every type of need. Seriously, whatever you love doing can be a ministry in a third-world country."*

hoods, doing construction, meeting with mayors, advising churches and ministries, and so much more. Your kids will see a culture and poverty like they've never seen, and all of your family will be transformed by obeying God's call to missions.

For me they've helped me see Jesus in the least of these, giving me a deeper love for others and a greater desire to show people the Way to relationship with the Father.

Because these mission trips are designed specifically for you and your entire family, they will empower every member of the family, including young children, unlike what is usually done in short-term missions.

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## The Life of Riley

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**F.A.I.T.H.** - "Families reaching families as Avenues to the Nations, Igniting passion for God and compassion for people, Teaching and training with Hearts and hands

### FJ Ministries Board of Directors

- Scott & Dianna Alaniz
- James & Krissie Dunn
- RJ & Kimberly Hoelzeman
- Bryan & Tara Riley
- Mike & Charla Roberts

## How You Can Participate

The first of these exciting outreaches will take place in the Summer of 2009. In the meantime we are starting from the very beginning, deciding on a location, recruiting leaders and participants, and praying, praying, praying. We know you will need to know location, cost, and dates very soon.

We would love to hear from anyone who has an interest in participating, whether as a host, a helper, a leader, a teacher, a participant, or a sender by donating to the outreach. We believe this will be the first of many such outreaches as families are forevermore transformed by the power of participating in going to the Nations. Please pray for us and let us know if you are interested in being a part! And spread the word! We will let you know very soon all the details about Summer 2009.

Your generous financial contributions will support this ministry by making it possible for the Riley Family to put our full effort to developing this family mission ministry, will enable FJ Ministries to provide scholarships to families who can't afford to go, and will impact people and strengthen families all around the world. **This is a time of growth for the ministry and we need your support now more than ever.**

All financial contributions to FJ Ministries are tax-deductible. Please send contributions in the enclosed envelope.



## Stones of Remembrance Lay Foundation For Future - continued



**Bryan feeding Ian, a 20 year old child of God, his lunch**

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It might be the first time your child has ever heard your personal stories about how God has changed your life. Regardless, the ministry will involve your family working together to meet the needs of hurting people through giving and through acts of love.

Some days parents and children can go separate ways. An outreach leader will

organize your children to perform drama and dance to go into a local school and teach other kids about Jesus. Or perhaps the kids would all spend a day preparing and distributing food for street kids. Meanwhile, you could go to a remote village to share God's love.

From start to finish every aspect of the outreach will be designed to strengthen the family. As we have discovered, following God's call to the Nations brings families together like nothing else. To illustrate this with an analogy, how often do you hear someone share that a family camping trip is a favorite childhood memory? This memory likely stands out more than the trip to Disney

or the beach. It may have been a difficult time, with rain and bad food, but it is the memory that lasts and gets talked about at every family gathering. Now, take that camping trip cross-culturally and do it for the Kingdom of God and imagine what will be written in your "*Family Journal*" of memories.

*(below: atop Table Mountain, Cape Town, SA)*

