



“Truly you are a God who has been hiding himself, the God and Saviour of Israel.”

(Isaiah 45:15)

God is there. But he is hidden. His presence is known but he cannot be discerned. God can be perceived in different ways. He appears to Moses in a burning bush (Exodus 3). First, he sees an angel then the burning bush, which was not actually being consumed by a natural fire, from which God speaks to him. No one can actually see God. The splendour of God cannot sit side by side with human impurity (Isaiah 6). Our sinfulness and finite nature separate us from him. Isaiah, who was allowed to see the hem of his garment, was seized with fear. No unclean person can bear the holiness of his sanctuary. Having been cleansed of his sin by an angel, he can respond to God's question. “Here am I. Send me!” Sometimes God dwells in a cloud, indicating both his presence and his concealment. He is nearby, but no one sees him.

At the dedication of the temple, Solomon tells the people that God would dwell in the darkness (2 Chronicles 6:1). The deities of many tribes are portrayed as majestic and resplendent whereas the God of Israel prefers to be invisible. The space he inhabits in the temple is dark. The Holy of Holies in the temple contains the Ark of the Covenant with the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are written. Two cherubim also attest to the sanctity and inaccessibility of the place. We know the character of God but not his form. We know that he is there just as he promised. He reveals himself from time to time so that his people may know his will.

On special occasions and in an atmosphere of exceptionally powerful praise, the place may be filled with a cloud, expressing the immediate presence of God.

The glory of God is made manifest. No one can escape it (1 Kings 8:10-12; 2 Chronicles 5:13-14).

On their release, the apostles and the church in Jerusalem prayed and praised God, whereupon the place shook and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31). There was also a violent earthquake in Philippi when Paul and Silas sang praises to God after they had



been severely flogged (Acts 16:23ff.). The prison doors opened, and their chains came loose. God had intervened in a miraculous way and ended their captivity. The jailer confessed his belief in Jesus and was baptised.

Isaiah had already prophesied about 700 years previously that “Israel will be saved (redeemed) by the Lord with an everlasting salvation” (Isaiah 45:17). “I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no saviour” (Isaiah 43:11). Liberation from the yoke of the enemy and from the slavery to sin can only come from God. He emphasises time and again that he is the father of Israel and therefore its provider and helper. Whenever his people cried out to him and repented of their transgressions, he turned to them and helped them. Those who loved God and

were faithful to him could trust that the necessary help would always come at the right time. Even in the desert, God had provided food (manna and quail).

The God of Israel is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus we encounter the almighty and merciful God who means well for us. “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father,” said Jesus in John 14:9.

Paul testifies in Acts 17:27 that God is not far from any one of us. He is waiting for us to seek him and he allows himself to be found.

Prayer and praise have a mighty effect. When Judah was faced with a vast army, the Spirit of God came upon Jahaziel and gave him a message of encouragement for the people (2 Chronicles 20:14ff.). King Jehoshaphat appointed men dressed in holy robes to sing praise and give thanks (2 Chronicles

20:21ff.), whereupon the Ammonites and Moabites were defeated. Thanksgiving, praise and worship are the key to victory and, after attaining victory, a chorus of praise and thanks must ring out again and be sustained. Fighting and winning do not depend first and foremost on our own strength, but rather come from God.

God set a *rainbow in the clouds* as a sign of the first covenant with Noah and all living creatures (Genesis 9:12-17).

The cloud appears frequently in the Bible as the dwelling place of God. The cloud indicates the presence of God and simultaneously cloaks his splendour. God spoke to Moses and the people from a dense cloud (Exodus 19:9; 24:15-18). God went ahead of the people of Israel in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire

by night as they made their way through the desert (Exodus 13:21f.). Cloud and fire symbolise the apparition of God and at the same time conceal his appearance.

At the transfiguration of Jesus, a bright cloud enveloped Jesus and his three disciples (Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:7). At

the ascension, Jesus was taken up before the eyes of the disciples and then a cloud hid him from their sight (Acts 1:9). All the peoples of the earth will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven (Matthew 24:30). The revelation to John begins with the declaration: "Look, he is coming with the clouds" (Revelation 1:7).

We are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). We are therefore exhorted to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" and to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2). Hans-Joachim Heil

A fulfilled life in the "marriage triangle"

The three instructions found in Genesis 2:24 are to leave your father and mother, cleave to your spouse and become one flesh.

Let us imagine marriage as a simple tent.

The entrance is formed by three poles joined together into a triangle shape. There is a message at each of the corners. If one pole is left out, the entire tent will collapse.



The top corner says:

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother." How can that be? Does it not say in the Ten Commandments, "Honour your father and mother"? How could I possibly abandon them? The word "leave" has a different meaning here. It means stepping out of your comfort zone where you are waited on. Not screaming like a toddler when you do not get your own way! Not complaining like a teenager when you don't want to do chores. Grow up! Don't blame your parents for everything! Take responsibility yourself!

The directions continue at the bottom left corner of the tent:

"...and he will cleave to his wife." Cleave means nothing other than lending a listening ear, showing kind understanding, being open to a different solution, abandoning a chosen course for

the sake of the other, and opening your eyes, ears, heart and mind to your wife. All of this is only possible through loving and constant communication. Wanting what is good for her. (In the short passage about marriage in Ephesians 5, the husband is exhorted three times to love his wife!) What a formidable duty! How easily she could cleave and cling to him if she were to feel his love in this way.

The bottom right corner of the tent reads:

"...and the two will become one flesh." What a divine work of God in which a man and a woman merge in blissful fusion, soaring at great heights in joy and affection. It is the longed-for moment in which both are blessed with the feeling of finally being whole. But both must survive the process of growing together. Tenderness, consideration and diversity require more time and energy than meeting needs when being assailed by an array of demands.

"Love is a feeling to be learned," says Walter Trobisch, who was instrumental in the start of the marriage ministry of FLM. The longing felt by a woman is usually emotional in a holistic way, encompassing body and soul. She needs



time to process feelings. If she is aware of problems in the family or in her circle of friends, she cannot switch off so quickly and be open to intimacy. A man is more focused on the outside world, thinking about his job, building and repair work, finding solutions and

other such priorities. He can rest his head in the woman's lap and find peace, satisfaction and encouragement. The woman often needs small tokens of kindness in order to be sure that her husband not only desires her, but loves her deeply. This experience can vary from couple to couple, however.

They both have a longing inside. When I sympathised with a man because he was away so often for his job, he put me right. "I always take my home with me on long journeys," he said. "How so?" I asked, astonished. "My wife travels with me."

Remember

If one of the tent corners is damaged, it "rains" into the tent! All three corners must be checked regularly for leaks – and repaired. If the top corner has a hole, the marriage partners cannot grow together because the parents are being placed first, preventing growth in the partnership.

If the bottom left corner is not reinforced by sharing not only joy but also pain and sadness, there is a tendency for emptiness and indifference to develop. Neglecting the right corner will leave one of the partners with a hunger for physical closeness and a sense of being alone with their feelings.

Prayer

Lord, our tent has developed many holes over the years. Some were so small at first that we didn't even notice them. But we know for sure that we do not want to continue like this. Please remind us in our daily lives to be the marriage partner for each other that you intended. We need you in order to be able to give our partner all that is needed to feel at ease in the tent of our marriage. And please live with us! Then everything will be fine!

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Burkina



There are plenty of activities going on. We organised a meeting for singles and another for young adults, for example, and we answered questions like “How do you choose a husband or wife?” and “What is marriage?” Our goal is to give them a solid foundation for their future marriage by emphasising the characteristics of a healthy relationship, such as mutual respect, trust, sincerity, fidelity, complementarity, etc.

Another meeting was aimed at teenagers and focused on relationships between boys and girls and questions of sexuality. It has been a very busy year.

Adou and Denise Toé

Burundi



My wife and I organised a family seminar in Bujumbura in April. Those who attended explored subjects like “God’s Plan for Marriage”, “Communication in the Couple Relationship” and “The Responsibilities of Husband and Wife”. The couples appreciated the opportunity to put the theory into practice at the workshops. Once trained, these couples will be able to help families in difficulty. Further training sessions and meetings will be held throughout the year with other speakers like Vice-President Cornalie.

Jean Mpitarusuma

Cameroon



This year, we are continuing our mission of establishing branches in various FLM member churches. They will organise conferences and seminars for the couples in their churches. We are also focusing on supporting those preparing for marriage.

André Maya

Central African Republic

There was a relaunch in June when we met to organise some activities, and we took the opportunity to offer a teaching session and a workshop on sexuality in the couple relationship. Some couples were attending a meeting for the first time and were very surprised that the taboo subject of sexuality was addressed without fear or embarrassment. The schedule features the next meeting where the theme will be “What is the worst thing in a marriage?” My wife Jeannine and I also led a seminar on the subject of “Understanding Each Other as a Couple: the Secret to a Peaceful Life”.

Williams Moloby

Congo-Kinshasa



The FLM group is doing well. We continue to move forward despite the challenges we face. The group in Kinshasa and in the provinces (Kikwit, Inga, Kاتanga and Bolobo) is working hard to

help couples in difficulty and is encouraged by the fruits of its efforts. We hold monthly sharing and training meetings in Kinshasa aimed at strengthening the capacity of the team members. The subjects covered are “The Seasons of Marriage” and “Spaghetti or Waffles, Love?” The Kinshasa team has also held several training sessions with a view to boosting the knowledge of the leaders and counsellors in various churches throughout the city. We emphasise forgiveness and healing as key elements in restoring couples and families.

Idore Nyamuke, Jean Bosco

Ghana

The FLM group is active throughout the year. They organize conferences and seminars, including training courses for young couples who may one day take over. Kweku and Cynthia Essibrey-Annan (members of the staff) also support other younger FLM groups and lead training sessions once a year (at the beginning of the year) in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda. Last year, they were present at the creation of the FLM group



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in Nigeria. They will travel there in October to co-lead the training in Lagos. A training session was held in March at the Dome Circuit, Methodist Church Ghana for marriage counselors.

The objectives of the training were:

- to develop the counselors' understanding of the biblical perspective on marriage
- to teach practical communication, conflict resolution, and problem-solving skills
- to foster empathy, confidentiality, and professionalism in counseling sessions
- to provide tools for pre-marital counseling and ongoing marital support within the congregation.

This training was the first phase, the subsequent ones will take place later. There were 61 individuals attending the training, and about 60% with an average age

of 40. Some topics were most interesting to participants such as: learning to forgive, roles in marriage, effective communication, and resolving conflicts in relationships. All the topics had biblical references and examples. We used interactive workshops, role-playing and scenario-based learning, group discussions and case studies etc.

The training is a proactive step towards nurturing healthy marriages. Through their commitment and service, trained marriage counselors will become invaluable assets, strengthening families.

We organised also the premarital training program as part of the commitment to strengthen Christian marriages and preparing couples for lifelong partnership. We had an attendance of 57 participants, this group represented a diverse range of backgrounds and ages, contributing to rich discussions and shared experiences. The training aimed to equip premarital

counsellors with biblical principles, practical tools, and emotional insight to prepare will-be couples for marriage.

Our objectives were

- To provide biblical foundations for marriage
- To foster open communication and conflict resolution skills
- To explore financial planning and family dynamics
- To discuss expectations, and roles in marriage
- To encourage spiritual growth and unity in relationships.

The feedback was encouraging. The participants appreciated the openness and honesty of the facilitators, the real-life examples and testimonies, and they requested follow-up sessions.

Kweku & Cynthia Essibrey-Annan,
Bernard & Julie Lartey,
Edmund & Gifty Asante-Ansong

Guinea



There was a seminar on married life in July encompassing discussions on the topic of "Christian Marriage" and on a subject particularly close to our hearts, namely "Transparency in the Couple Relationship". At the end of last year, we also organised a youth meeting on the key theme of "How to Choose Your Life Partner", providing a context for a Bible study focusing on examples of marriage.

Kakea Guémou

Ivory Coast

The group is doing well. The members stay in touch through WhatsApp. The committee and a few couples meet regularly at the president's house to plan the activities. A national training session was held in Yamoussoukro at the end of August.

We turned our attention to the subject "Jesus Heals Sick Homes" and focused on growth in the couple relationship, ways of resolving problems within the marriage, the management of issues with children and in-laws, and equipping the family to find its place in the work of



God. We concluded the training session by reviewing the aims pursued by FLM, and now we want to improve the content of the seminars in a bid to attract young couples and revive the commitment of members.

Koffi Djeke, Ipou Gbangbo

Kenya

The relaunch of Family Life Mission-Kenya was successfully held on Sunday, 7th September 2025 at Blue Sky-Tushauriane Church Hall in Nairobi.

Peter Dalmas and his wife Rebeca (FLM-Tanzania) travelled to Nairobi to relaunch the group after some meetings

last year. On Saturday evening, they met with the executives, who briefed them on the progress of registration. The online registration process was fully completed. The team was informed that the official certificate will be issued within three months, during which time government



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officials will conduct supervision visits. The one-day relaunch event brought to-

gether 22 participants, including 7 couples, 3 executives, and 2 board members

with their wives.

The program was officially opened by the chairman Pastor Moses (Musa) Chacha. Then the secretary (Pst Catherin Osiemo) presented a detailed report of the Family Life Initiative. The chairman introduced after this the executive team. Peter and Rebeca Dalmas congratulated the entire team for their unity, resilience, and hard work in making this relaunch possible. This relaunch marked a new chapter for Family Life Mission Dominion-Kenya, strengthening the foundation for growth, outreach, and family empowerment across the country.

Peter & Rebeca Dalmas,
Pastor Moses Chacha

Madagascar



The committee met in March in order to review the progress, plan the activities and elect the new

executive committee. Married couple Noro and Manoa were re-elected. Four five-day training sessions have been held in Antananarivo and Antsirabe this year in the months of August and September when people have more time available. We also have some requests from schools asking us to run conferences for the parents of their students on the subjects of family and child-rearing.

Manoa and Noro

Malawi



We met in February for the once-a-year event. The training was scheduled to last five days, but we had to shorten it to four days for two reasons: high cost of living and some participants couldn't participate for all five days because they live in

faraway places, while others couldn't be away for so long due to death or illness. Some time ago, we set up a soccer team that has been very successful. This allows us to promote FLM.

Halfwel and Grace Gumbo

Mali



We organise conferences and seminars lasting one to three days, depending on our availability and financial resources, and we run some meetings open to the public. Most of the meetings are held in Bamako. The churches are beginning to discover us thanks to personal connections or through third parties. We mainly target couples and young people. We organised a youth seminar on the subject of "Christian Youth and the Modern World". Young people are the future of a nation and they face many

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problems (drug abuse, loss of social, cultural and spiritual bearings, misuse of new technology, etc.). Young Christians are no exception. We also offered a training session in May on “How to Live a Family Life Without Violence”, which was attended by 60 couples.

Dinguibireye Poudiougou



Nigeria



The first training in Nigeria was held in June 2024 with an attendance of 30 mar-



ried individuals with Kweku and Cynthia Essibrey-Annan as facilitators. After the graduation ceremony following the training, the executive committee was inaugurated. The executive team is led by Prof. Kolade and Moni Ernest. After this we formed a core group of eight individuals to organize other trainings in Ilorin in June and in Lagos in October. The facilitators for the Ilorin training come from those trained last year and who are

now registered members of FLM. This strategy solidifies their knowledge and serves as training for them as potential resource persons.

The second training in Lagos is for basic premarital training. We are targeting 15 couples. One major challenge that has slowed us down is the issue of “full day training”. Due to a severe economic environment, people cannot stay off work for that length of time, and we will need to make some adjustments to the time of daily training meetings. We are looking forward to a national conference in 2026.

Prof. Kolade and Moni Ernest



Sierra Leone



Our goal this year is to strengthen marriages. This is very important and so we ran a series of marriage seminars in Bo, Makeni, Kono, Kenema and Freetown. They are designed to encourage reconciliation, healing and spiritual growth in marriages. We also address challenges faced by many Christian couples. The vision behind our new key theme, “The Path to Reconciliation”, is to offer the couples biblical teaching, practical advice and emotional support. We are working with local churches in an attempt to reach as many couples as possible.

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We decided to focus on the topic of “Forgiveness and Reconciliation” when confronted with the high divorce rate in the country and with the fact that Christians are not immune to this trend (36% of divorces in 2024 were among Christians).



Subjects discussed under the heading include “The Offended, the Offence and the Offender” and “The Mathematics of Forgiveness” (Matthew 18:21-35), where we explore the importance of forgiveness and the consequences of not forgiving. Matthew 6:14-15



also helped us understand that forgiveness is a duty both in the “horizontal” sense with our spouse but also in the “vertical” sense (God forgiving us). Pastor Ed and his wife conducted the sessions on Zoom, teaching the couples

that forgiveness is the foundation for stronger marriages and making it clear to them that if they are not working on their marriage, they are working on their divorce.

Morlai S. Kamara

Tanzania



We put on marriage seminars in two more locations before the end of 2024 – one in the town of Rongo and one in Bugarika in the city of Mwanza – with a view to strengthening marriages and encouraging healthy relationships. These seminars are the fruits of the work done by our dedicated members. Their attendance at the conferences and their commitment made the two seminars possible. The couples in Rongo had listened to our radio programmes talking about sexual relationships and marital issues. The focus in Bugarika was more on strengthening the relationship between spouses. We had been asked many questions by women who told us about the challenges in their relationships and expressed their desire to improve them. The talks went on late into the night, es-

pecially on the last two days, when we discussed the patriarchal systems and the influence of the culture on marriage, especially on Christian marriage.

The national training event for FLM marriage counsellors was held in February. Kweku and Cynthia Essibrey-Annan (FLM Ghana) led the seminar, as they have done for several years, and it was attended by 24 couples. The training also included workshops and

discussions on key issues like “External Pressures in Marriage”. We used the relationship diagram and placed God and the spouse at the centre of the circle. Another topic which attracted a lot of interest was “Scripture, Culture and Your Marriage”. Cynthia Essibrey-Annan also taught about forgiveness. She concluded her talk by stating that forgiveness is a choice we must make.

Looking back at all of our activities, the trip to Uganda was a highlight. The director of FLM Uganda had invited us as speakers. We spoke to pastors in Nanteete-Kampala who were interested in counselling married couples. We shared valuable experiences with the brothers and sisters from Uganda.

Peter and Rebeca Dalmas



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Togo



We hosted a gala evening event for couples in April on the subject of “The Characteristics of a Happy Couple”.

We also offer training sessions for young people, one of which is specifically for young women. It was attended by 50 young women.

In addition to running conferences and training sessions, we also work in the Baptist Bible Schools, providing support for couples experiencing difficulties.

Charles and Marguerite Amedjikpo

Uganda

There was a change in the leadership of the group at the beginning of the year. The new team of three married couples now leading the work consists of William and Oliver Kuwangula, Francis and Prosper Ngoboka, and Fred and Prossy Mayanja.

FLM Uganda is moving steadily. We held a training event in Mukono at the end of last year with around 40 in attendance, including nine married couples who are leaders of our cell groups. The cell groups meet monthly. We invited Peter and Rebecca Dalmas (FLM Tanzania) as guest speakers.

We had a four-day training course in February with Kweku and Cynthia Es-



sibrey-Annan. There was a good balance of teaching, discussion, consideration of examples from real life and illustration of biblical principles. We taught on “The Christian Home”, “Maintaining the Marital Relationship”, “Knowing Our Role and Place in Marriage” and “Learning to Forgive”, etc. The couples were keen to engage in the discussion, drawing parallels between the biblical principles and the cultural challenges. The couples came from diverse backgrounds and denominations, adding to the breadth and depth of the conversation. They were encouraged to apply what they had learned in their marriages

and families and then share it with others through small groups in their churches and in their personal lives.

We held two other FLM meetings, one in Kiyindi Lakeside Town. It was attended by over 30 couples from within and others from Buvuma Island. It was successful and many families were helped. A recent meeting was held at Nakifuma Disciple Church with a turnout of 42 couples. And we are planning to organize another outreach in Bugiri (nearly 120 km from Nakifuma) very soon.

Kuwangula William, Francis Ngoboka,
Fred Mayanja



Account

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