

I wish I had thought of these weekly updates on our marriage retreats a long time ago. It is fun to give you glimpses of the weekend. Each conference is so unique.

This was a nostalgic weekend for me. This weekend marked 20 years of doing conferences at the place we started it all – TbarM in New Braunfels. And, it may have been our best one ever. The speaker was outstanding and as usual our music from Michael Bridges was also.

The effectiveness of our weekend, I'm convinced, is totally dependent on prayer. One way you can sense the meaningfulness of the weekend is the "chatter" you hear among the couples and the sincere way they look at you when they say how much the weekend meant to them – some even choking up as they tell you.

We have a "walk and talk" time where the couples have questions to discuss from the speakers message. It is before Michael does his Saturday evening concert which everyone looks forward to. This week there were at least 4 couples I know of who needed to keep talking and they skipped the concert. I heard through the grapevine that one couple talked for 3 hours! Only God does that.

One more special story. I was visiting at Sunday morning breakfast with a great head coach who has been doing our CO Bible studies for many years. When a coach who was sitting at our table got up and left this coach said that the coach who left was on his staff and he was a different man. The coach that left had balked at coming to the Bible studies and was very vocal about the extra time it took. He also never went to church. Now, he said this coach is the most vocal coach he has **for** the study. He never misses. He is going to church. This head coach said another coach came up to him this weekend who had previously coached with this reluctant coach and said, "What is Coach Smith (not real name) doing here!?" He was shocked at how much he had changed after visiting with him.

Only God brings that kind of fruit through the faithfulness of coaches like the head coach I visited with over breakfast. God honors faithfulness because one of God's greatest attributes is faithfulness. *Great is Thy Faithfulness* may be my favorite Christian song.

Thanks for your faithfulness. Please pray for the next conference in Arkansas at DeGray Lake.

God bless,
Tommy Maxwell