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Conversations: Meet Staff Member Howard Ostendorff



Howard Ostendorff

FamilyLife Global Outreach Director

Howard Ostendorff is the Global Outreach Director for FamilyLife, Campus Crusade for Christ's ministry to families. He leads a team of international liaisons who train and resource national ministries to help launch FamilyLife around the world. Howard has worked with Campus Crusade for 35 years, including 16 years in Kenya. He married his wife, Aileen, in 1976. They have 4 children and 2 grandchildren.

How do you help build spiritual movements everywhere?

My team works directly with national ministries to launch FamilyLife movements in their countries. We give them the resources, training and help they need to get things off the ground, but it is up to each team to determine how to best use the materials to work in their own context with the unique problems families face in their countries.

To improve your ministry, have you changed something in the last year?

Over the past 3 years, we have completely reevaluated [FamilyLife's] international training strategy. We realized we were putting too much emphasis on how to plan, promote and run events, and not enough time on how to use those events to build multiplication-centered ministries. As a result, in the last year, we have rolled out what we call "Movement-Maker Training" that focuses on leadership development, discipleship and follow-up, using FamilyLife events as a tool to drive people into deeper involvement in multiplying movements.

What do you think makes a successful leader?

To be a servant - this is true with your family or your job. A successful leader puts others' needs ahead of his own, trusts them and gives them a chance to shine with their talents and abilities. It is the same for your spouse, your kids or coworkers.

What are you presently learning about God?

I'm learning again about His love for me in making me His child. What an awesome, awesome privilege that is. I think it's easy for those of us who have walked with the Lord for a long time to take those amazing truths for granted, but there is nothing more precious being His child.

Do you have a favorite quote?

"Do not doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light."

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