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As for me and  
my house,  
we will serve  
the LORD.  
Joshua 24:15b

## THINGS I NEVER THOUGHT OF...

Everyone has parents, and everyone has names for them. It could be Mom and Dad, or Ma and Pa, or whatever your family decided. Those two people are always your parents regardless of the journey life takes you on.

Now consider that your parents divorce and re-marry. What do you call these new people? **First, what is their role?** Are they your parents new spouse or your new stepparent? That could depend on your age when they re-marry. And what you decide this new person's role is determines how you introduce them. Is this your dad's new wife, or your stepmom? And might this change over time? It will likely be a reflection of the relationship that happens.

**Not only do you need to consider their role, but what do you call them?** Recently, Ron interviewed a family and they call their stepmom, Mom 2.0. What does she think about that? Another set of siblings just call their stepmom by her first name. Is that disrespectful? The name you choose is a reflection of your relationship with that person. Do you want it to change, or is it fine as it is?

**Do you think stepfamilies typically have a conversation about this?** I really doubt it. What do you think might happen if they did? Imagine this new family that had a conversation about new roles and names. Maybe when another tricky situation rolls around, they will remember this conversation and have the courage to tackle another. **And that builds a stronger blended family.**

For more things to think about, visit [www.familylife.com/preparingtoblend](http://www.familylife.com/preparingtoblend). You can even get a free copy of the first chapter. Let us know what you think, or if you would like us to send you a copy. Do you know someone preparing to blend?

Anyone here watch home improvement shows? 🏠



Us, too. And it's awfully tempting, when faced with imperfections, quirks and problems, to dream of just listing it and moving on to something new. **BUT some things are worth hanging on to**, not in spite of imperfections, but because of them. And a **marriage is one of those.**

So, make your marriage a "love it" episode. Don't list it, flip it, trade it, or crash it. Accentuate the positives. **Enjoy the imperfections.** You're building something lasting and non-transferable. 🏠❤️

"Thus says the LORD: 'Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.'" Jeremiah 6:16

Need more encouragement for growing [#BackTogether](https://www.familylife.com/backtogether) with your spouse? Download "Back Together," our free 10-day devotional: <http://ow.ly/75Gx50Gj4Fy>

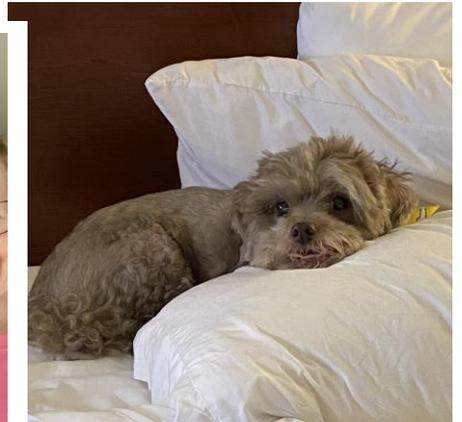


# What have we been doing?



We drove. In 9 days, we drove over 1,973 miles. We saw Danny and met Katie. We toured the new Dynamic Discs warehouse. Danny patiently stood in his new office for his Mom! Now he has a desk and a workspace there. We enjoyed dinner in downtown Emporia and took a cool photo!

Then Dave left for Las Vegas and we headed north to Wisconsin. We sorted and hauled and decided and laughed over so much stuff and the many memories that went with it. Thanks to my laser-focused and brilliant sister, our mission was accomplished and the storage unit was clean. We spent a day with Larry's parents where he helped with dirt and bricks and then we headed home. Theodore sure enjoys a hotel with a king-size bed!



Now we are back at the office and preparing for the Summit on Stepfamily Ministry which is 2-weeks away in the Marietta, GA. If you are in the Atlanta area, or know of a ministry leader in the Atlanta area, we strongly recommend joining us. You will come away with a better understanding of real stepfamily life and be equipped to help them on their journey. And, your life will be changed as a result. Visit [summitonstepfamilies.com](http://summitonstepfamilies.com) for more information. I could see you there!

We are so grateful for you, our ministry partners. Please keep in touch!

One home at a time, *Larry and Lynn*

## Prayer Requests...

- Pray that both of us will serve with excellence. Pray the Lord will help us remember what we need to remember and learn what we need to learn. Pray that He will open our eyes to what He would have us see and respond rightly to the things before us.
- Pray for Marie and Caleb as they hope to close on a house. Pray that all the details will fall into place and that they would honor God in the process.