for my family. Others said they pray for the protection of the FRC staff, and many offered encouragement and support for the hard tasks in which we are engaged.

I shared many of those letters with my staff and also keep a packed file folder of them close at hand. Whenever I am discouraged, I reread them. They help me remember who FRC represents and why we must never give in. This month I thought you might also get a boost from reading excerpts from a few of the letters I've received from our supporters. I'm inspired just knowing that there are so many American families out there who "share in the privilege" that is ours.

One young mother wrote in to say:

> "I am a stay-at-home mom with 3 boys under age 5. I rarely attend pro-family marches or gatherings. As I do not work, there is seldom anything left over (monetarily) at the end of the month. But I would like you all, seen and unseen staff members, to know I pray for all of you and your work . . . I've enclosed a picture of my 3 wonderful blessings from God. It's those children you are fighting for. Nothing you do or go through in your daily 'battles' is overlooked."

A school teacher from the Midwest wanted me to know of her success involving the placement of our fatherhood posters:

> "I am writing to let you know how excited I am about the 4 fatherhood posters I purchased to hang in the elementary school I teach in. My principal thinks they are terrific . . . I would also like you to know that many of the staff at my elementary school support you and your efforts to press family issues in Washington."

Another supporter wrote to tell me about the economic troubles her family was facing as well as their efforts to escape dependence on welfare:

> "We appreciate your efforts. We have five young children and are trying to start a new business in order to support them better. We have been receiving food stamps and want to receive government assistance no longer. Hopefully this business is the key to the way out."

A Michigan man, a grandfather of nine, sent me a long letter encouraging FRC to continue standing tall for the values that, he said, had guided his education and helped him build his own family:

> "Foursquare meant that you had character and could be trusted, that you would keep your word on a handshake. We had spelling bees. We had arithmetic bees. We learned the basics. Our parents and teachers taught by example, for they believed that attitudes were caught from others not taught. Mr. Bauer, I really miss that!"

Many other letters have given me a boost by telling me how much our resource materials and publications have meant to those who receive them:

> "We had a [school] board member touting SIECUS in a meeting, when they were attacking Teen-Aid. A week later you had a blurb on SIECUS in *Washington Watch* telling what they stood for, what their philosophies were, etc. We went public with that. SIECUS was never mentioned again . . . Those of us in the trenches in the community need you. We need to know there are other people out there fighting . . .we need to know that we're not alone."

I only wish you could see the stacks of similar letters that find their way to my desk. Each has come from a special friend like you who stands with us daily in the battle for family, faith and freedom. You share in our victories and you suffer with us in our defeats. Together, we have come to realize that these battles are fought not for some abstractly defined "family," but for all the little faces framed in pictures on refrigerators, desktops and fireplace mantles everywhere. I continually give thanks to God for your prayers and for the opportunities we have to speak out on behalf of your family and mine. I have renewed hopes that our efforts will lead our country to a better tomorrow.

Standing together is reason enough for us to rejoice, but I believe we have other grounds for optimism as well. Just two years ago, editorial writers were triumphantly declaring the abortion issue settled while delivering claims that "family values" were dead as a political issue. Dan Quayle was held up as an example of what happened to politicians who defended the family. TV's "talking heads" scorned his speech about "Murphy Brown" and his criticism of her decision to raise her child without the bother of marriage. His defeat, they said, was a warning to all pro-family politicians that "intolerance" would no longer be allowed in a liberated America.

Once again the pundits were wrong! Wrong about Dan Quayle! Wrong about the demise of family values! Wrong about Americans' willingness to approve "alternative lifestyles." And spectacularly wrong about the desire of Americans to have more government control over their lives.

When Dan Quayle returned to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco to restate his now famous family values address of 1992, the reaction of the press and the political community was very different. The sneer was gone as the press witnessed the ovations Quayle's remarks received from San Francisco's business leaders. Quayle forcefully restated his earlier message: intact two-parent families are the best place in which to raise children. Children raised in such families are far more likely to do well in school, enjoy better health, and be safer. They are less likely to be involved in criminal activity, out-of-wedlock pregnancy or aquire sexually transmitted diseases.

Sensing this trend, even President Bill Clinton has dramatically increased his pro-family rhetoric. He now contends that he agrees with Quayle about family values. In recent days we've also seen many candidates from both parties eager to jump on board the pro-family bandwagon. As you no doubt noticed, there were innumerable TV spots showing politicians attending church and birthday parties with children. Other spots urged us to restore voluntary prayer in our schools as well as respect for parental authority in our homes.