



MARRIAGE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

April, 2021

The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY) Newsletter



Is there a particular couple you admire? For us it is Randy and Patty Kington, our friends in Naples, Florida.

As an enlisted man of 18, Randy served on the front line with some of the first Marine combat units in Vietnam. On March 21, 1966, during one of the most intense three hours of the Vietnam war, Randy received a horrific wound that resulted in him becoming a paraplegic. From that point on he would never walk again and would be confined to a wheelchair the rest of his life.

During one of his stays in a hospital, Patty who was 17, came to the hospital with her Aunt and Uncle who were leaders in the DAV to give the "boys" a Christmas party. Randy couldn't attend the party because he had recently had surgery. So Patty went to see him. They spent two hours together that day. After Randy was released from that hospital, he and Patty spent every possible moment together. After a few dates she

Upcoming Marriage Events

Get Ready to Grow Wild With Your Spouse - April 16 - 8:30 p.m. EST



Like gardening, marriage requires you to grow deep roots and water often. If you're not quite sure how to water your marriage, start with this event, Grow Wild. You and your love will learn how to strengthen your connection and grow your roots even deeper together!

For more information or to register, [click here](#)

Online Virtual Event
Cost: \$20 per couple

Blended and Blessed - April 24

agreed to marry Randy even after he explained all the problems they would be facing.

Patty's mom refused to meet Randy and didn't want Patty to ever see him again. She wanted more for her daughter than to marry some old veteran (he was probably 19 or 20 at the time) who was disabled. So Patty and Randy eloped. In time, Patty's parents came to accept and love Randy. Patty was a brilliant young lady and had planned on going into the medical field, but instead devoted her life to taking care of Randy.

After retiring from the Marine Corp, Randy earned a B.S., Master of Accounting and became a CPA. He taught college and eventually owned his own CPA firm. And he gives so much credit to Patty who helped make this happen.

They have two grown sons and three grandchildren. Randy and Patty have been married now 52 years. Patty tells us the years have flown by and some of the days and years have been awesome and some have been awful. She goes on to say, "We have been through so much words can barely describe all the joy, laughter, pain and tears. But I wouldn't take anything for it."

Randy has written a book called *What a Life - How the Vietnam War Affected One Marine*. "We'd love for you to read it. It is not only about his experience as a Marine, he and Patty's love story but about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and how He has worked in the Kington's lives.

Grace and peace,
Penny and David

Faith and Family Well- Being by Jenet Erickson

"The benefits associated with religious involvement, include positive effects on



You will hear from today's most trusted and respected stepfamily experts, such as Ron Deal, Ray and Robyn McKelvy, Laurie Polich Short and others on how to *Walk in Love* as a blended family.

Home Live Stream - \$19
For more information or to register [click here](#)

Dealing With Stress and Building a Stronger Marriage Relationship - April 30
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



If you happened to miss this workshop in January, it is being repeated.

With the Bible as a foundation, couples will examine what causes stress in their marriages and will learn valuable skills to navigate stressful situations within their own relationships.

MERCI Indiana
8510 Highway 111
Memphis, IN 47143

For more information and/or to register, [click here](#)

marriage, educational attainment, work habits, longevity and physical health, volunteering, and community cohesion and social support."

To read her complete article on this [click here](#)



The Secret to Lasting Passion in Marriage - Excerpt from Jimmy Evans

"Husband and wives: Are you investing more in your jobs than in

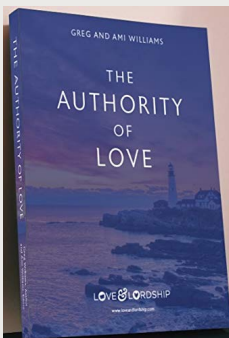
your marriage?

Moms and dads: Are you investing more in your kids than in your marriage?

In Revelation 2, Jesus addresses the Church at Ephesus: He tells them they have forsaken the love they had at first.

He tells them to return to their first love. When you fall in love with your spouse but then lose that love, it's never because the love has just gone away. It is because you have transferred it elsewhere: work, kids, hobbies or another person.

Jesus refuses to be second place. The best of our lives should go to Him. After that, our greatest investment should be poured into our marriage. "



Authority of Love by Greg and Ami Williams

This book is now available in print, Kindle on Amazon and Google Books!

The Authority of Love is indeed a "wake up call for the modern-day American church" to restore the Biblical standards of marriage, family and the church which are still

Choices for a Successful Marriage - April 23-25

CHOICES



FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Another opportunity to attend this popular program. At this retreat you will focus on the Fruit of the Spirit that will lead you to a truly successful marriage where two become one flesh.

Cost: \$300 per couple. This includes overnight accommodations, five delicious meals and a beautiful peaceful setting and your workbook.

For more information, call (502) 255-7677, email: susan@agapewilderness.com or you can also visit here to register [click here](#)

Upcoming Broadcast on Marriage from Focus on the Family.

April 14-15 - Experiencing a Fulfilled Marriage I & II - Mrs. Patricia Ashley

April 19-20 - Men and Relationships: What Works and What Doesn't I & II - Dr. Greg Smalley and Dr. Michael Smalley

April 27-28 - Improving your Marriage as a Blended Family Couple - Mr. Ron Deal

For more information, [click here](#)

compelling and transforming.



Thanks to everyone who supports MERCY through the Kroger Community

Rewards Program!



Ta Da! Building a Lasting Promise is Coming to Your Doorstep - May 14 & 15 - City Place in LaGrange, KY

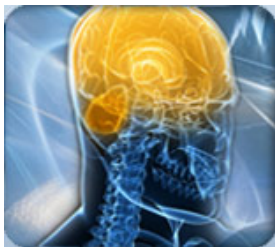
Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this great marriage event. We know you will be glad you did.

This workshop is designed for couples who want to enrich their relationship by learning strategies for improving communication, conflict resolution and marital satisfaction.

Our overall goal is to help couples build strong and lasting marriages that reflect Christ's character in love.

Cost: \$55 per couple (Includes all materials, workbooks, snacks and lunch on Saturday)

For more information or to register [click here](#)



Is Your Self-Talk Sabotaging Your Relationships?

Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott tell us that the best way to strengthen your relationship is to work on your self first.

One of the things that can get in our way is our self-talk; i.e., messages you tell yourself about yourself, your spouse, your experiences, the past, the future, God, etc.

Our self-talk shapes our attitudes, our feelings and our beliefs.

If you struggle with this, one of the best explanations and helps we've found are from Harold and Bette Gillogly with Marriage Net. They have a lot of wonderful articles and resources we would encourage you to check out. One specifically about self-talk, or as they call it, thot-talk, can be found by [clicking here](#)

In addition, the Parrotts have an online assessment called "How Healthy Is Your Self-Talk?" If interested, **check it out here**. They also have a book called *Healthy Me, Healthy Us* you may find useful.



Connect with us

