



MARRIAGE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

March 2021

The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY) Newsletter



When I (Penny) used to speak with Mom's groups, one of the most requested talks was one called "Loving Your Husband for the Man That He Is."

It is about connection, and more specifically, about sexual connection in marriage. Much of the information I shared was similar to what Shaunti Feldhahn is saying in her article "Part 2 of the Sex and Conversation Series."

Here's an excerpt:

"...it can be easy to feel closer to our kids than to our husband. Or we simply may feel a bit of distance from him.

There are many 'fixes' that will help. Getting dinner out, asking the kids to give you a few minutes of uninterrupted 'couch time' conversation, or getting out and doing a hobby together are all great steps. But in the end, many of us also need to improve our overall connection to our husband. And it may surprise us that for him, all those other

Upcoming Marriage Events

Shaking the Foundation
Friday, March 19 - 6:30-8:00 p.m.

MERCI Barn
8510 IN-111
Memphis, IN 47143
Free

SHAKING THE FOUNDATION



ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS;
SOLUTIONS TO COMMON ISSUES

For the very best loving and enduring marriage what you really need is a solid foundation built on timeless principles that will never fail you in good times or bad.

In "Shaking the Foundation - Marriage Reboot" you'll learn there are some things that come against all couples. Being AWARE of these, helps us know what we can do to avoid some attitudes, actions and responses that make things worse. And

things may only make a marginal difference if the quality of our sexual connection is lacking."

To read Feldhahn's complete article on this subject, [click here](#).

Grace and peace,
Penny and David

One Easy Way to Improve Your Marriage - Look Up and Light Up



I read this little gem the other day and thought it was worth sharing.

When you have been apart from your spouse and he/she comes home - STOP what you are doing, look up and "light up." Let him/her see your smile and let your partner see that you're glad they are back. If you can, go and meet your spouse at the door and give them a big hug and a kiss. If you can't, you can still look up and light up with your face. It is a small thing, but can have a big effect on how loved someone feels.



Conflict between divorced parents can lead to mental health problems in children

A new study from the Arizona State University Research and Education Advancing Children's Health (REACH) Institute has found that children experience fear of being abandoned when their divorced or separated parents engage in conflict. Worrying about being abandoned predicted

better yet, we can become INTENTIONAL to do those things that bring about peace and feelings of worth, love and respect.

Marriage principles built on the rock of Jesus work! A marriage built to last is so worth the effort!

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

The Magic of Communication in Your Marriage -Digital ebook by Marriage Researchers and Therapists



If you would like some practical tips on communication, check out this digital book for just \$4.97.

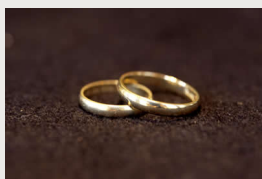
Inside, you'll find:

- How and why you and your spouse communicate differently, and what to do about it
- 5 proven listening techniques that will pump up the intimacy in your relationship
- 4 ways to start and end difficult conversations well
- 5 ways you may be hindering communication with your spouse without realizing it
- AND MORE!

PLUS! Every section has an easy, no-stress discussion guide created for you and your partner to build the communication you want in

future mental health problems in children.

To read more on this subject, [click here](#)



The State of Marriage

According to Mike McManus, President of Marriage Savers,

the percentage of people who are married has sharply declined - by 57% since 1970 - though the population grew in those years from 203 million to 331 million.

He goes on to tell us our divorce rate in the U.S. is triple that of England or France after five years of marriage - though a much higher percentage of Americans are more religiously active than Europeans.

Based on another article written by Wendy Manning and Lisa Carlson with Bowling Green State University the vast majority of couples live with a cohabiting partner prior to marriage. Three-quarters (76%) of recent marriages (2015-2019) were preceded by cohabitation. It has become a normative pathway to marriage in the U.S.

If you would like to read more on trends in cohabitation prior to marriage, [click here](#)

your marriage.

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

Marriage on a Mission

Friday, April 9 - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

MERCI Barn

8510 IN-111

Memphis, IN 47143

Free



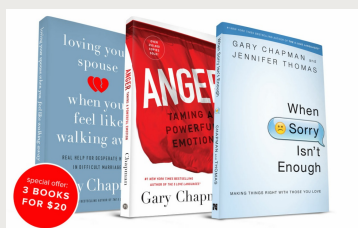
This workshop will be a concentrated time leaning into the why behind the what of marriage and offering some practical steps on how to run in rhythm together, moving forward on mission, and creating a family identify and culture.

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

Blended and Blessed

Don't miss the 2021 Livestream - April 24

Gary Chapman Special



If you are walking through a tough season in your marriage, or you know someone who is struggling,



With so many complex relationships involved in a

we wanted to let you know Chapman has a special offer on three of his books: *Anger, Loving Your Spouse When You Want to Walk Away and When Sorry Isn't Enough*.

You can buy all three books for \$20. We have read each of these, with the exception of *Anger*, and they are excellent resources.

For more information, [click here](#)

PROVEN WIVES DEVOTIONAL

By: Brianna Edwards

A ROADMAP FOR RESTORATION

We've known many who have struggled with sexual sin. Their pain and frustration are heartbreaking. If your husband is struggling with this, we want to make you aware of a new resource you may find helpful. It is called *Proven Wives Devotional* by Brianna Edwards.

For more information, and a video [click here](#)

stepfamily, all the normal rules for family life change. During this workshop you'll explore:

- The Way of Love in Your Marriage
- The Beauty, Message and Mystery of Marital Sexuality
- Grace-filled Parenting in a Blended Family
- Walk in Love With God's People

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.

April 24, 2021

Home Live Stream - \$19

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

Some Highlights of MERCY'S Activities in 2020

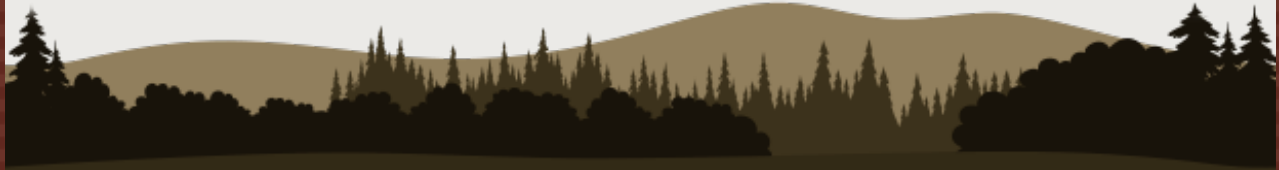
Like many other ministries, several planned projects at MERCY had to be postponed and our connection with couples was lessened because of the pandemic. However, we were able to focus on some other areas of importance to the organization.

- We rescheduled our annual event until May 14 & 15, 2021 called "Building a Lasting Promise." We are so excited to be able to offer this program. You will be hearing more about it in the coming weeks.
- MERCY presented The 5 Love Languages to couples at Antioch Church.
- MERCY made a presentation to S.E.C.C. LaGrange Campus staff.
- MERCY coordinated an event between Capernaum Retreats and the Louisville Police Department.
- Penny and David Hudson personally mentored three couples, which involved working with each couple approximately 16-18 hours. Plus we worked with several individuals independently. Overall, MERCY has trained 12 facilitators and these facilitators mentored 20 couples in

2020.

- MERCY began mailing their monthly newsletter to over 100 couples who did not have emails but were interested in MERCY's activities.
- The organization was able to focus on fundraising opportunities in 2020.
- John Baker, our administer of MERCY's website, redesigned it for 2020. If you haven't visited it lately we hope you will check it out - **click here**
- MERCY had a part-time volunteer who did some research for MERCY for several months. Thank you Rachel.

MERCY has some exciting things planned for 2021. So please stay tuned. Also, the more couples we can reach, the more marriages can be enhanced. So if you could let others know about MERCY that would be such a help. One way to do this is to simply share this newsletter on your social media sites. We value each and every one of you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Connect with us

