



MARRIAGE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

## March, 2023 Newsletter from The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY)



How was your Valentine's Day? When we think of Valentine's Day, we often associate it with romance.

Dr. Paul Tripp, pastor, conference speaker, best-selling and award-winning Christian author says, "While romantic gestures, gifts, and surprises are important in a healthy marriage, romance is not love. Romance is not a fruit of the Spirit. You can be a follower of Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, lacking romance yet incarnating the love of Christ."

This is love, Tripp pointed out: "Not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:10-11, ESV)."

Tripp goes on to explain 23 ways to express cruciform love - "in the shape of the Cross" love in 2023. Here are a

### Upcoming Marriage Events

**A Lasting Promise**  
April 14-15, 2023

Hosted by Living Waters  
Church  
5425 Frankfort Road  
Shelbyville, KY



This is a great event! The focus is to help couples develop marital oneness by enhancing communication and relationship skills.

Cost: \$150 per couple before March 19 and \$160 per couple until April 9.

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



**Growing  
—Your—  
Marriage**

few to begin:

- Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving.
- Love is being willing to have your life complicated by the needs and struggles of another without impatience or anger.
- Love means being willing, when confronted by another, to examine your heart rather than rising to your defense or shifting the focus.

To read the rest of Tripp's explanations, [click here](#)

### Passive-Aggressive Behavior in Marriage



We've all heard of it and many have used it. Chris Ownby with First Things First offers some advice on this subject.

Something is said, something is done without you being informed, or something is left undone and things head south.

Passive-aggressive behavior is when a person expresses anger or annoyance in an indirect way. Ownby says, "A passive-aggressive response in marriage is marked with quiet bitterness. It is often a way to punish the offender emotionally, letting them 'wallow in their sin' for a while. The 'offended' seemingly avoids the conflict while putting the 'offender' in a place of guilt, shame and discomfort. It is a power play, a

### Husband and Wife Journey

April 28-30, 2023

Harvest Heights Orchard  
and Vineyard in Scottville, KY

Conflict and coexistence were not God's design for marriage; it can be so much more. The Growing Your Marriage team invites you to embark on a journey with your loved one, blending biblical teachings with rest and recreation, in a beautiful location.

Cost: \$300 which includes housing, program materials, meals-snacks, recreational activities and more. If you could benefit from a get-away and enhance your marriage, we believe you will love this retreat.

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

### Blended and Blessed

April 29

Livestream



Blended and Blessed is a one-day live event and livestream just for stepfamily couples, dating couples with kids, and those who care about blended families.

While the event is located in Florida, you can livestream it. It is a day of great speakers, worship, encouragement and

form of manipulation and a highly ineffective way of dealing with conflict. . ."

To read about some specific examples and how you can end passive-aggressive behavior in your marriage, [click here](#)

practical help.

Cost to Livestream is \$20. To register, [click here](#)

---

## Celebrate Your Marriage May 21-23

Grand Hotel - Mackinac  
Island, MI

---

### Try These Date Nights!!

With Dave & Ashley Willis

Need some fun date night ideas? Dave & Ashley talk all things date night, including fun date night ideas, date night advice, and date night rules! Stick around until the end to hear Dave & Ashley's favorite date nights!



---

### 5 Common Reasons for Divorce



Would you believe according to many therapists, the #1 reason couples get divorced is lack of premarital planning?



If you are looking for a great get-away and a wonderful time to enhance your marriage, "Celebrate Your Marriage" may be just what is needed.

Jay and Laura Laffoon have been helping couples through laughter and growth for years. And their special guest this year is Dr. Gary Chapman, author of the best-selling book, *The Five Love Languages*.

For more information about cost, schedule, etc. and/or to register, [click here](#)

---

**Marriage Dynamics**  
INSTITUTE™

A New Beginning -  
Online Workshop  
March 31-April 2

A counselor-led workshop designed specifically for couples in crisis. Three days could turn your marriage around.

"Many couples enter into marriage without discussing the expectations of their relationship," says Kalley Hartman, LMFT at Ocean Recovery. "Without having a clear understanding of how to manage and communicate can lead to feelings of frustration and confusion once in a long-term commitment."

The other ones listed were:

- 2) Financial difficulties
- 3) Infidelity
- 4) Addiction or substance abuse
- 5) Communication

If you need help, MERCY can possibly help you or direct you to where to get help. Simply, email us: pdhud9@aol.com or call/text (502) 939-0121.

Cost: \$1,295 per couple

For more information, **click here** or call **(800) 650-9995** or **(615) 627-0751**.

Registration deadline March 24

As you know, Bob and Carol Esham with MERCI Indiana offer some wonderful marriage workshops, mentoring, studies and more. Therefore, we would love for you to listen to a recent interview they had on WayFM.



## Couple's Couplettime Activity

Discuss the following questions:

- What do you most enjoy about our relationship?
- How can we have more fun this year?
- How did we grow as a couple this past year, spiritually, emotionally and physically?
- What is something I can do to support you better?
- What could I do to make our marriage better?

## MERCY'S Status Report for 2022

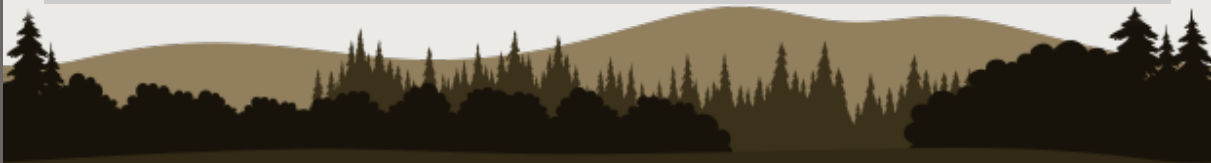
Each year we like to share with you some of the activities the Lord has allowed MERCY to achieve.

- MERCY offered a fun date night with Christian comedian Juanita Lolita from Florida. 125 people attended the event and the feedback was very positive.
- MERCY offered a free ministry luncheon at Claudia Sanders



in Shelbyville, KY. Fourteen pastors/ministry leaders attended and we received new mentoring requests as a result.

- David and Penny mentored 11 couples in 2022. Mentoring couples involves working with each couple 16-18 hours, plus hours of homework they are requested to complete. There is a strong emphasis on Spiritual aspects in MERCY'S program. In addition, we worked with two individuals personally. Two of our trained mentor couples worked with additional couples.
- One Couplettime group meets monthly to work on a biblically-based marriage activity, pray for one another and fellowship.
- MERCY was able to give away free resources for the Marriage 911 program where a trained mentor works with another individual. This is a 12-week program and is gender-to-gender based.



Connect with us



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email



The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY) | 7204 Hwy. 329 - Suite 201,  
Crestwood, KY 40014

[Unsubscribe\\_pdhud9@aol.com](mailto:Unsubscribe_pdhud9@aol.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent bypdhud9@aol.comin collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!