



Merry Christmas

From Our Family to Yours

FORTIFIED MARRIAGES

Christmas Newsletter

DECEMBER
2008

Fortifying Marriages
to Strengthen
Families, Churches
and the
Community

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2008 Update... God's Work Through the Ministry.

We are excited about what God is doing in marriages throughout the United States and around the world! It is a privilege to serve the Lord through this ministry and we appreciate the prayer and support of the many who make this work possible. Our own lives have been enriched by working with many wonderful people as the Body of Christ comes together to strengthen marriages and families. We are constantly challenged to keep working on our own marriage even as we have remained busy in many aspects of the ministry.

We presented marriage seminars this year in Basconcobe, Mexico, San Antonio, TX, Phoenix, Avondale, Tempe & Douglas Arizona, and Mexicali, Mexico, receiving feedback that God used the seminars to encourage and challenge couples to continue working on their marriages and build their marriage relationship. One couple began a seminar angry and by the end of the seminar, they were laughing and walked away arm in arm. We had engaged couples and couples married over fifty years attend the seminars.

One attendee of the marriage retreat we presented in California told us that God used it to save their marriage. One of our workshops at Phoenix marriage conference had so many participants that some braved 100 degree weather, standing outside attempting to gather the information presented.

We find that many couples are hungry for information to help them work through the problems they experience in their marriage relationships. We saw this at a pastor's conference in Florida, marriage conference in San Francisco and during two radio interviews in Texas. Counseling couples experience problems is never easy, but most rewarding when they are able to work through the problems and experience health in their marriage and family. It is more than full time work, but what an exciting place to be! We are looking forward to what 2009 will bring.



Chris & Carmen and Family

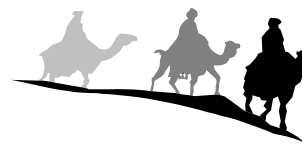
You Can Make a Difference!

IMACT MARRIAGES— NICARAGUA

We travel to Nicaragua in January for ten days to present seminars in three cities and train church leaders. This is an opportunity for you to directly impact marriages and even a nation! Individuals, couples, families or groups can participate in a variety of ways as we seek to coordinate efforts to build a lasting marriage ministry in Nicaragua. The enclosed response card provides ways you can participate in this project to build marriages and affect a nation. Additional information and project updates can be found at: www.impactmarriages.org.



Pastor Elias & Leah
Salmarón



Coming Events in 2009

- Jan 9-19: Managua, Nicaragua: seminars/training
- Feb 2-4: Pastor's Conference; Phoenix, AZ
- Feb 6-10: Pastor's Conference; Jacksonville, FL
- Feb 14: Married with Differences; Avondale, AZ
- Mar 13-14: Married with Difference; Alaska
- Mar 28: Married with Differences; Phoenix, AZ
- May 6: Married with Differences; Chandler, AZ
- Jun 12-14: Marriage Retreat; So. Florida
- Jun 23-29: Nazarene Church; General Assembly
- Aug 3-7: Assembly of God; General Assembly

Update: The US Treasury Dept. just notified us that it is looking positive for a license to go to Cuba. Pray for God's will to be done!

There IS Hope for Marriages Today!

Resources ARE Available

Many great resources are available to strengthen marriages today. Check our website to find out what is available—www.fortifiedmarriages.com. Another great resource is the *30 Days to a Better Marriage* website—www.better-marriage.org. It provides practical principles to help strengthen marriages and a “marriage booster” each day to apply the principles to one’s marriage. Check it out!

Marriages DO Change

One couple told us that attending a marriage retreat turned their marriage back from the brink of divorce. Meeting couples in seminars, classes and through counseling couples, we have *seen* God work in lives and marriages. One seminar attendee told us “you are never too old to learn.” Whether couples have been married a few years or many their marriages *can* become healthy and fulfilling.

What are YOU Doing?

Do you and your spouse just exist together or do you have a vibrant, growing marriage relationship. It is your choice! You can work together as a team, work against each other, or allow yourselves to drift apart. Make time to nourish and strengthen your relationship. You took the time when you were dating—do something! Attend a marriage conference, seminar or class. Do something fun together; take a craft class, begin, hiking, or discover a new hobby.

Seminar & Workshop Available from Fortified Marriages

Married with Differences is an informative, interactive, fun seminar to help couples learn about their differences.

Roger Ball, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Tempe attended our Married with Differences seminar in October and said; “*Practical, real and Biblically based. Anyone will benefit and be helped and challenged. Chris & Carmen are transparent and share insights to improve your marriage in an honest, creative and heartfelt way. I laughed, cried and am healthier as a result of their seminar. Fortified Marriages Ministry does help build stronger marriages.*”

It is critical that couples work *together* in the area of finances. Our workshop, *Financially Together*, helps couples discover their financial differences and provides practical information about how to meet financial challenges as a team.



Contact us regarding presentations in your church: 480-699-2515/866-263-5638 or info@fortifiedmarriages.com

A Vision for Strong Marriages

Toni and Sam (not their real names) had a lot of problems. Both had committed adultery and they faced problems with children of previous marriages and a history of dealing with problems in a wrong way. They wondered if it was even worth trying to save their marriage. Seeking marriage counseling, they began working through their problems, eventually attended a marriage seminar, and began learning God’s principles for their marriage. Today, they are working together to strengthen their marriage and improve life for their family. Is it always easy? Certainly not. Occasionally, they have to come back for counseling, but they are moving in positive directions and they are a testimony that marriages can survive serious problems.

Marriages *can* be saved and become healthy and strong. Divorce is *not* the answer to a bad marriage; getting help, reconciling and working through problems can build a marriage that not only is satisfying for husband and wife, but a testimony of what God can do in the lives of people who surrender their lives to Him. Through all we have been privileged to see God work in lives and marriages this year, we know there is so much more work to be done. Our vision to see marriages become all God designed them to be.

Join the Fight!

You can join the pursuit of this vision through your support and prayer. Please continue praying for this ministry, let people know about it, and consider a tax-deductible donation to help build strong marriages. The enclosed response card provides the opportunity for you to join with us to strengthen marriages throughout the United States, in Latin America and around the world.

