

**MARRIAGE and FAMILY MINISTRY
ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS**

Updated 1/24/2009

More detailed information about these and other programs and organizations may be found in the Resources section of the Growing Love in Christian Marriage Pastor's Manual (United Methodist Publishing House, 2001 revision) and under Additional Resources on this same website.

Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment (A.C.M.E.) 502 North Broad Street, P.O. Box 10596, Winston-Salem, NC 27108, 336-724-1526, 1-800-634-8325, acme@bettermarriages.org, www.bettermarriages.org

A.C.M.E. is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that promotes enrichment opportunities and resources to "strengthen couple relationships and enhance personal growth, mutual fulfillment and family wellness." Focused on helping couples in good marriages achieve their full potential, A.C.M.E. offers leadership training and certification, a newsletter, resources and support for chapters located through the USA and in some other countries as well.

Association of Marriage and Family Ministries (AMFM), 20814 N 38th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85050, 480-585-0109, Fax: 480-585-7662, www.amfmonline.com, www.amfmconference.com

The mission of this organization is to equip, train, support, resource, and encourage those that lead or desire to lead in marriage and family ministry, in the church as well as in other supporting organizations. "Our goal is to assist the Church and other support organizations in serving the needs of the couples, parents and families that God has given them to serve."

Caring Couples Network (CCN), Office of Family Ministries, GBOD, The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003, 877-899-2780, Ext. 7119, www.gbod.org/family, mnorton@gbod.org

Caring Couples Network is a congregation-based system for marriage support. Churches enlist couples with healthy Christian marriages to serve as marriage advocates in the congregation and as mentors to other couples and families.

Celebrating Marriage (CM)

A marriage enrichment program developed by the UM General Board of Discipleship, but now discontinued. Some trained leader couples still use these program resources.

Christian PREP (C-PREP), www.PREPinc.com

Based on PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program), Christian PREP programs and the book A Lasting Promise provide sound Biblical undergirding for the research-based relationship skills also described in Fighting for Your Marriage. Designed for engaged, married, and mentor couples, Christian PREP, like other marriage education programs, is not marital therapy. It does, however, offer more than relationship

enhancement. Christian PREP, within a solidly Christian context, teaches couples the attitudes and skills shown by extensive research to be necessary to improve their marriages. Visit the website above for more information and for schedule and locations of leadership training events.

Coalition for Marriage, Family, and Couples Education, LLC (CMFCE),
5310 Belt Road, NW, Washington, DC 20015-1961, 202-362-3332,
cmfce@smartmarriages.com , www.smartmarriages.com

This nondenominational, nonpartisan, nonsectarian organization sponsors an annual Smart Marriages/Happy Families Conference which brings together researchers, program developers, and other experts for plenary sessions, workshops, seminars, and training institutes. At the website "Directory of Programs" you can find out when and where different marriage education programs are offered, sign up for a free on-line newsletter, and read a variety of articles on various marriage and family topics.

Couple Communication, Interpersonal Communication Programs, Inc.,
30772 Southview Dr., Suite 200, Evergreen, CO 80439, 303-674-2051, 800-328-5099,
Fax 303-674-4283, icp@comskills.com , www.couplecommunication.com

COUPLE COMMUNICATION I and II are educational programs in which couples participate together. The programs teach an interrelated set of communication maps and eleven skills for effective talking, listening, resolving conflict, and managing anger. The result is that couples understand each other better, enjoy each other more, increase their intimacy, and make more mutually satisfying decisions. In addition, they align their values, desires, and actions as they create good times together. CORE COMMUNICATION, a program for individuals who desire to improve communication and relationship skills, was developed in response to many requests to extend COUPLE COMMUNICATION to singles and persons whose partner is not willing or able to participate with them.

Family Dynamics, Contact Joshua Persall, Ministry Consultant, Family Dynamics,
jpersall@familydynamics.net, 615-627-0751, or visit www.familydynamics.net.

Family Dynamics operates out of a strong commitment to help couples begin, build, and sustain better marriages and to restore those threatened by divorce. Dynamic Marriage classes (8 weeks long, with a pre-class meeting) are offered through churches by trained facilitators. Materials are focused on books and worksheets by Willard F. Harley, but also include DVD by Joe Beam, and couple workbooks that have additional Scriptures and exercises. The approach is very behavioral and experiential. Couples report great improvements, especially through praying together. "A New Beginning" is an intensive three-day plan for couples in deep distress. (review by Charlene Giles)

FOCCUS: Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding, and Study,
Family Life Office, 3214 North 60th Street, Omaha, NE 68104, 402-551-9003,
www.foccusinc.com

This inventory provides individualized couple feedback on where each partner stands in regard to topics important to marriage. It is not a predictor of marital success or failure, but a tool to help couples name and work through issues before marriage. The

inventory may be administered to an individual couple or to groups. Forms are submitted for scoring, for a fee. A facilitator uses the report to help the couple reflect on a number of topics. Available in several languages, including Braille, and in several variations tailored to specific needs, including **REFOCCUS** for use with already married couples.

Foundations: The Newsletter for Newly Married Couples, P.O. Box 1632, Portland, ME 04104-1632, 800-775-4757, skpubs@aol.com

This bi-monthly newsletter presents in an attractive format a variety of articles on issues relevant for newly married couples. Each issue focuses on a different topic, and back issues are listed by topic so that couples may order them. Special pricing is available for pastors ordering subscriptions as gifts for couples in their congregation.

Intimate Life Ministries, P.O. Box 201808, Austin, TX 78720, 800-881- 8008 - ext. 213, www.GreatCommandment.net

This interdenominational ministry offers leadership and resources for weekend workshops and other formats to strengthen and deepen relationships. Based on Christian scripture, these programs emphasize practical applications of Jesus's Great Commandment to love God and others. Specific events and materials focus on "More Than Married," "Parenting With Intimacy," "Discovering Intimacy," "Relational Leadership," and "Relational First Aid."

Marriage Encounter/Engaged Encounter United Methodist (MEUM/EEUM)
A denominational expression of **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**, 2210 East Highland Avenue, #106, San Bernardino, CA 92404, 1-800-795-5683, www.wwme.org ,
Website for MEUM: www.encounter.org

One of twelve faith expressions in Worldwide Marriage Encounter, MEUM offers Christian weekend experiences for couples who want to enrich their marriages. A team of lay couples and a clergy person or clergy-spouse couple make a series of presentations. Following each presentation, husband and wife are given time in the privacy of their own room for personal sharing using the techniques taught during the weekend. There is no group discussion. Post-weekend experiences for nurturing ongoing growth are offered in many local areas. MEUM also offers Engaged Encounter experiences for marriage preparation or for couples in the first two years of marriage.

Marriage Enrichment, Inc. (MEInc.) Executive Administrator, JoAnn Johnson, 39197 S. Lake Crest Dr., Tucson, AZ 85739, 800-726-7424,
FAX: 520-825-0011 , mewinfo@yahoo.com , www.marriageenrichment.org

This organization provides workshops, including weekend or mid-week retreats and other formats, for nurturing personal and spiritual growth by providing tools to enhance marriage and family relationships. Leaders are committed Christians who have considerable experience with this program and who have completed a careful training process. Local organizations may purchase the Leader's Guide and packet for a Family Enrichment Workshop for their own use or arrange for leadership from MEInc.

Marriage Savers, Inc. 9311 Harrington Drive, Potomac, MD 20854,
301-469-5873, FAX: 301- 469-5871, mj_mcmanus@compuserve.com ,
www.marriagesavers.org

In addition to promoting and resourcing Community Marriage Policies, this organization offers training for clergy and for lay mentor couples, featuring use of either FOCCUS or PREPARE/ENRICH inventories. Among the resources available through Marriage Savers, Inc. are A Mentors' Guide for FOCCUS and A Manual on How to Create a Marriage Savers Congregation. Check the website above for scheduled events or contact the office directly to schedule an event for your location.

Mastering the Mysteries of Love (MML)

“Replace questions with answers. Exchange anxieties for hope. Turn isolation into intimacy. Gain a mastery of love.” This is an interactive, hands-on program that spotlights ten essential relationship skills that work together to change how people listen, talk, solve problems, and relate to one another. MML classes range from 12-16 hours conducted in a variety of formats -- including weekly two-hour classes or full-day workshops. Participants receive a MML workbook, specially designed to foster their mastery of the mysteries of love. (Review by Sandra Schwerin Montoya, California-Nevada Conference.)

PREPARE/ENRICH Life Innovations, P.O. Box 190, Minneapolis, MN
55440-0190, 800-331-1661, cs@lifeinnovations.com, www.lifeinnovations.com

This program, which is available in several languages, offers relationship inventories for premarital use, for premarital couples who already have children, for couples who have been married a while, and for couples over fifty years old. The inventories help couples build on their strengths, explore the areas in which they need to grow, and learn communication and conflict-management skills. Training, which is required, provides a clear process for feedback sessions with the couple.

Relationship Enrichment by Applying Preventive Principles (REAPP)
and Asociacion para Parejas en Enriquecimiento Matrimonial de America Latina
(APEMAL) in Spanish. www.ywamconnect.com/sites/KandMHamilton ,
kehmlh@gmail.com

Revs. Keith and Marilyn Hamilton’s marriage and relationship workshop materials may be downloaded from the internet free of charge from their website: www.ywamconnect.com/sites/kandmhamilton . (From the Homepage, select Enrichment Series in left-hand menu). These materials, available in English and Spanish, grew out of the Hamiltons' A.C.M.E. training and their desire to spread marriage enrichment worldwide. The 2009 editions of Growing in Marital Love, Vol. I and Vol. II and of Growing in Our Interpersonal Relations, Vol. I and Vol. II (for singles) include 3 levels of workshops: a pre-marital workshop, leadership instructions, exercises, and insights to be shared. The materials are self-instructive, but persons are encouraged to participate in a Marriage Enrichment Workshop or a Relationship Enrichment Workshops if possible to experience these teachings and activities first-hand as preparation for sharing them with

others.

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) is a multi-denominational mission training and sending organization made up of persons representing more than 300 denominations (including the United Methodist Church) and missions. Through YWAM, the Hamiltons have been able to offer their workshops around the world.

Retrouvaille: A Lifeline for Troubled Marriages, 800-470-2230,
<http://www.retrouvaille.org>

This organization offers a weekend retreat with follow-up sessions led by couples who have recovered from serious difficulties. Participants learn to look beyond hurt and pain in order to rediscover each other in a new and positive way. Call the above number or check the website for location and schedule of upcoming retreats.

The Marriage Enrichment Weekend Program, Inc., P.O. Box 94026,
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199-4026, 505-884-8250, RalphRuth@comcast.net,
www.tmewpi.org

This spiritual, experiential, congregation- or parish-based process offers four ministries, provided in English or Spanish, for use within local church facilities. During The Weekend program for married and engaged couples, a spiritual director and married couples from the sponsoring church present talks, videos, and music; lead discussions, exercises, and meditations/liturgies; and coordinate question-and-answer sessions and private time for the couples in a relaxed, fun, and non-threatening atmosphere. Participants grow in commitment, love, hope, and happiness. The Retreat (one day or three evenings) helps married couples apply spiritual principles to everyday experiences in a very down-to-earth way. Built into the Engaged Enrichment event (one evening and the following day, or three evenings) is a sponsorship relationship between a married couple and an engaged couple. Renewal, a monthly two-hour session, encourages continued growth and allows newcomers to sample the dynamics of this program. Roman Catholic in origin, program materials adapt to the needs of other denominations and faith groups. Contact the organization at the address above to discuss implementation in your area. Currently most active in New Mexico, southern California, central Texas, and Mexico, soon in Utah and Oregon, the organization hopes to expand.

The Stepfamily Association of America, 2315 Centennial Mall South, Suite
212, Lincoln, NE 68508, 800-735-0329, stepfamFS@aol.com, www.stepfam.org

This national non-profit organization offers a book Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, which includes an eight-step program to help blended families succeed and other valuable information. Members receive a newsletter; chapters and ongoing groups offer support.