
Upcoming Events

Blood Donation with Carter Blood Care, April 11th (10AM)
Church Picnic at Mesquite Park, April 18th
Church Retreat at Tulsa, OK, June 26-28

Weekly Schedule

Wed, Mar 18th (Lewisville) Joseph & Lillykuty's residence (7 PM)

Fri, Mar 20th (Mesquite) Fasting Prayer @ Parsonage (10 AM)

Fri, Mar 20th (Metro) Bible Study and Impact @ Metro (7 PM)

Sat, Mar 21st (Metro) Prayer Meeting @ Metro (6:30 PM)

Congratulations

1. Joemon and Anu on the arrival of a blessed addition to their family on March 11th, a baby girl! The baby's name is Jiya.
 2. Paul and Sandy on their blessed day on March 14th, as they were united in marriage.
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Prayer for the Nations: Congo (Africa)*

- Congo lies across the Equator in west central Africa. After achieving independence from France in 1960 and abandoning communism in 1992, civil war broke out in 1997 between the government and armed rebel forces. In 2003 a fragile peace was agreed.
- Thousands died and 300 thousand were made refugees as a result of the bloody civil war. of which 67000 still remain displaced. The humanitarian crisis that such large numbers of refugees produce still remains .
- Under communist rule, all young people were brainwashed against religion, churches were closed and missionaries forced to leave the country. Since 1992 freedom of religion has been restored.
- AIDS is a huge problem in The Republic of the Congo and effects family life drastically. Missionaries have greater freedom to be resident in the country and are seeing successes in the capital and port towns.
- Pray for the lasting peace that the Congo desperately needs.
- The fall-out from the war for the churches has been serious, church leaders and other Christians have left the country and many are discouraged. Pray that they can trust God and find faith.
- The civil war has stopped many missionaries from returning to the Congo. Pray that more will be able to return in safety to support struggling churches and reach people who haven't heard about Jesus.

* http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country.php?country_id=67

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metrochurch
of God



*Celebrating the Presence of God
Demonstrating the Love of God
Communicating the Word of God
Educating the People of God*

March 15, 2009

For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.
(Ps 72:18-19)

Welcome

“Wives, submit to your own husband, as is fitting in the Lord. Husband, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.” (Colossians 3:18, 19)

All marriages go through times when love grows cold or lacks the closeness we desire. And when our marriages get into trouble, we hurt. Many times we can't even pinpoint what went wrong. If people are willing to step back and review their marital story, they will usually find a pattern. If left unchecked, that pattern can lead them to heartbreak and, maybe, to divorce. There is hope for the troubled marriage, however. Since the pattern is often predictable, the courageous can work to stop the harmful patterns and save their marriage. But more than just keeping their marriage afloat, they can work to reverse the process and breathe new life into their marriages.

How does disaffection start? It actually begins with everyday life- the pressures people face daily. Following are some examples.

Sin/selfishness: Sin is part of our nature. As Christians, we seek to be victorious, but we often fail. Somewhere in the marital story, one or both partners may begin to take advantage of the other. They hurt each other. As Paul wrote, “For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do”(Rom 7:15). Being honest, seeking forgiveness, and staying deeply invested in one's spouse is the only remedy.

Stress: Some marriages have been battered by stresses of life such as financial pressures, loss, health problems, or demanding work schedules. Spouses must deal with stress by considering the demands in life and their ability to cope with those demands. If the demands exceed their ability to cope, the formula spells trouble. Spouses need to take an inventory of what stresses have been tearing at their relationship since they married.

Satanic Assault: Starting with Adam and Eve, Satan has had the poison arrows of hell aimed at the intimate bond of marriage. He brings in lot of confusion and is the ultimate liar. He magnifies people's weaknesses and fears, using them as wedge in their marriages. Peter described Satan as “ a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”(1peter 5:8). And he's out to take a big bite out of people's marriages.

Unrealistic Expectations: The gap between unrealized expectations and reality is filled with disappointment. If people's expectations for marriage are un realistic, they are setting themselves up for a fall .

1. “Marriage will complete me.” Some who grew up in unloving homes or some other painful environment, may expect marriage to reverse all the negatives they're carrying into it.

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Sermon Notes

2. “My spouse won't hurt me” As the first expectation this sees marriage as the healing agent, the ultimate safe haven. The first experience is of hurt, and then it is devastating.

3. “Life will be easy now” This is the “happily-ever-after” expectation of fairy tales. Every unhappy moment in a marriage then brings disappointment and possibly fear.

4. “Love will keep us together”. Every time spouse hurt one another, intentionally or unintentionally, Love is perceived as increasingly less effective until, in the end, they can say that their relationship just wasn't meant to be.

These unrealistic expectations must be fought with realistic Biblical ones. People need to understand that no one is perfect, no one person will ever fulfill all their needs. Only God can do that. No marriage is free from discord, and no spouse is completely unselfish.

Marriage brings together two people who have many human frailties, and puts them in such close proximity that every detail and flaw is exposed. Hopefully, in Christ, these are strengthened into godly traits. But, it takes a lot of humility, grace, and deep forgiveness In other words, marriage is a lot of work. Remember, God gave us our spouses so that He could work through us to make him or her more like Christ.

Compiled by,
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