

every marriage matters

From: Every Marriage Matters [mailto:tomdressel@everymarriagematters.ccsend.com]

On Behalf Of Every Marriage Matters

Sent: January 7, 2014

To:

Subject: Five Minutes for Marriage: Join His-Story in 2014

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Every Marriage Matters. Don't forget to add everymarriagematters@comcast.net to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Five Minutes for Marriage January 2014

As we work to strengthen marriage on a societal level, we must not neglect our own marriages. What good will it be for a man if he strengthens all the marriages in the community and loses his own way?

Bill Hardiman, former Michigan State Senator

In This Issue:

[Bulletin Insert](#)

[Class List](#)

[January Video](#)

[Valentine's Day](#)

[Marriage Encouragement](#)

[Marital Research](#)

[Hurdles in Marriage](#)

[Cohabitation and Affairs](#)

[Parenting / Youth Ministry](#)

[Distress and Divorce](#)

[Parting Words](#)

The **BULLETIN INSERT** for January; choose either [color](#)

or [black & white](#); challenges couples to simply do the golden rule. [Return to Top](#)

The **January CLASS LIST** describes opportunities couples might use to grow their relationships. Is your church offering classes or seminars that should be included here? We would like to add them.

[Return to Top](#)

LET'S MAKE HIS-STORY TOGETHER!

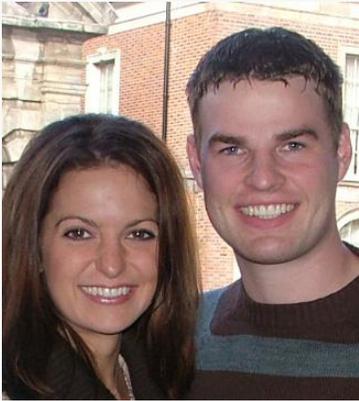
Every Marriage Matters has seen the Clackamas County divorce rate drop, it is now expanding its scope into four-county Metro Portland. Consider becoming a signer of the [Greater Portland Community Marriage Policy](#) (mail a copy to us at 1005 Woodlawn Ave, Oregon City, OR 97045). Let's take a brief look at the organization Marriage Savers, the encourager of Community Marriage Policies and their impact on marriage and family.

[Marriage Savers](#) has a proven strategy to slash divorce and cohabitation rates. Modesto, CA pastors established the first Community Marriage Policy® in 1986 with the goal to "radically reduce the divorce rate in area churches". Clackamas County pastors adopted their covenant in 2001. Today the clergy of 230 communities have joined together across denominational and racial lines in covenant to make healthy marriages a priority in their congregations. The impact of this movement was evaluated 10 years ago in Family Relations journal article [Assessing the Impact of Community Marriage Policies on County Divorce Rates](#). Note the Clackamas County divorce rate has dropped 23% through 2012.

Recently Marriage Savers toured 10 Kentucky communities with encouragement to initiate their own covenants. Read about it in [Kentucky Profiting from Divorce-Proofing Marriages](#). In Kentucky alone, 24,000 thousand new divorces a

Your prayers and financial help to strengthen marriage are greatly appreciated

[▶ Donation](#)



Rachel and Josh Curtiss, Directors of Every Marriage Matters. Josh is a Youth Pastor, Rachel an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education.

[✉ Forward to a Friend](#)

[✉ Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Like us on Facebook !\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b_img.jpg\)](#)

Every Marriage Matters
1005 Woodlawn Ave
Oregon City, Oregon 97045
tomdressel@comcast.net
(503) 655-1489

year cost state taxpayers a fortune. The annual cost of these divorces adds \$600,000,000 in state taxes. If the could cut their divorce rate could be reduced one-third, the taxpayers would be saving \$200,000,000 in the first year, then \$400,000,000 in the second year because it's cumulative. So a state and its taxpayers can definitely profit from fighting divorce. (Paul Strand,CBN)

[Return to top](#)

JANUARY'S FEATURED VIDEO

[National Marriage Week USA](#) Executive Director, Sheila Weber, joined FOX and Friends on last February to discuss the marriage movement.

[Return to top](#)

RESOURCES FOR VALENTINE'S DAY AND MARRIAGE WEEK

[Dear Valentine, I Hate It When You ...](#) But if you really want to improve your relationship, you should give your loved one an i.o.u. Find a nice piece of stationery, and in your most graceful lettering, assert: "I promise to write about our next three fights as though I were a neutral observer." Then, doodle a heart on the page, stick it in a pretty envelope and give it to that special someone over dinner. New research suggests that this may be the most valuable present you'll ever give. After all, conflict is inevitable in long-term relationships, and the way people navigate it can affect not only their happiness, but their mental and physical health as well. (By Eli J. Finkel, New York Times) And here is [the research](#) behind this article.

[The Art of Kissing: A 1936 Guide for Lovers](#) in which author Hugh Morris guided young lovers through the techniques, tricks, and "approved methods of kissing," including such varieties as "the spiritual kiss," "the nip kiss," "the pain kiss," "the surprise kiss," "the eyelash kiss," and "the French soul kiss," as well as tips on how to prepare for a kiss and how to approach a girl. Delightfully dated in its assumptions about love, heterosexuality, and marriage, it's as much a charming time-capsule of a bygone era as it is a sure source of a good chuckle. (by Maria Popova,

BrainPickings.org)

[Return to top](#)

MARRIAGE ENCOURAGEMENT

An Education in Gratitude. As a concept and way of living, gratitude is always one of the first concepts taught in positive psychology texts and has, for centuries, been called the greatest of virtues and the parent of all the others. A dear friend of mine once shared with me that the more she practiced gratitude daily, the more her life became increasingly abundant in ways that continued to amaze her and even her husband. (By Wendy Strgar, Hitched Magazine)

Make It a Foursome. We've found that if we invite another couple along to our dinner out, or even better, to our home, we have a lot more fun and we find out more about ourselves than if we were just alone. Conversation becomes richer and more varied, laughter becomes heartier, and our connection grows stronger because we sense the unit we are as we interact with others. (by JoHannah Reardon, Today's Christian Woman)

Marriage In The Culture of Immediacy. As divorce has become such a common part of our culture it too quickly hits the table as the solution to the relational problem of the moment. Couples, particularly young couples, so often enter into marriage with unrealistic expectations that lead to rapid disillusionment when the inevitable and necessary struggles begin to play out. (by John Stewart, Coalition for Divorce Reform)

[Return to top](#)

MARITAL RESEARCH

The Economic Benefits of Childbearing. Evidence continues to mount that the American birthrate is taking a precipitous downward slide. However, even with declining pregnancy rates, the United States still has one of the highest overall birth rates among industrialized countries. It is noted that each additional child brings a substantial economic boost to a nation in economic turmoil. Indeed, policymakers would do well to consider how they might make children a bit less expensive for already burdened parents. (by Nicole M. King, Mercator.net)

[Return to top](#)

HURDLES IN MARRIAGE

Marriages Tested by Fire Don't Have to Burn.

Fire is an intense element, and the more extreme the heat, the more likely it is to incinerate and leave nothing but ashes. All marriages will face fires. It is what we do in the fire that determines whether it will result in refinement or incineration. If you intend to obey God's command concerning marriage, your commitment will be tried under intense heat. (Domeniek L. Harris, Today's Christian Woman)

[Return to top](#)

COHABITATION AND AFFAIRS

Who Cheats? In most industrialized nations, people are marrying later and later and having increasingly significant, romantic relationships prior to marriage. People who are seriously involved with another tend to expect sexual faithfulness even though they are not married. But how many people in a serious romantic relationship have sex with someone besides their partner? (by Scott Stanley, the blog of the Institute of Family Studies)

[Return to top](#)

PARENTING / YOUTH MINISTRY

Raising Children With an Attitude of Gratitude. Research Finds Real Benefits for Kids Who Say 'Thank You'. Gratitude works like a muscle. Take time to recognize good fortune, and feelings of appreciation can increase. Even more, those who are less grateful gain the most from a concerted effort. "Gratitude treatments are most effective in those least grateful," says Eastern Washington University psychology professor Philip Watkins. (By Diana Kapp, Wall Street Journal)

[Return to top](#)

DISTRESS AND DIVORCE

Sons of Divorce, School Shooters. The social scientific evidence about the connection between violence and broken homes could not be clearer. My own research suggests that boys living in single mother homes are almost twice as likely to end up delinquent compared to boys who enjoy good relationships with their father. (By W. Bradford Wilcox, National Review)

[Return to top](#)

PARTING WORDS

Sons of Divorce. If the nation is serious about ending the scourge of school shootings, it must also get serious about strengthening the families that are our first line of defense in preventing our boys from falling into a downward spiral of rage, hopelessness, or nihilism. - W. Bradford Wilcox, National Review.

Marriage has been weakened by a revisionist view of marriage that is more about adult's desires than children's needs. - Ryan Anderson, Heritage Foundation

[Return to top](#)

Treasure your spouse. Date weekly. Have fun. Laugh together. Encourage each other. Enjoy together this season celebrating Jesus' birth. Pray together, too.

Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Respectfully,
Tom and Liz Dressel

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to tomdressel@comcast.net by everymarriagematters@comcast.net | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Every Marriage Matters | 1005 Woodlawn Ave | 1005 Woodlawn Ave | Oregon City | OR | 97045