



Marriage & Family Savers Institute

NEWSLETTER

Christmas

December 2009



229 Robinson Ave.—Newburgh, NY 12550—Phone (845) 561-9498—Toll Free—1-877-MSAVERS—Web: www.marriageandfamily.org

In This Issue

DUTCHESS COUNTY SEMINARS	1
LESSONS FROM TIGER	1
WHAT MEN & WOMEN WANT	1
PENNY'S ORDINATION	1
THE GIFT OF LOVE	2
FROM BILL & PENNY	4

As we look forward to yet another Christmas, we're filled with both thanksgiving and awe at the wonderful works we have seen God perform. This Christmas there will be families celebrating the birth of Jesus together, Mom, Dad and children, because a choice was made to fight for the marriage and the family. Yet, there will still be too many broken families for which we must pray that the Father to the fatherless will fill the void. We've devoted this issue to the greatest gift that was ever given, the gift of love. This was the gift that came on Christmas Day. This is the gift we wish for all of you this Christmas Season. And we pray you will pay it forward to others, particularly those who are experiencing marital discord. Let them know there is an answer. Share that love with them. They are crying out for hope. You know where that hope is to be found. Share it with them. His Name is Jesus!

DUTCHESS COUNTY SEMINARS

We're starting off the new year with two Marriage Saver Seminars (Part 1) in Dutchess County, and a Part 2 for those who have previously attended Part 1

February 13, 2009

(Valentine's Day Present for Her)
NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
35 DeGarmo Rd
Poughkeepsie, NY
Phone (845) 454- 2580

February 27, 2009

FULL GOSPEL CENTER
1138 Route 55
LaGrangeville, NY
(845) 452-4673

March 13, 2009

PART 2—Marriage Saver Seminar for those who have attended Part 1 previously.
Contact us for location and registration.

LESSONS FROM TIGER

Again, I found myself wanting to reach through the radio to strangle another commentator who was pontificating about the need to have a prenuptial agreement before marriage, citing the Tiger Woods incident as proof that you need to protect your own assets against predatory wives. How far we have fallen when we think that the greatest transgression is marrying without a prenuptial agreement. What message are we sending to our young people? Are we saying that marriage won't last so cover yourself for sure? Are we saying that you've got to look out for "number one?" Are we saying that marriage is no more than a business relationship? Well, apparently, these are precisely the messages we are sending when we forget that marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God to fulfill his purposes in the earth.

The problem is not the absence of a

(Cont. P.3)

WHAT MEN AND WOMEN WANT

This Christmas many families are being financially challenged as never before as a result of a failing national economy. But alas! We can give one another gifts that are priceless and enduring if we're willing to go to the One who already paid the price for our eternal and abundant

(Cont. P. 3)

PENNY'S ORDINATION

On Nov. 22nd New Harvest Christian Church was filled with believers from all over the region to celebrate Penny's Elim Fellowship ordination. Worship was led by saints from two different local fellowships, and the Word was brought by Rev. Ray Cummings from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, a board member of this ministry. We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this celebration and expression of the Body of Christ working together in the unity of the Spirit.

THE GIFT OF LOVE

by Bill Banuchi

This is the season for giving. There's no greater gift that can be given than the gift of love. But the sad truth is that too few people -even Christians- have any idea about what love is. You see, love is sacrificing for the needs of another.

*"For God so loved the world that he **gave** (sacrificed) His only begotten son..."(John 3:16)*

It's unconditional. Jesus didn't say, "I will come into your world, to be born in a stinking manger, then in the prime of my life I will hang on a cross if you will promise to repent some day." No, he simply came into our world and gave all -*unconditionally*. In other words, the love he demonstrated - the only true love there is- is totally unconditional. He sacrificed for our needs, even when we had no idea what our need was!

Our love for Jesus is a response to His love for us. We love Him because he "first" loved us. When we realize how totally unconditional His love is; when we realize that he already paid the price for our salvation without any idea of what our response would be, we can't help but to be overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude.

We choose to love Him, because He loved us first - unconditionally!

The Catholic theologian, St. Augustine spoke about "the order of loves." There is an order. God first loves us, then we respond to His love. He's the initiator; we're the responders, (1 John 4:19).

Since marriage is supposed to be a picture of the love of God in the earth, it would mean that the husband *first* loves the wife. Then she responds with love and respect for him. In this culture of political correctness and equality of the sexes, some might object to the notion that the husband must love His wife first. That just doesn't seem right

or fair. Well, maybe it doesn't seem right according to the thinking of this world, but then again, maybe that's why today's marriages are dissolving at such a high rate, *even in the Church!* (Proverbs 14:12).

If God is the initiator of love causing us to respond with love toward Him, then it stands to reason that the husband must first love his wife. Then her love for Him will be a response to the love He initiates. Whether that seems fair or not, it's the law of relationships.

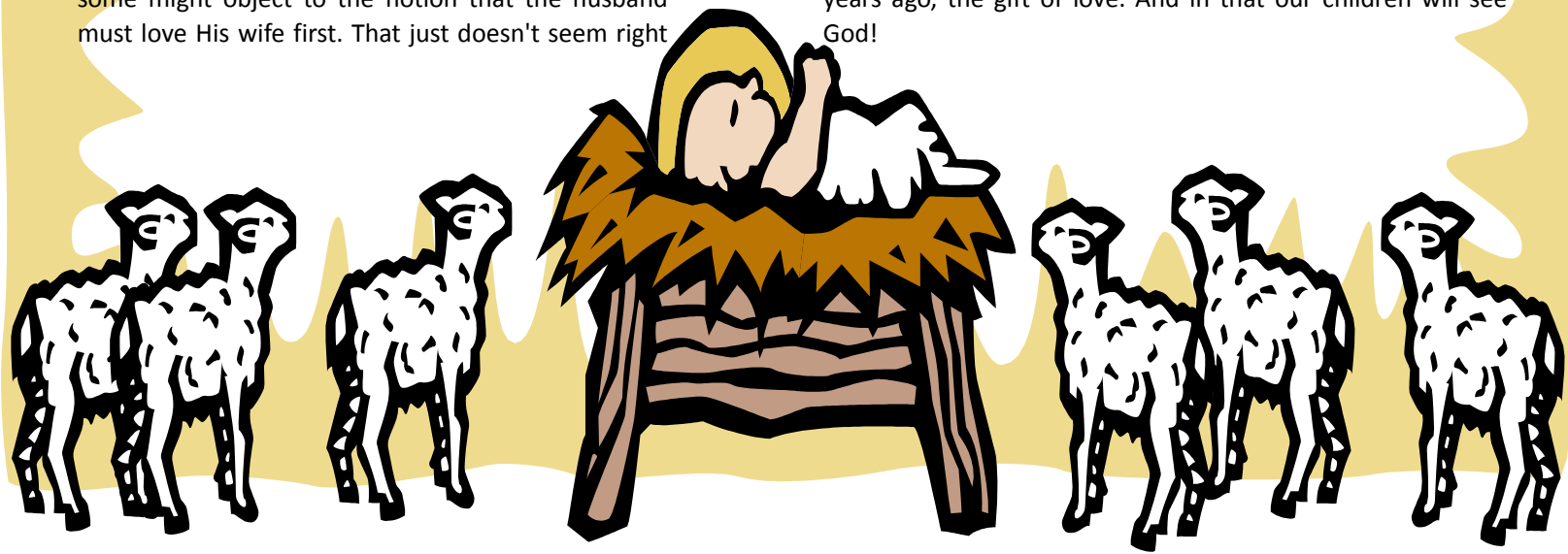
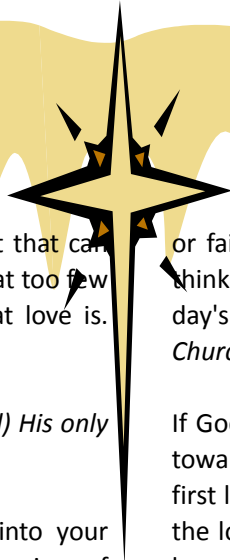
Just as the law of gravity doesn't change according to a person's opinion -if you walk off the end of your roof, you're going to fall whether you believe in gravity or not- it's a law. So it is with the law of relationships. Better to understand it, and work with it, than try to defy it.

This is not to excuse the wife from her responsibility to love and respect her husband. Two wrongs don't make a right. Despite the natural laws of relationships, her charge is to love and respect her husband -unconditionally. You see, it's the same for both. God is an equal opportunity God, after all.

It seems impossible doesn't it? It is. That's why we need God, for love is of God. (1 John 4:7) When we try it another way it doesn't work. The evidence is all around us.

So this season let's give the gift that God has given us. "Pay it forward" so-to-speak. Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the Church and died for her, so that she will sense and "feel" the unconditional love of God in her very own husband, and she will respond with the love and respect that every man yearns for.

This Christmas season, let us purpose in our hearts to give the gift that was given for us on a cross more than two thousand years ago, the gift of love. And in that our children will see God!



(MEN & WOMEN WANT from P. 1)

life. But first we must understand what it is that we really want, otherwise we may waste our time and energy buying gifts that no one wants or needs. What a let-down! Let's take a look at what men and women really want.

WHAT MEN WANT

In short, men want to feel significant and desired. I've often said that men get a bum wrap when it comes to the whole sex thing. "All they think about is sex!" How many times have we heard that said about men? Well, I've got news for you. It goes even deeper than that. The deepest driving emotional need for the average man is to feel significant and desired, especially in the act of making love. You know, the old "*Me Tarzan - You Jane!*" syndrome. That's why when a wife gives of herself reluctantly, without a sense of genuine desire, it leaves the husband with an emotional emptiness. Perhaps the physical need was met, but the emotional need is not. Yes, men do have emotional needs whether they admit it or not. In fact, men may not seem to hurt as easily as women, but they hurt deeper. It gets complicated when you consider the conflicting emotional needs in play. The husband wants to feel that his wife would sacrifice for him –after all, that is love. But then he resents the fact that it had to be a sacrifice for her to make love to him. After all, she should be passionately desiring the chance to make love with this special guy. The male ego, however, says, "If it's going to be a sacrifice on your part then keep it; I don't need anybody!" Then he goes out and has an affair with some woman who

makes him feel significant and desired. It isn't easy for the wife at this point because she doesn't want to fake the desire. In fact she often desires to have desire. Very often she ends up justifying her lack of desire by recounting all his offenses toward her. Now we're stuck. Time for counseling.

WHAT WOMEN WANT

In short, women want to feel safe, secure and validated. They want to feel that their opinions, thoughts and ideas have value to their husbands. They want to feel the liberty to express who they are without fear of being discounted, judged, corrected or ridiculed. The male ego may want him to feel like a "King in his castle," but the woman wants to feel like a queen, cherished and adored for who she is, not for what she does around the house, or for being a good mother, a good cook, or even a good provider. She wants to feel "special" for who she is, not for what she does for everyone else. She still wants to be "romanced" by her man. Care and protection are primary. The husband needs to show her he cares about how she feels even when he may not agree, or even understand how she feels. He needs to protect her from the hurts of others, as much as he can, but most of all, from the hurts that he himself might inflict on her by his unkind, harsh words. Women often get involved in affairs when someone else provides the safety, romance and unconditional acceptance their hearts are yearning for.

Order the Book for Christmas:
"A THREEFOLD CORD"
Go to our web site to order

(TIGER From P. 1)



prenuptial contract, which is in fact, a pre-determined divorce- agreement. If marriage is reduced to a business contract –and it very well can be in this government "of the people"- then we will be passing on to the next generation more social chaos and dysfunction than we are presently experiencing. If you think the children of this generation are without vision or purpose, wait till the next! We must not continue down this path of cultural narcissism where everyone just cares about themselves.

But then again, it would be illogical to expect a culture without God to consider anything holy. So it must be up to the people of God, beginning with the clergy, to begin teaching the difference between the holy and the common (Leviticus 10:10). We must set the standard in our own marriages understanding that we are contagious. Others will catch what we have. They will be influenced by the way we esteem the holy institution of marriage. Let us be sure they are influenced in the right direction.

As we pray for Tiger Woods and his family, let us also be resolved to esteem even more highly the holy institution of marriage, beginning with our own, and impacting others



Go To our Website,
www.marriageandfamily.org
To hear sermons and teachings by Bill and Penny. Click on "AUDIO/VIDEO DOWNLOADS." Also be sure to check the "MARRIAGE EVENTS" calendar



Marriage & Family Savers Institute
229 Robinson Ave
Newburgh, NY 12550

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage
Paid

Permit No. 387
Newburgh, NY

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Merry Christmas!

Dear Friends,

We pray this newsletter finds you and your family in the very best of His care and grace.

This year the message of the historical event –the birth of a child who grew up to claim to be the Son of God, and then proved it by being crucified and resurrected from the dead– must be told with more sincerity and passion than ever before. The new cultural trend toward Atheism will produce a society without love, unless we, the people of God, will tell our children the truth about love, and demonstrate it in our own personal lives and marriages.

Our prayer for you this Christmas season is that love will be born anew in your hearts and in your home for one another, so that the children will see the reality of the love of Christ in your marriage. That will validate the story of Christmas. Then righteousness, peace and joy will be the "climate change" in your home. What more can we ask for?

We are ever grateful for your love and support.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and prosperous New Year!

Bill and Penny