



# Marriage & Family Savers Institute



## January 2010

NEWSLETTER

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

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As I write this the tragedy in Haiti is unfolding, and we are in fervent prayer for the people of Haiti who are loved by God, and hated by Satan. In our own nation, 2010 will also be a year of earth-shaking change. Will our homes be strong enough to stand when the shaking comes? Now is the time to prepare. Now is the time to put all foolishness, selfishness and pride away and pursue “righteousness and love” (Proverbs 21:21) That is the Word God has given us for the New Year. It’s a year to get our homes in order beginning in our own hearts. No more excuses! There will be a greater divide between the people who are walking in the love of God, and those who are enemies of God, who bring strife, confusion and dissension into their own homes. This is a year to commit to “holiness”, a word that may be out of fashion, *even in many “Christian” circles*, but is always required if we are to know the presence and power of God.

### HAPPY COUPLES!

*Suzann Pileggi, "The Happy Couple," Scientific American Mind, Jan/Feb 2010, pp. 34-36.*

It turns out that how couples handle good news may matter even more to their relationship than their ability to support each other under difficult circumstances:

"Numerous studies show that intimate relationships, such as marriages, are the single most important source of life satisfaction. Although most couples enter these relationships with the

(Cont. on P. 3)

### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

We have a great God-given vision (we believe), but we can't do it alone.. We need others with a passion to save marriages to join us, to see the vision come to pass. We're looking for individuals to join our Board of Directors who would be willing to contribute their wealth, wisdom or work. We're praying particularly for someone who can help us develop a steady stream of funding to pursue what we believe is the vision the Lord has given us to

(Cont. on P. 3)

### NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

*NEW YORK, NY.* National Marriage Week USA announces a new initiative for the week leading up to Valentine's Day 2010, and is putting forth a call to mobilize hundreds of diverse organizations to plan and prepare for awareness and activities for **February 7 to 14, 2010**. The goal is to elevate national attention on the need to strengthen marriage and ways to do it, and initiate new efforts to reduce the divorce rate and build a stronger marriage culture which in turn helps curtail poverty and benefits children. Local churches and civic organizations are encouraged to preach and teach on the subject, have special events, and work to elevate the sacred institution of marriage to a place of importance in our personal lives, in the life of the local church and in the lives of our communities and nation during this time. For more information go to [www.nationalmarriageweekUSA.org](http://www.nationalmarriageweekUSA.org)

### HEALTH PLAN PENALIZES MARRIAGE

The National Health Insurance Plan Congress is trying to pass places a huge financial penalty on married couples. Couples who earn between 60K and 80K annually will see their annual premiums going up more than \$10,000 just because they are married and filing jointly. See the enclosed Empire State News Watch for details.

### UPCOMING SEMINARS

#### **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. Call  
the office for details.

# A LOVE STORY—Micah & Sarah

## HOW WE MET

Well it's a simple story with an interesting twist which we'll leave out for "nice story" reasons! Sarah's sister Leah did an internship at Micah's church back in 2000 or 2001, and Micah and Sarah were introduced, but no "sparx" yet! Well, they again met later in life when they attended Elim Bible College in Lima, NY (6 hours away from home). They were both dating other people at the time and quite honestly, they couldn't really stand one another anyways. BUT--and this is a sweet "but"-- one night they ran into each other in the piano practice rooms. Sarah was in one room worshipping to songs she wrote (which later they produced a CD of) and Micah in another room was fine tuning his skills as a worship leader. Then Micah, on a break from playing for a few minutes heard an angelic voice coming from the room next to him. Quite curious, he quietly stepped out to peek into the window of the room Sarah was in, and then it happened, BUSTED! She caught him looking in and watching her, so she stopped and he opened the door to say hello. He tried to pull out some of his "mac - daddy" skillful words, but nothing came to mind! He couldn't help but compliment her heartfelt music. ANYWAYS, they somehow got chatting and next thing you know, Micah was tickling the ivory's while Sarah nailing those soulful harmonies. Little did they know this was just a small glimpse into their future! From that point on their feelings toward one another changed, and Micah eventually found those flirtatious words and would try to spark Sarah's attention, but of course, Sarah plays hard to get! Well, eventually that year came to an end and they went their separate ways, no big deal! Some time later, the Lord started tugging at Micah's heart to go back to Elim for further teachings on his call in life (Music Ministry). Then one day on campus, walking out of the chapel he came across a "sad faced Sarah" and he offered to take her to Starbucks for a chat and catch up

on life. Well that was one of the greatest moves he ever made... but long story short... Micah goes home, misses Sarah, calls her (TOO MANY TIMES) and Sarah starts to give in. She sends Micah a train ticket to come see her again (one of the greatest moves she's made). She picks him up in her diesel 12 passenger suburban and now she's won his heart. (Micah's thoughts: "How does a 5'1" li'l woman drive this huge diesel truck?") Despite all their classmates' ribbing, they press on and follow the Lord's call on their lives and HE draws them even closer in love... they finally get approval to date from the deans, and that was the end of that chapter and a new beginning for each of them... AWE WHAT A SWEET STORY!!

## HOW WE GOT ENGAGED

*(Keeping in mind this was the 2nd time because my first time was a terrible attempt at a marriage proposal.)*

Well in the middle of a "fight" one night, Micah got an idea to call Sarah and have her meet him in Highland, NY (a half way mark) so they could talk in person and hash things out. So she came and he took her for an evening walk in some field (as far as she could tell) downtown. As they were walking they just so happen to come across a blanket in the middle of the field with a candle (which was lit but the stinkin` wind blew it out) and a bottle of water to quench the thirst from the nice walk. So she smiled and was impressed by the long awaited romanticism. As they chatted, Sarah realized they were sitting on exactly the same spot that Micah had asked her out on back on July 4, 2004. She lit up with smiles. So after a few minutes had gone by, Micah laid behind Sarah, wrapped his arms around her and spoke sweet nothings into her ear... which eventually led to (DRUM ROLL PLEASE...) "so would you like to spend the rest of your life with me?"...whips out the "bling-bling"... and then with shouts and tears of the long anticipated joy, she tackled Micah and choked him, I mean hugged him so tight and finally accepted his proposal! THE END!!! OR shall we say THE BEGINNING... ah you get the point!

Valentine's Day is coming soon. Let God help you write your own "Love Story"



## (BOARD MEMBERS From P. 1)

establish a resource to keep marriages and families together in a culture working to tear them apart.

If you believe the Lord might be tapping you on the shoulder to help in this way, please call me and let's talk..



### REPORT 2009

In 2009 we were able to see marriages saved and families restored as we conducted seminars and training sessions from Connecticut to Delaware and points in between. We launched the Montgomery Marriage Initiative and hope to further develop it in 2010. Wherever God opened doors we were able to preach and teach God's principles for marriages, families and a nation, while seeing couples in our counseling office Monday thru Friday.

The real miracle is that we were able to accomplish all this with such limited funds. Promised state funding never came through, and donations were down. We ended the year very much in the red. We'll need significant help to continue.

It has always been our vision and hope as an extension of the Body of Christ to be supported by local congregations. To date we have ten local congregations that support us regularly. Our goal is to have at least twenty five. If your church is one of our partner churches please extend thanks to your pastor and board. If they are not, please ask them to consider taking us on as a local mission.

We thank God for His provision and power to advance His kingdom in 2009, and we're looking forward to even greater victories in 2010 for the benefit of the children of the next gen-

eration and God's glory. We wish to thank all of you who have been a part of this ministry and have supported us with your prayers, your hard work and your finances. It never could have been done without you. 😊

### (HAPPY COUPLES From P.1)

best of intentions, many break up or stay together but languish. Yet some do stay happily married and thrive. What is their secret?

"A few clues emerge from the latest research in the nascent field of positive psychology. Founded in 1998 by psychologist Martin E. P. Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania, this discipline includes research into positive emotions, human strengths and what is meaningful in life. In the past few years positive psychology researchers have discovered that thriving couples accentuate the positive in life more than those who stay together unhappily or split do. They not only cope well during hardship but also celebrate the happy moments and work to build more bright points into their lives.

"It turns out that how couples handle good news may matter even more to their relationship than their ability to support each other under difficult circumstances. Happy pairs also individually experience a higher ratio of upbeat emotions to negative ones than people in unsuccessful liaisons do.

Certain tactics can boost this ratio and thus help to strengthen connections with others. Another ingredient for relationship success: cultivating passion. Learning to become devoted to your significant other in a healthy

way can lead to a more satisfying union.

"Until recently, studies largely centered on how romantic partners respond to each other's misfortunes and on how couples manage negative emotions such as jealousy and anger - an approach in line with psychology's traditional focus on alleviating deficits. One key to successful bonds, the studies indicated, is believing that your partner will be there for you when things go wrong. Then, in 2004, psychologist Shelly L. Gable, currently at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and her colleagues found that romantic couples share positive events with each other surprisingly often, leading the scientists to surmise that a partner's behavior also matters when things are going well.



### RESOURCES AVAILABLE

On our web site:

[www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org)

#### FREE!

- ◆ Marriage Minutes
  - ◆ Teachings and Sermons by Bill and Penny Banuchi
- \*\*\*\*\*

#### FOR PURCHASE

- ◆ Book: "A Threefold Cord"
- ◆ Marriage Saver Seminar on DVD
- ◆ "America Bless God" Bumper Stickers

Also be sure to check the "MARRIAGE EVENTS" calendar to find out what events are happening in your Community.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**National Marriage Week**  
**February 7th-14th**

*Dear Friends,*

*We pray this newsletter finds you and your family in the very best of His care and grace as we begin a New Year with new blessings and new challenges.*

*This year God is calling on all of us to be "Marriage Savers" beginning with our own marriages, and reaching out to friends and neighbors who are looking for help in all the wrong places. We must look beyond ourselves, and step out in faith to offer the help that we know is to be found only in developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As simple as it may sound, He is still the answer.*

*Others need to hear about Him from those who do know Him. You don't need to be a theologian or an evangelist. We just need to be a witness to share what God has done in our own lives..."one beggar telling another beggar where to find a piece of bread." Ask God to show you how you can be a Marriage Saver in 2010. Keep us in your prayers; we're praying for you.*

*May God bless and equip you for the battle!*

**Bill & Penny**