



Marriage & Family Savers Institute



February 2010

NEWSLETTER

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Whatever happened to the global warming idea? I'm ready for Spring; aren't you? 2010 promises to be an action packed year for saving marriages, and restoring families. More people are catching the vision. More are willing to do whatever it will take to learn to love, even as we are loved by God. The One who knows us best loves us most. Isn't that an awesome thought? We pray God will speak to you through this issue, especially in the article about what love really is on page 2, as well as the testimony about respect, also on page 2. We want to encourage you all to become a card-carrying member of the Institute. We're raising an army of "marriage savers." In times like these there can be no spectators. We must either fight or quit. As the prophet Nehemiah encouraged the Israelites, so do I encourage you, *"Remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."* -Nehemiah 4:14b. Let's do it!

COUPLE CHECK-UP NOW AVAILABLE

Now you can go on line to take an assessment of the couple relationship for only \$29.95 all on your own. This assessment by PREPARE-ENRICH is a variation of the assessment we use in the counseling room, yet written in everyday language that any couple could benefit from. We strongly recommend it as a way to initiate meaningful dialogue for any couple relationship whether you're married or intending to be. If any additional help is needed we're always available. To take the couples check-up go to www.prepare-enrich.com and follow the "couples" links.

URGENT MESSAGE FROM "FAMILI"

FROM CHRIS GERSTEN (Fatherhood and Marriage Leadership Initiative)

The marriage education movement is facing a severe crisis. Over the past year, we have lost a great deal of Federal and State support. And now the new Administration is proposing to eliminate **ALL** of the \$150 million a year Federal support for marriage education and fatherhood programs after the initial grants expire next year. The handwriting is on the wall. If we cannot get the marriage education movement and the Federal grantees mobilized, we will lose everything!

The new program proposed in the Administration's 2011 Budget to replace the old marriage and fatherhood grants, while including the words "Marriage" and "Fatherhood" in the title, has no resemblance to the previous legislation. There is NO money for marriage education and the fatherhood component is a jobs

(Cont. on P. 3)

STATE GRANT COMES THROUGH

Our state grant for the Hudson Valley Marriage Initiative finally came through, for which we are so grateful. It is about 2 years overdue, so much of the funds will go to paying off debt we've incurred while waiting for the funds, but we will now be able to shift into high gear to promote healthy marriage in the Hudson Valley, and work with clergy in Newburgh, Middletown, Port Jervis, Poughkeepsie and Kingston. With the help of Curtis and Mary Whitted, directors of the Potter House in Poughkeepsie we were able to secure separate funding for Poughkeepsie. The bad news is that there are no more grant applications in process for future projects. For this reason we must raise our funding base by individuals and local churches to continue with our mission. The general atmosphere in the state and Washington D.C. (See Chris Gersten's report) makes it clear that government cannot be relied upon to protect marriage. (Cont. on P. 3)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13, 2010

PART 2—Marriage Saver Seminar
for those who have attended Part 1 .
Reach Out Worship Center, Hyde Park.
Call or see our web site for details.

MAY 15, 2010

**PREPARE-ENRICH
CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP**
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Walden, NY
Call or see our web site for details

LOVE IS...Adapted from article by John D. Morris, Ph.D

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

-1 John 5:3

The disciple John is known as that disciple who had a special love for Jesus and vice versa. He was identified as that disciple "whom Jesus loved" ([John 20:2](#)). His writings give a clear picture of the love that God has for us, as well as the kind of love we should have in response to Him. John does not identify this love as an emotional or sentimental feeling. It is more than affection; ***it is total obedience to Him***, as noted in the following sampling of verses. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" ([John 14:15](#)). "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in him" ([1 John 2:5](#)). "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments" (2 John 6). Such a view of love may come as a surprise to some, but it reflects total submission to His kingship. ***This is the proof of our love for God*** as seen in our text and elsewhere.

The other side of love is love toward men, and John has much to say of this matter as well. "And this commandment have we

from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" ([1 John 4:21](#)). He elsewhere writes "that we love one another" ([2 John 5](#)); and "these things I command you, that ye love one another" ([John 15:17](#)). Paul even picks up the theme: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" ([Romans 13:9-10](#)). "Submit ye one to another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21).

In summary, love is a principle that works no ill towards one's neighbor, no less one's spouse, but rather seeks their greater good. Christ's human half-brother called it "the royal law" ([James 2:8](#)). Love to God yields obedience to all His commandments. Both kinds of love are mandated by God, as illustrated in the symbol of the cross.

The cross is made up of a vertical beam representing our vertical relationship with God, and a horizontal beam, representing our relationship with others. Skewing of one beam necessarily skews the other beam. You cannot love God and not love your neighbor or your spouse. (1 John 4:20) "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" ([Matthew 22:40](#)).

TESTIMONY—IT WAS ABOUT RESPECT

Today is my birthday; I am 55 years old. I thank God for the marriage we have today, but it wasn't always so good.

Two years ago I realized that my husband and I hardly had any time for "us." I was feeling lonely and abandoned. Whenever I approached Gilbert about having a conversation with me he would always change the subject. He never wanted to talk. When we got into arguments he would shout at me, "Why should I talk to you; you don't respect what I have to say anyway." I didn't see it that way. One day, it got so bad he called me a miserable wretch. It hurt so much to hear those words, but as I got to thinking I realized, I was miserable. Then things went from bad to worse.

I finally made an appointment with my pastor. He thought that perhaps spending time with a marriage counselor would help us to work through 35 years of stuff.

I called Marriage Savers, and I was kind of scared of what was going to be said. Maybe it's a pride thing, but I really thought I was the best wife Gilbert could ever have. I woke up early to make him breakfast; I did his laundry; I made his lunch and set it in the refrigerator the night before. Dinner was always a good hot meal at least three times a week, even though I worked further away than Gilbert worked. What more could he asked for?

As I began counseling I was asked to invite Gilbert to come. By some miracle he did. We were in session one day when we were given the assignment to list three things we would like more of from one another. Gilbert was first. He asked for "Some" respect. I saw red! How dare he use that in our counseling! That was not true! We were learning reflective listening so all I could do was to repeat back what I had heard. I couldn't explain how wrong Gilbert was. We got through the exercise and before we finished the session I was asked what I was feeling at that moment because I looked really upset.

I began to share how Gilbert always says I don't respect him and I explained all I do for him. I thought that showed respect, but I didn't realize it had more to do with my tone of voice when I spoke to Gil, than anything I ever did for him.

(Cont. on P. 3)



(From P. 1—FAMLI)

TESTIMONY From P. 2

services bill in disguise.

We must communicate with and educate our Congresswomen and men and Senators about the benefits of government supported marriage strengthening programs and the social health and jobs they bring to our communities.

I AM ASKING EACH OF YOU TO GO TO THE WWW.FAMLI.US SITE AND SIGN ON TO HELP SAVE MARRIAGE EDUCATION FUNDING. If you are not registered yet on the FAMLI site, you do not need to register in order to sign up to help save the marriage funding. FAMLI will then notify you of upcoming conference calls to mobilize state task forces to educate elected officials.

If we do not act now, all our gains made during the past eight years securing Federal and State funding for marriage education programs will be lost. Please go to the www.famli site right now to sign up. Thank you for all you do to for marriage. Institute (FAMLI) 😊

NY FUNDING From P. 1

Please pray with us that God will provide the funding sources needed. We certainly would welcome anyone gifted with fund raising abilities, and a passion to help save marriages.

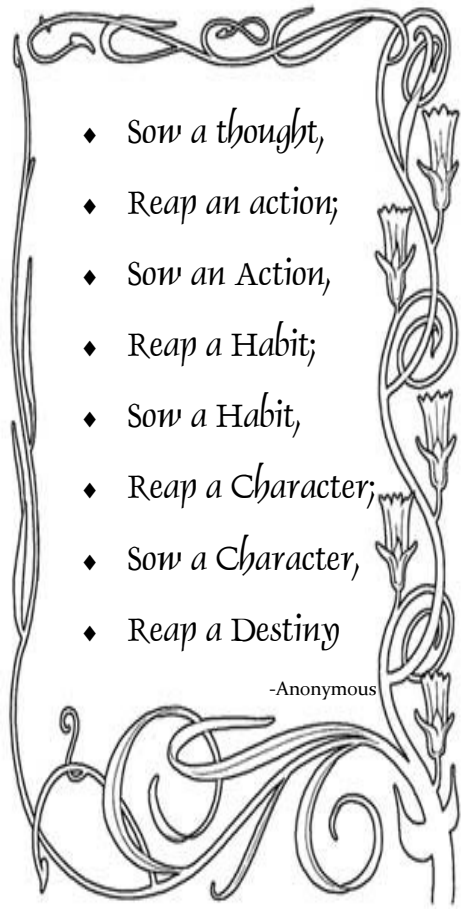
If you have not yet joined the Institute we encourage you to join us today. Simply send in a gift of any amount with the Response Form, or go on-line to set up a monthly donation. You will receive a certificate suitable for framing and a wallet membership card to identify you as a Marriage & Family Saver. 😊

He explained how he always felt I was talking “down” to him. The counselor shared Ephesians 5: 33 “However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” (NIV) I could not believe what was being said. It was straight from the Bible. All these years I was trying to love Gilbert by doing things for him, while all he asked for was respect in the way I spoke to him. He told me that was the reason he never wanted to talk to me about anything important. I felt so small in that session. No one made me feel that way; it was just me.

What I learned that day in the counseling room was life changing. I also learned that when I respected Gilbert in the way he needed to be respected, it also pleased God! It wasn’t even about me. It was about pleasing God and receiving the gift He gave me 35 years ago in Gilbert.

It took this lady a good year of teaching but I can honestly say that day in counseling with Bill & Penny was a pivotal one in my marriage, and it has never been the same since. We are now walking in a new relationship of love and respect with each other. We both have learned more about what God expects of us. Thank you Lord! 😊

"Curly here, says I'm sarcastic."



- ◆ Sow a thought,
- ◆ Reap an action;
- ◆ Sow an Action,
- ◆ Reap a Habit;
- ◆ Sow a Habit,
- ◆ Reap a Character;
- ◆ Sow a Character,
- ◆ Reap a Destiny

-Anonymous

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

On our web site:

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

**Log on to our web site:
www.marriageandfamily.org**

Dear Friends,

We pray this newsletter finds you and your family in the very best of His care and grace. Despite what's going on in Washington D.C. and Albany, We expect 2010 to be a good year for marriages and families. Why? Because we see men and women rising up to fight for their marriages and families as never before. Hearts are changing. Minds are being renewed. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is raising marriages and families up from the ash heap of divorce and dysfunction to new life, new peace, new joy!

If you have not yet become part of this marriage-saving army we encourage you to join up now. Every one is necessary in this war against the family. There can be no spectators. We're either with Him, or against Him; there's no in between. 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