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THE NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AT VINEYARD COLUMBUS

Vineyard Marriage & Family Life Stats

We thought our coaches would like to know some statistics regarding the individuals and couples going through our various ministries....

- Last year we offered our Dating without Drama class twice, and had a total of 86 participants. This year, we divided the classes by age range (separate classes for 18-34 years old, and 35+ years old) to more specifically address individuals' needs; and in the near future, we are working on applying the classes to additional demographics, such as high school students and college campuses.
- In 2010, MFL met with 54 couples for premarital interviews (between 6 and 14 of these couples were cohabiting at the time). 24 couples went through our premarital program and were married at the Vineyard, and 21 couples were coached and married offsite. 68 couples went through the How2Become1 premarital class, and 21 couples went through the How2Become1-Stepfamily class in 2010.
- Last year we introduced our Blueprints for the Family classes and follow-up tracks, and we had 25 parents in attendance. We matched 13 parent couples or single parents with coaches from 2009-2010.
- Since 2004, 173 couples have been through the Begin Again program. As of today, 140 of those couples are still married, 12 couples have divorced, and 21 couples we were unable to contact.

Thank you for all you do to serve in the various aspects of this ministry—we couldn't reach this many people without you! Please continue to lift up the Marriage & Family Ministry, and the people we come in contact with, in your prayers.

Upcoming MFL Events

- **Coach Training**
Saturday, June 4, (9am-4pm)
Follow-up classes on Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21 (7-9pm)
- **Journey to Oneness Classes**
Wednesdays, June 8—29 (7-9pm)
- **All-Coach Picnic**
Sunday, June 26
- **Helping Parents Prepare for the End of Life Seminar**
Tuesday, June 28, (7-9pm)

A Letter to Coaches



It was a pleasure to host The Successful Stepfamily Conference with Ron Deal on May 14th. Many experts agree that single parent families and stepfamilies make up the greatest percentage of households in local congregations. The conference reminded us that stepfamilies have unique needs, and face obstacles that require not only ongoing encouragement, but also resources that speak to these specific areas of need. Vineyard Marriage & Family believes that God desires to restore what was lost to children through the divorce or separation of their parents.

We learned that stepfamilies need to keep their marriage relationship a priority, even when their children's needs require much of their attention. A marriage relationship is the catalyst of developing unity and harmony in a stepfamily. However, many couples will prioritize the area of parenting over their marriage relationship, thinking that creating harmony with the children will complement their relationship with their spouse.

Ron Deal also talked about the

need to understand how change, loss or crisis creates stress on children. Divorce creates a loss in a child's life that may be revisited many times throughout their childhood. Parents must be able to embrace these losses, in order to parent their children from one stage of maturity into another. It is not uncommon for children to struggle with denial, anger, bargaining or depression as they transition into a new stage of their life, such as childhood into preadolescence, preadolescence into adolescence, and adolescence into adulthood. One of the common mistakes that parents make is feeling as if their child should have resolved these issues, rather than acknowledging that each stage of their life will be impacted by divorce.

Even though parents cannot heal the wounds of their children that come through divorce, they can point their children to the one who *is* their healer – Jesus. This is good news! God wants to restore what was lost to children of divorce through remarriage and stepfamilies. A successful stepfamily can be a place of healing that will prepare children to be followers of Jesus. The LIMRI and Coach Model have proven to be very helpful to stepfamilies in our own church. We are excited to offer three fol-

from Ron Hitchcock

low-up classes for stepfamilies, which will take place this summer. Please spread the word to families you think would be encouraged by these topics:

- Sunday, June 5th: Step-Parenting
- Sunday, July 10th: Making your Marriage a Priority in your Stepfamily
- Sunday, August 14th: Spiritual Identity within a Stepfamily

What are some ways you can help support stepfamilies in our church? For those of you who are presently serving as marriage coaches and have been remarried and formed a stepfamily, I would like to encourage you to share the grace of God that you've experienced by becoming parent coaches for other stepfamilies. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the LIMRI parent worksheets. I am sure you will find the worksheets to be a great resource in ministering to other step-parents. If you would like to serve in this area of ministry, please give me a call, or email carol.mcclure@vineyardcolumbus.org. Finally, if you know of any stepfamily couples who would make good coaches, please let us know and we would love to contact them. God has a plan for every family. Blessings, Ron

Save the Date: Annual All-Coach Picnic!

When: Sunday, June 26th

Where: Blendon Woods Park

What: Picnic for all Marriage & Family coaches and their families



Watch for an Evite with more information in the next couple weeks!

Introducing our New MFL Interns!

Marriage & Family is excited to add two fresh new faces to our team—interns, Jewell Mongeau and Emilie Rogers!



Jewell was born and raised in western Pennsylvania and has lived in New Jersey, Massachusetts and Illinois. For the past sixteen years, she has called Columbus, Ohio, her home. She is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and has completed graduate coursework at Otterbein College. She has two daughters: Rebekah, who serves on the worship team, and Olivia, a nurse at OSU Medical Center...Go Bucks!!

Jewell has always been passionate about family. Growing up in a

Christian home as one of five children, she experienced the joy and support of being part of a loving family unit. With God's help, she desires to use her talents to help others develop the skills needed to make Christ the center of their lives, as well as the center of their homes.

In the past, Jewell has worked in education and business. Currently, she enjoys volunteering in the Just Me and the Kids ministry, as well as serving as a marriage coach with her husband, David, of 30 years. For relaxation, she creates clothing, gardens and takes long walks (often at Hocking Hills) with her family.



Emilie and her husband Peter joined Vineyard Columbus soon after they married and moved to Westerville in 2003. She previously lived in Delaware, Ohio where she raised her three chil-

dren as a single parent. Emilie is currently retired from the company she served for 35 years, and enjoys volunteering and taking care of family and home. She also enjoys quilting and line dancing.

Emilie was a single parent for 15 years and became a step-parent to four children upon her marriage to Peter; consequently she has a passion to help single parents and stepfamilies. She feels blessed by God, and wants to share those blessings with others during her internship.



Please join us in welcoming Jewell & Emilie!

LIMRI Website: A Toolbox for Coaches

by Ken Warren

If you haven't had a chance to utilize the LIMRI Website, we encourage you to take a few minutes to check out some of the features that will support you as coaches. Here are a few examples:

Online Training

Have you ever wished that you could take a refresher course as you prepare to coach a new couple? Now you can review coach training topics online! As of now, there are 13 video segments on various topics, including the Coach Model and Interpreting Responses, available on the website.

Response Forms

Have you ever had a couple show up for a coaching session without their homework? Or maybe you had the distinct impression that your couple scribbled in some answers in the car on the way to the meeting. When this happens it does a disservice to the coaching process. As coaches, your time has not been

valued, since the couple has given less than their best. The couple has also cheated themselves by not allowing sufficient time to invite God into their change. Response Forms were developed in part to help keep this from happening.

Response Forms are an enhanced version of the first page of a LIMRI worksheet which guide the couple through the process of prayerfully interacting with Scripture. The man and the woman are directed to complete the form on their own and then come together to discuss it before moving on to the second page of the worksheet. Through the website, coaches are able to send Response Forms to their couples, and then view the completed forms prior to their next scheduled meeting.

Completion Date

In addition to selecting Response Forms to send to the couple, coaches are now also

able to select a completion date for these forms. In this manner, coaches are able to set a time by which the couple should complete their Response Forms that will allow the coaches adequate time to review them before their next meeting. For example, if you are scheduled to meet with a couple on Friday, you can set a completion date for Wednesday. If you are not meeting for a couple of weeks, you could space out completion dates for several Response Forms over the course of that time so that the couple doesn't attempt to do them all at once at the last minute.

Email Notification

We know that you have busy lives and we want to help you keep track of the coaching process as easily as possible. Coaches have the option to have the Life in Motion website notify them by email anytime a Response Form has been completed. You may also select the option to be notified when a Response Form is past due.

Directions for Accessing the LIMRI Website:

1. Go to www.lifeinmotionresources.com.
2. Click on "Create Account" on the right side of the menu bar.
3. This will open a page that will ask for your information.
4. Only one of you will need to create the account.
5. Be sure to use an active email address to which you both have access. Life in Motion will use this email to send you notices of completed Response Forms.
6. After you fill out all of the required information, click on "Create new account" at the bottom of the form.
7. You will receive notice by email when your account has been activated. Usually this occurs within 24 hours. If you do not receive this email within 24 hours, please check your email's spam filter. If you still do not see the email, please contact us.

