



Celebrating Marriage

This past week Eleanor and I celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary. Over the past four decades, we have transitioned to new jobs, moved between states, traveled to over 20 countries, raised four children, and enjoyed the blessing of nine grandchildren. At times, we've celebrated marriages and new births; on other occasions, we've mourned the passing of loved ones and the pain of illnesses or broken relationships. In all of these seasons, the Lord continually affirmed to me through our marriage that *"he who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord"* (Proverbs 18:22). Continue on to read about how God is using the ministry of Grace Community International to strengthen marriages both in the US and abroad.



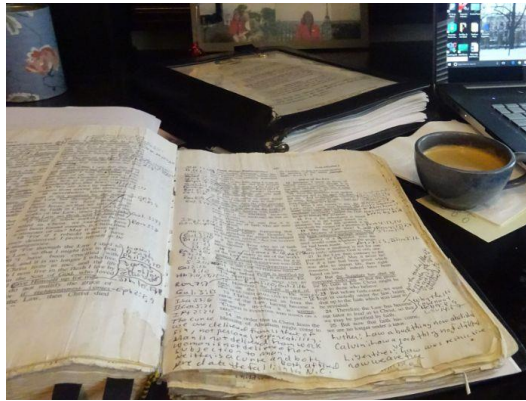


The Covenant of Marriage

A significant portion of Grace Community International's ministry is centered around our Marriage Covenant Seminar. This typically eight session conference expounds upon the truth that the covenant of marriage, as both conceived and defined by God, is made with God on the basis of legitimate needs of both the husband and the wife to which both the husband and wife are held equally accountable. Whether in small home gatherings or churches filled with hundreds of attendees, we continually find men and women who are eager to base their marriages on this fundamental truth shared by Christ in Matthew 19:5-6 that *"for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'...So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."*

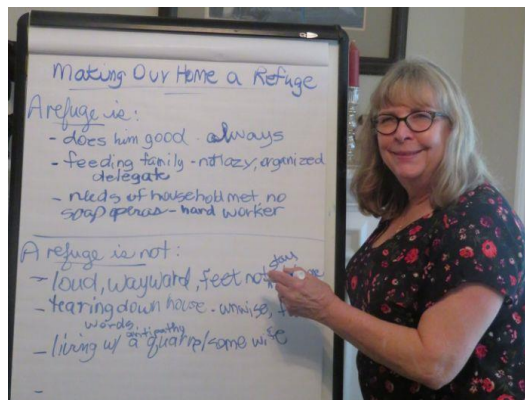
In Russia this past year, we met with a young couple; neither one came from a Christian family. After attending and implementing tenants of the Marriage Covenant Seminar, they shared how their marriage was strengthened and growing while that of many of their peers began to disintegrate. A young high school student in Nigeria came up and thanked me for the blessing of the seminar in his parents' life as he was able to benefit from the joys of their happy marriage while many of his friends went home to angry parents. Finally, a retired couple in the US recently told us how they felt that the marriage seminar help unite them in ministry - that where they used to go in separate directions now they were working together on a common goal in their service to the Lord.

Join us in praying for marriages this week!



For God to use Scripture to set apart marriages for His glory

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." (John 17:17)



For Eleanor as she speaks to and disciples wives

"so that [older women] may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children" (Titus 2:4)



For God to protect men and women from empty, worldly theories regarding marriage

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)



For myself as I prepare to preach extensively on the topic of marriage in the months ahead

"preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction." (2 Timothy 4:2)

Thanks be to God

In about a month, we will travel to Nigeria where one of the central conferences will focus again on the husband's and wife's commitments in marriage as revealed by God the Holy Spirit in Scripture. How we thank God for your faithful partnership in prayer and financial gifts which make this ministry to married couple around the globe possible!

If you would like to partner financially with GCI, simply click on the Donate button [here](#) to give online today! Alternatively, you can mail a check to the address at the bottom of this message. As always, keep up-to-date with the latest ministry happenings by following us on [Facebook](#) (@gciweb).

I close this message with a deep and abiding thankfulness for your sacrificial and effectual prayers which empower and drive this ministry ever forward in the cause of Christ.

By His mercy,

Rev. John S. Mahon

2 Corinthians 4:1