RESTORATION Colinistries



May 2017

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

It's springtime in Nebraska and the signs of new life are abundant. The grass is greening up, trees are budding and preparing to leaf out, new born animals are playing near their mothers, birds are building nests in preparation for a new hatch of young ones.

Our God is a God of new life. He demonstrates His life-giving power in so many ways. We are very thankful for the new life He gives through trusting the Lord Jesus as our Savior. We are thankful for the new life He breathes into marriages as husbands and wives surrender to Him and let

Him live His life in and through them.

We are very thankful for the gift the Lord brought into our family in the birth of Emerson Alan, who was born to Tanner and Larisa Ong on March 6. He joins our 6 other grandchildren as blessings to the whole family.

We want to thank you for your prayers and support that have enabled us to serve the giver of life and the one who is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.



We recently held conferences in Sidney, Nebraska, (above left) and Gothenburg, Nebraska (below right).

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Upcoming Conferences

"Bringing Back the Joy" in Saint Francis, Kansas June 9-10. (Watch our website for more details.)

Jestimonies

A couple writes, "We continue to be thankful for your ministry, to us and others. We have been blessed with richness and continue to grow closer as we trust Christ's refining work in us."

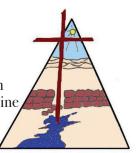
A couple who attended a recent conference write, "We were so encouraged by the "Tools for Your Relationship Toolbox" conference.

We've told several people about our experience and will stay tuned for future workshops!"

An individual writes, "Words cannot express how grateful I am for this ministry. For years I felt like a hollow shell of a person behind a white washed fence. I could not love or feel love and I could not connect with my children, family, or friends on any deep emotional level. Now I am actually able to shout that He (Jesus) loves me! I know that with every fiber of my being."

A couple writes, "Thank you and your wife for creating such a safe place for us to come and heal our hearts!"

A wife writes, "We have seen Jesus work like never before in our relationship and we have been able to connect on a whole new level."



Isaiah 58:11-12



2016 Ministry Report

- 48 couples and 5 individuals counseled, 6 salvations
- Marriages strengthened
- Began online video teaching to provide aftercare, and a monthly video conference for alumni to provide teaching to strengthen marriage relationships.
- Developed video series "Tools for Your Relationship Toolbox"
- Continued partnering with Gastons in the Philippines by providing resources to expand their pastoral counseling ministry, weekly radio broadcasts, training pastoral counselors, and strengthening marriages of Christian leaders in 4 Asian countries.

Praise & Prayer Items

- 1. For a fruitful year of ministry in 2016.
- 2. For God's provision of a team who facilitated video taping and production of the new DVD and workbook called "Tools for Your Relationship Toolbox".
- 3. For the training of several interns over the past year.
- 4. For the healing of hearts and relationships of those God brings for help.
- 5. For excellent weekend conferences with over 100 households attending.
- 6. God's faithful provision.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page: facebook.com/ restorationministriesonline.

Insights for Relationships by Pastor Roger Daum

We took a recent vacation trip to Branson, MO. While there we visited the Titanic Museum. We were given a small boarding pass with the name and some history of a passenger onboard the Titanic. One card had the name of Hudson Allison, age 30, from Canada. He and his wife had been in London and were returning home with their 2 year old daughter and infant son. Their infant son was in the care of his nursemaid and she and the baby escaped on a lifeboat, but the Hudsons and their daughter perished.

The Titanic was thought to be unsinkable. One man who helped build the ship boasted that "God couldn't even sink the Titanic." The museum guide explained how the captain took the ship an extra 20 miles to the south of the icefields to avoid icebergs. The captain, crew, and passengers were confident they were safe. Nothing would sink the ship they were on. However, at 11:40 PM on April 14, 1912, the Titanic struck an iceberg and tore a large hole in the hull of the ship. In less than 3 hours it sank and 1503 people died including the Allison's.

As we contemplated the tragedy of the Titanic it was impressed upon us that marriage can be like the Titanic. A married couple may start their voyage believing nothing could ever sink their ship, but as the years pass their ship may hit small icebergs that puncture holes in the hull of their ship.

Those punctures, caused by a growing sense of

disappointment, or not prioritizing their marriage, or poor communication, or failing to honor one another, or neglecting their relationship with the Lord, cause them to gradually take on water and, if not repaired, may eventually sink their ship. They may hit an iceberg of unresolved bitterness and anger, or selfishness, or sexual immorality, or emotional abuse that rips a gaping hole in their marriage and causes it to sink.

How can we protect our marriage to go the distance? Recently we were reminded of a the real life illustration of a couple nearing the completion of their voyage. Pastor Mathis and his wife Betty Jo (our pastor in Bible college) have been married for 71 years. The picture of Betty Jo sitting at the bedside of her 90 year old husband in the hospital says it all. They have experienced 3 keys for a successful marriage voyage that goes the distance. What are those keys?

- 1. Choosing the Lord Jesus to be their Savior and Captain of their ship. (Romans 10:9-13)
- 2. Faithfully following the Word of God as the map for life's journey. (Psalms 119:105)
- 3. Growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. (2 Peter 3:18)

If you are married, we encourage you do what's needed to protect your marriage and safely complete your marriage voyage.