

RESTORATION Ministries



July 2016

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Do you enjoy a good mystery? We enjoy watching a good mystery that takes time for the story line to unfold and keeps us guessing until much later in the story? God's Word speaks of divine mysteries. In Eph. 5:31, Paul quotes from Gen. 2:24 and refers to a man leaving his parents and being united to his wife through marriage and **"the two will become one flesh,"** and in vs. 32 says **"This is a profound (great) mystery,** but I am talking about Christ and the church." Marriage, and the relationship between a husband and wife, is to be a picture of Jesus Christ and His bride, the church.

You may be wondering how marriage is connected to one of God's mysteries? Let's define a divine mystery. Dr. Warren Wiersbe says a New Testament mystery "is a truth that was hidden by God in times past and is now revealed to those who are in His family. A mystery is a "sacred secret" that is unknown to unbelievers, but understood and treasured by the people of God." God ordained and established marriage between a man and woman at the beginning of human history. However, God doesn't reveal the significance of marriage and our marriages until much later in history (His Story).

In Ephesians Paul begins to unfold the mystery of God bringing two completely different people groups (Jews and Gentiles) **together into one body** through faith in Jesus Christ and **His work on the cross** (Eph. 1:10, 2:11-22, 3:2-11, Col. 1:24-27). God instituted marriage with the purpose that marriage between a man and woman would be a future picture of Christ's (the bridegroom) relationship with His church (His bride). Two completely different people, a man and a woman, become one to reflect Jesus and His love for His church, and the church's loving respectful response to her Savior. This love and response is made possible through the power of the cross at work in them as they die to self and let Jesus live and love through them.

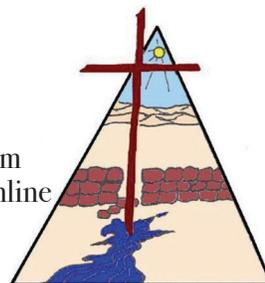
We celebrated 42 years of marriage June 1. We are so blessed **to be a part of God's profound mystery** and help couples develop healthy marriages that demonstrate in daily life the oneness that God intends every married couple to experience. We are encouraged by a recent note in which a couple shared, "We are forever grateful for the truth, healing, and comfort we received through Restoration Ministries."

Thank you for being a part in making this ministry possible. Please take a few moments to read this update and rejoice with us in what God is doing, and take some time to reflect on how your marriage is reflecting Jesus Christ's relationship with His bride.

Enjoying God's Mysteries,
Roger and Brenda Daum

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Isaiah 58:11-12

Testimonies

A pastor's wife writes: *It is amazing to see God at work, restoring our marriage & my husband to ministry. We are so grateful to you and your ministry. We would not be where we are today without the time we spent in Nebraska.*

A couple writes: *God used you to transform our lives in a safe environment; we are forever grateful!*

A couple writes: *We are so very thankful for our new beginning in Christ!*

A couple writes: *A simple "thank you" does not begin to express our appreciation to you. Our hearts are full. We are so grateful for the joy & hope, the lessons learned, the forgiveness given & received. We thank the Lord for the healing.*

A couple writes: *We have practical tools going forward to restart our marriage.*

A wife whose marriage was restored writes: *"I didn't think it could be done, but God showed me through you that He is in control and that he truly loves us."*

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page: [facebook.com/restorationministriesonline](https://www.facebook.com/restorationministriesonline).

Insights for Relationships by Pastor Roger Daum

(Continued from our January 2016 newsletter, which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/28O58Dz>)

A couple who consistently applies these fundamentals to sharing life will experience a growing and vibrant marriage.

5. Consistently valuing and honoring one another: Eph. 5:33, 1 Pet. 3:7
6. Allowing the Lord to bring emotional healing to our hearts and learning to apply Biblical principles (tools) to resolve disagreements and conflicts. Take personal responsibility for hurting or offending one another and be quick to humbly seek or grant forgiveness. (Matt. 18:21-35, Eph. 4:32-32, Heb. 12:15)
7. Learn to recognize, and renounce the lies of the enemy (Satan) about God, yourself, your spouse, others and replace those lies with God's truth. (2 Cor. 10:3-5)
8. Guard your hearts and minds against sexual impurity in any form and not allow any form of sexual sin to be entertained in thought or behavior, learning to enjoy God's gift of sexuality as He has designed within marriage. (Prov. 5, Eph. 5:3-14, 1 Thess. 4:3-7)
9. Prioritize your marriage relationship—Next to our relationship with God, our marriage relationship is to be the most important relationship. (Gen. 2:24, Eph. 5:31)

Praise & Prayer Items

1. That God will bring those of His choosing to Restoration Ministries. This year households from North Carolina, Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Maine, Utah, Colorado, and our surrounding area have come.
2. For the good response to our monthly video conference for alumni to provide practical teaching on marriage.
3. For several salvations.
4. For God's faithful provision for this ministry.
5. For continued spiritual growth in the lives of those who have come for counseling.
6. For encouraging reports of the Lord's working through Ed and Norma Gaston as they train Asian Christian leaders in marriage and family relationships. (See Philippine update, below.)
7. For the September video taping of a new video series called "Tools for Your Relationship Toolbox".
8. Pray God provides a gifted individual or team to do the video editing for this series.

Report From The Philippines: Ed & Norma Gaston

We have the privilege of partnering with these servants of the Lord Jesus. They came for additional training in pastoral counseling a year ago. We are rejoicing in what God continues to do through them in the Philippines and several Asian countries.

- Three FEBC stations are broadcasting their weekly program to train believers with Biblical truth and wisdom to resolve personal and relational issues. The feedback from listeners is positive.
- They have conducted marriage and family conferences in the Philippines and two Asian countries to encourage and equip missionaries, as well as Christian leaders and their spouses.
- Couples are receiving in-depth counseling to resolve issues affecting relationships.
- Lay counselors are being trained and are helping others resolve marriage and family problems.
- They held seminars training of police officers and law enforcement professionals with Biblical truth about marriage and family relationships and responsibilities.

Ed and Norma need to purchase a dependable used vehicle for traveling to the various locations in the Philippines where they teach and hold seminars.

If you would like to give a gift towards this need, send it to Restoration Ministries and designate it for the "Gaston Car Fund".

