

S U M M E R 2 0 1 8



Today's Promise

Building Healthy and Happy Marriages

Welcome to our newest addition. We will be publishing a newsletter each Calendar Quarter beginning this month. Our goal is to keep you, our partners, advised of current and future projects, mission trips and areas you can assist us. We'll share our current projects, future plans and ways you can engage with us. We took the liberty to include you in our addressees but if you prefer not to receive our Newsletters, just unsubscribe below.



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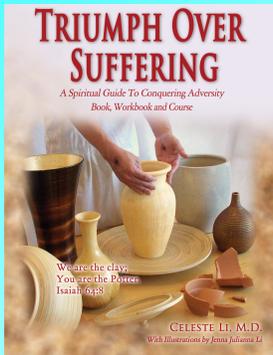


Dutch Translation of The Solution for Marriages

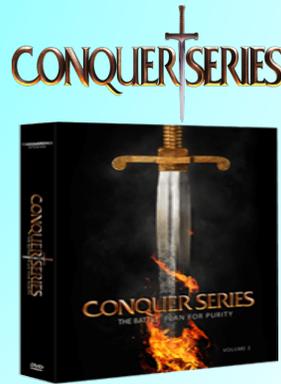
We are so happy to partner with Johan Loeve, The Netherlands and Canada, to translate *The Solution for Marriages, Mentoring a New Generation*, into Dutch. The newest translation will be

distributed in The Netherlands to help couples restore marriages and mentor those engaged to marry. Look for the eBook version in July 2018

Our 2018 Ministry Projects



Mae and Chuck will be facilitating this class for married couples at Christ Fellowship starting in August. Packed with Scripture, this book can transform your view of hardships and revolutionize how you handle adversity. As you learn to live victoriously, you may also grasp why you suffer, grow closer to God in the midst of your pain, uncover God's purpose for you through your trials, and discover that God really does care. Stamped on every page is her passion for Christ and her desire to bring the message of hope in Jesus to those burdened with suffering.



Chuck will be presenting this series to men this fall. Nearly 70% of men, 50% of women and 50-58% of Pastors suffer from this enemy grasp. Unrivaled in its scope and authority, the Conquer Series gives men proven principles and practical tools to conquer pornography and find freedom. This 12-week discipleship curriculum provides insights from top Christian leaders who lie out biblical strategies, scientific facts and teach men how to use God's weapons to become conquerors.



Chuck and Mae are active in the Prep 4 Marriage program at Christ Fellowship. Serving as Table Coaches and Co-Facilitators. This 6-week series offers tools for engaged, and soon to be engaged, couples they will use through out their marriage. Proven techniques, when used, will reduce the divorce rate by nearly 66%.

Your Relationship and Forgiveness

Originally published March 2017

Author ~ Bill Sankey

What Is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness by definition is the intentional and voluntary process by which a victim undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offense, let go of negative emotions, which is vengefulness, with an increased ability to wish the offender well. Forgiveness is different from condoning (failing to see the action as wrong and in need of forgiveness), excusing (not holding the offender as responsible for the action), forgetting (removing awareness of the offense from consciousness), and reconciliation (restoration of a relationship).

We have a divine example for forgiving others! God knew that man needed forgiveness, so He sent His Son Jesus to deliver all of mankind from the eternal consequences of their sins ([1 John 4:9-10](#)). [Colossians 3:13](#) says, "*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*" Jesus not only had the power to forgive, but to grant us the ability to forgive others just as we have been forgiven.

When you forgive someone do you feel like you're letting him or her off the hook? Do you feel like you're making an excuse for their behavior? Contrary to what we may think, forgiveness isn't any of these things. It's not saying that what's wrong is okay. It's not forgetting hurt feelings. Forgiveness IS extending grace. God commands it, and it's something you can do for others... and for yourself. Notice the word "give" in "forgive." When you forgive, you give someone a gift - you waive a penalty - and you give yourself the gift of grudge-free living. When you withhold forgiveness, you not only refuse to offer what God has given to you, but you also hurt yourself. Unforgiveness bears down on your heart and gets in the way of spiritual

growth. God knows it's not easy to forgive, but He wouldn't ask you to do something without giving you the strength to do it! Ask Him for the ability to forgive freely as you have been forgiven. He's the Master of the impossible!

Don't Go It Alone! -- Never Fly Solo

Our strength is never sufficient to grant forgiveness, especially if the hurt is deep and you were betrayed. We often pretend to mask the wounds with a smile, handshake, or other greeting, but the poisoning of the event remains deeply imbedded within. You must seek God's purification of your heart to begin building trust in the relationship. Pray for His intervention to overcome the thoughts and feelings that continue to haunt you.

The Spanish have a story about a father and son who had become estranged. The son left home and the father set out to find him. He searched for many months with no success. Finally, in desperation, the father took out a newspaper ad that read, "Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you, Your father." On Saturday, 800 men named Paco showed up looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers.

In a fallen world, forgiveness is essential to maintain close relationships. We all need forgiveness and we all need to grant forgiveness, because we all sin and we all have been sinned against. But asking for and granting forgiveness are not easy tasks! It's not an easy subject to understand, as seen by the fact that different writers say conflicting things about forgiveness. It's not an easy subject to practice, especially on the emotional level. The deeper you have been hurt, the more difficult it is truly to forgive. But if you're a Christian, seeking and

granting forgiveness are not optional. Jesus said that if you do not forgive others, the heavenly Father will not forgive you ([Matt. 6:15](#); [Mark 11:25](#)). Scholars are divided over whether that refers to being under God's eternal judgment or to your relationship with the Father as His child. I favor the second option. But either way, you don't want to miss out on the Father's forgiveness! Jesus said that forgiving others is so important that if you are worshipping God when you remember that your brother has something against you, you should first go to reconcile to your brother and then come back to worship God ([Matt. 5:23-24](#)). So it is vital for you as a Christian to grapple with understanding and practicing forgiveness.

Simple Process Formula For Forgiveness

The following is an exercise you should do. I believe if you are sincere the overall outcome can get you closer to God.

List Your Sins

It begins by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal every sin in your life. Take a pencil and paper and list every sin He brings to mind. As you write, confess each one of them to God. I encourage you to humble yourself before God as you do this. Give Him time to reveal everything in your life that is displeasing to Him. This list is just between you and God, so be completely honest. Tell Him everything that's wrong.

Your list may include (to name a few):

- Spending little or no time praying or reading and studying God's word
- Having a jealous attitude
- Lusting after material things
- Being dishonest, lying
- Entertaining immoral thoughts
- Committing sexual sins

Whatever your sin, write it down and remember: you have a loving God who forgives you -- who even gave His Son, the Lord Jesus, to die for you.

Destroy the List

When you have completed your time of prayer and confession, accept His forgiveness by faith, and then destroy the list as an illustration of the forgiveness God has granted you. You may want to tear it into pieces or burn it to show how completely God has forgiven you.

In our book [The Marriage Journey: A Flight Plan to Your Healthy Marriage](#), we dedicate chapter 5 to this subject. This is a must have book for your marriage and all relationships. This book is available in the [bookstore](#) and [Amazon.com](#). Please consider this resource to build stronger, healthier marriages and relationships.

I would also like to remind you of our newest addition to the [bookstore](#), *Journey 2 Victory* that serves as a tool to assist in healing not only marriages and relationships, but also individuals. Many times when our thoughts are committed paper God gives us comfort and 'releases' our hurt and pain. And don't forget our premium resource, our [Navigational Cards](#). The "Cards" serve as navigation "checkpoints" similar to most flight requirements. Each card contains a word relative to marriage. A scripture for that word supports each word. The word and scripture are intended to provoke discussion, thought and strength to the both of you.

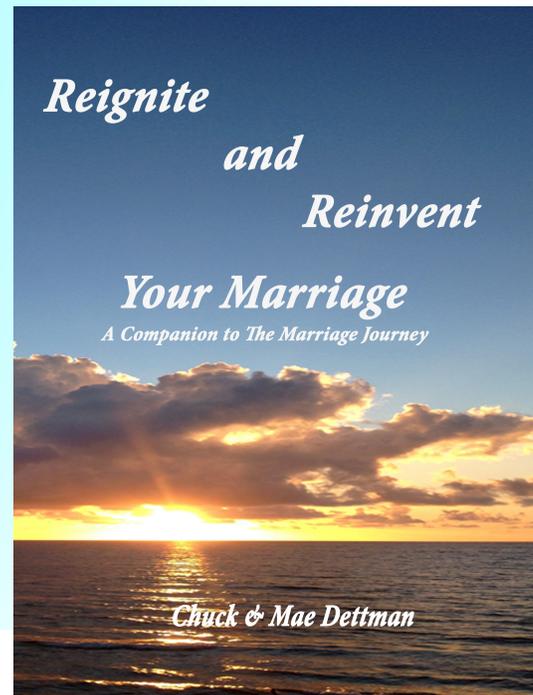
Father God, I need your help and your insights. Today I have found a better understanding of forgiving others and with your help; I fully forgive from my heart. Just as you have freely forgiven me, I forgive them. Father, I ask you to forgive me for hurting others out of my own hurt and to heal my relationships with others. I pray all of this in Jesus' precious name and by whom all forgiveness and healing was made possible. Thank you for loving me in ways I'll never comprehend. In Jesus' name, Amen.



What's Discouraging Millennials From Starting a Family?

It made perfect sense when American women reacted to the recession of 2007-09 by having fewer babies. But we're nine years into the second-longest expansion on record, unemployment is well below average, and yet the birthrate hasn't rebounded. The number of births in the U.S. fell in 2017 to its lowest in 30 years. What's going on?

[Read More](#)



Our newest publication

Used concurrently with the presentation of each chapter in *The Marriage Journey*, the ***Reignite and Reinvent Your Marriage*** workbook is designed to provide faith-based skills and habits that will build and strengthen your marriage. The ***Reignite and Reinvent*** study series is a safe place for you and your spouse to reconnect whether you rate your relationship as a 1 or 10, or anywhere in between. The principles shared in this companion to *The Marriage Journey* are 'a process' and not magical. Give yourself fully to the gift of the process and watch how God changes you, your marriage and family. The R&R series extends 12-weeks and is offered spring and fall annually.

Our Funding Plans for 2018

Funding is always on the radar and in need. Chuck completed four 3-hour sessions at The Quantum Foundation in West Palm Beach. These sessions are mandatory for an organization to be considered for grant funding by Quantum. TP will submit a grant request to Quantum in June. Funding, if selected, is in October or November for up to \$5,000.00.

2018 is the first year Today's Promise participated in The Great Give of Palm Beach County. We received \$100.00 in donations.

Mullinax Ford is processing a \$250.00 grant application for Test Drive a Ford. Receipt is anticipated in June.

God is showing us new opportunities for marriage ministry each day. Our challenge is the operating resources to meet the need.

How can You Help?

First, pray for God's favor on Today's Promise.

Since it's founding in 2008 this ministry has reached couples all over His Kingdom. He has led us to families here in South Florida and throughout our nation. He created blessings in South and Central American countries with pastors and churches far beyond our imagination. Canada, Germany and now The Netherlands will receive marriage ministry from our manuscripts. Countless families are served because of our faithfulness.

God is stretching our walls and lengthening our ropes. He is showing us new opportunities to bless His marriages each day.

Our passion is to hold a weekend conference/seminar in Spring 2019 for couples. We'll share tools to build stronger, healthier and lasting marriages. South Florida is ripe for an event like this.

Finally, ask God how He wants you to support this ministry.

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:33-34 (NV)