

NURTURING YOUR MARRIAGE

*Welcome to a mid-homeschooling conference **Mini-Marriage Retreat!***

- If you are **single**, or **engaged**, or thinking about getting married someday
- If you are **newlywed**, seeking direction and advice (or just wanting a romantic get-away)
- If you are **happily married** and everything has been going great in your home -- If so, may you be refreshed and strengthened, not only for yourselves, but for others!
- Or, if your **marriage is facing troubled times** (or barely surviving), or if you're in the midst of a rough storm and about to sink -- If so, may you be encouraged by these words of Jesus:
- **Mark 4:35** Jesus said, "Let us cross over to the other side." You're GOING OVER, not UNDER!

Our focus for this mini-marriage retreat (in the midst of educational workshops, curriculum vendors, and homeschooling emphasis) is to provide a time of REST, REFRESHMENT, and ENCOURAGEMENT!

- **Mark 6:31** Jesus told His followers, "Come away to a secluded place and rest for a while..."

Unless the LORD builds the house:

- **Isaiah 32:17-18** "The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,
- **Psalms 127:1** "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who builds it."

Comparison of 2 Earthquakes:

- **2010 Haiti Earthquake.** Magnitude 7.0. According to Wikipedia, it was the second deadliest earthquake in recorded history with 316,000 recorded deaths.
- **2001 Seattle Earthquake.** Similar magnitude. Similar population. No deaths.
- **WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?**
The major difference between these two earthquakes (and the huge difference in their destructive impact) was the quality of the building materials used in the construction of the buildings and homes (according to an article by CBC news - Canadian Broadcasting Company)

If you want a quality-built home, you need to use quality building materials. If you want a strong marriage and family, you need to build your home on the solid foundation of God's Word and God's love.

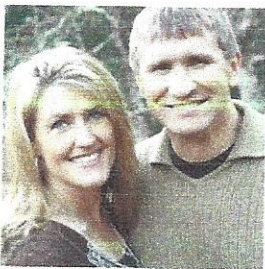
What building materials are you using?

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|-------------------------------|---|
| • The Bible, God's Word | or tabloid magazines, romance novels, or philosophy books? |
| • Strong Christian fellowship | or most of your time spent with wordly-focused friends? |
| • Wholesome entertainment | or just watching what everyone is watching? |
| • Worship-filled atmosphere | or a home infiltrated with ungodly TV ads, sit-coms, and noise? |
| • Faithfulness to your spouse | or allowing your thoughts to wander? |
| • Godly marriage counsel | or getting advice from "experts" who don't even follow God? |

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Solid Building Materials:

- **Guarding the Gates**
The enemy is an expert tempter. Don't help him out by filling your home with his attractions.
Genesis 2:15 God told Adam and Eve to "cultivate the garden and to guard it."
- **Extending Forgiveness**
Ephesians 4:26 "Do not let the sun go down on your wrath."
In light of the CROSS, we've all fallen short of God's perfect law. Let's give grace.
Psalms 119:165 "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."
- **Keeping Open Communication** (morning coffee-time, afternoon couch-time, walks together)
Don't be afraid to disagree and to talk things out.
Quote from the classic movie, *Giant*: "We Texans like a little spice in our grits."
Ephesians 5:21 "submitting to one another in the fear of God"
- **Enjoying Time Together** (Work together, play together, relax together!)
It's okay to have different hobbies, but don't drift apart.
Great book: *The Busy Homeschool Mom's Guide to Romance*, by Heidi St. John
- **Encouraging Each Other in God's Word**
Ephesians 5:25-26 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,"
- **Praying for Each Other – Praying Together**
- **Loving Each Other** (and get to know your spouse's "love language")
Gary Chapman's 1995 book, *The 5 Love Languages*
(gifts, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service, and physical touch)
- **Yay, baby . . . uh huh . . . xooxoxo**
How 'bout some good ole-fashioned FLIRTING with your spouse?
Intimacy in marriage is to be a reflection of our relationship with Christ.
Give yourselves to one another with total abandonment and faithfulness.



You only have one life. Make it count for eternity, enjoy your spouse, and build a God-glorifying legacy and God-honoring inheritance for your descendants.

Our Family's Ministry:

Harvest Ministry (Jon & Ann Dunagan) – P.O. Box 727, Hood River, OR 97031
(winning souls, loving orphans, NETS- National Evangelism Team Support, serving churches, and motivating mission-minded families. See harvestministry.org – for many FREE mission-minded resources (1-yr. homeschooling curriculum, "MAPS for Kids VBS curriculum, audios, and YouTube videos – including a 40-Day Mission-Minded Family Challenge)



Daring Daughters (inspiring teenage girls for missions) - daringdaughters.org
Gospel Projects International (Josh & Anna Dunagan, INDIA) - gospelprojects.org