

HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH MINISTER TO ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES?

- How do you affirm marriage as a vocation?**
- How do you minister to those who are single by “choice or by chance”?**
- How do you help parents raise responsible, happy children?**
- How do you help youth make good decisions about dating and relationships?**
- How do you increase the likelihood that those who choose to marry will establish enduring, healthy, happy, growing marriages?**
- How do you equip persons to develop and maintain healthy relationships and to heal the hurts of relationships that are broken?**
- What would you like to do better?**

All persons benefit from the acceptance, love, and nurture of an extended church family; from relationship education and enrichment; and from effective support during crises and transitions. Effective Family Ministries include singles and nurture personal spiritual growth and discipleship within the context of relationships. Ministries that help to heal family-of-origin issues, promote healthy relationships for all sizes and kinds of families, and provide divorce recovery supports for adults and children also contribute to the health and wholeness of the congregation and the community. Because the breakdown of family life and increasing rates of divorce, unmarried cohabitation, and unwed births in our society contribute to so many of our social problems, we need to offer our congregations and our communities resources and ministries that strengthen and equip all persons to:

- Grow toward their God-given potential
- Develop and maintain healthy relationships
- Deal with whatever transitions and crises arise

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY MINISTRIES SURVEY

Please use the checklists below to indicate your experience with and/or interest in resources for various aspects of marriage and family ministries.

At the end, please describe other ways your church ministers to all kinds of families

*Please keep a copy for yourselves to guide your planning and send one to Jane Ives, 10 Quaker Lane, Portland, ME 04103, 207-797-8930, JaneIves@aol.com. To learn more about these and other resources for Marriage and Family Ministries, please see the Resources section of the *Growing Love in Christian Marriage Pastors' Manual* and visit www.marriagelovepower.net.*

Name of person(s) completing this form: _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail _____

Name of local church or churches _____

Please mark the appropriate column and circle specific programs or write in others

Already Use or Participate	Can Train Others	Would Like to Learn More
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1. Premarital inventories:
PREPARE, FOCCUS, GLCM
 Other _____

_____	_____	_____
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2. Premarital Counseling: *Growing Love in Christian Marriage*

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3. Relationship Education for Youth and Young Adults: “Connections,” “LoveU2,”
Other _____

4. Marriage Enrichment, Marriage Encounter, ALPHA Marriage Course, 10 Great Dates
Other _____

5. Parenting Classes, Elder Care or other special interest/needs: *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families; Faith Home;*

6. Singles’ Ministries
Personal growth and relationship studies, opportunities to relation with others in similar life situations, with the opposite gender, and with other families: *How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk; Spiritual Gifts*

7. Mentor Couples: Premarital, Newlywed, New Parents, Couples in Crisis: *The Marriage Mentor Manual; Mentors’ Guide to FOCUSS;*

8. Crisis Interventions: *Retrouvaille, The Third Option,*

9. Divorce Recovery: *Before You Divorce; DivorceCare; Starting Again;*

10. Stepfamily Ministries: *Developing a Successful Stepfamily Ministry;* support groups

11. Community Marriage Policy
www.marriagesavers.org

WHAT ELSE DOES YOUR CHURCH DO TO STRENGTHEN ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES?