

Transformations

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017



IN OUR JANUARY 1ST “PRAYER PAGE”, we began a series called ‘10 New Year Habits for Changing Your Marriage.’ We’re well into 2017 and wondering, how are couples doing? How are we loving one another in 2017?

When you read this, Valentine’s Day will have come and gone. We hope your ‘love day’ was a special blessing. Some people say that Valentines should be every day. Jesus said, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matt. 6:34) What He is saying is that a day is what we make of it. How we spent our Valentine’s Day may still have special meaning to us, or it may not. What is important is how we decide to love one another, one day at a time. We hope that as you read this edition of *Transformations* you will think about how you love, and how you are loved, every day. —*Blessings, Dave and Linda*

RSM Updates

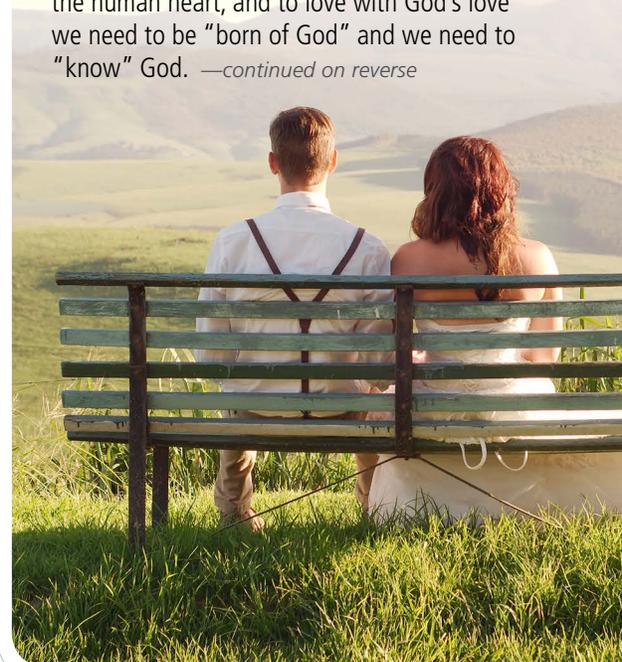
RSM Celebration Evening 2017 – On Feb.25th we celebrated God’s love and goodness in our marriages and families. We are sincerely thankful for all who celebrated with us and for all whose love and work made the evening an encouragement to us and a blessing to God.

OAKS of Righteousness – Our Ladies and Men’s Groups are thriving. We meet Wednesday and Thursday evenings respectively for learning, sharing and encouraging male and female spiritual leadership in our marriages and families. These groups are an important element in the strength of the RSM ministry. See the RSM website www.rsm-helps.com for details on upcoming events.

Is Love Working?

Countless books, songs and stories are written on the theme of love. The Bible is God’s story of His love for the world. But how many people today feel unloved? If so many of us feel unloved, it must mean we are not doing well at loving one another, otherwise we would all feel loved.

So, why is love not working for so many of us? We have spouses, children, family, and friends who love us. As much as they can love us, they do. The problem is the kind of love we receive from people is not satisfying because it doesn’t touch the aching need to be loved deep in our hearts. Human love is wonderful, as far as it goes. “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. God is love.” (1 John 4:7) This verse says three things: the love we long for comes from God, not from the human heart, and to love with God’s love we need to be “born of God” and we need to “know” God. —*continued on reverse*



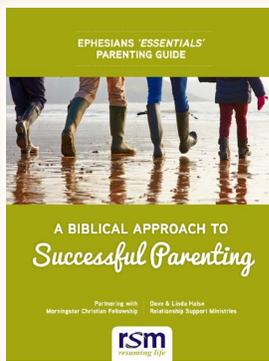
rsm
resuming life

*RSM exists to restore God-centered
unity in marriages and families*

Exciting News!

Hot Off the Press: The “Ephesians Essentials Parenting Guide”

From the pages of Ephesians, we provide 10 essentials for successful parenting. Parents and grandparents will be moved by the power of God’s word in re-shaping their thinking about many aspects of Christian parenting. Order yours today!



Our New Website Has Launched!

We have just completed the re-design of our website which now includes an RSM video, prayer page blog, upcoming events, resources and the new design is mobile-friendly too. Check it out at www.rsm-helps.com



The Joy of Comforting Others —Dianne Nolson

February gives us the opportunity to express the appreciation we have for our loved ones in a special way: cards, flowers, candy, jewellery, special meals and deeds, as well as hugs and time together. It reminds us that we are beloved too—all life long by our Heavenly Father. As the Apostle John says, “See how much our Father loves us, for he calls us His children and that is what we are!” —1 John 3:1

It is important that we embrace this truth and be ready to express it in our behaviour toward the grieving, the hurting, the lonely, the elderly, and those with shattered relationships. Those are the ones I want to ‘come alongside’ and give hope to as I have the privilege of ministering under the umbrella of RSM.



Our Time is a Precious Gift —Scott Halse

Valentine’s day is, for many husbands and wives, a time of almost mandatory gift giving. But aside from the standard chocolates and flowers, there is the precious gift of time. To give our time and attention to our spouse is to love him or her in a powerful way, because we are truly giving something of ourselves. Time is precious because it is *irreplaceable*, and our recognition of that fact can cause us great anxiety. It seems as though we always have too much to do with too little time to do it.

In the course of 15 years of marriage, I have (slowly!) learned that the most important thing I can give to my wife is my time. And there’s nothing surprising about this. For time, like all good things, is a gift from our timeless, eternal God. “My times are in your hand,” says the Psalmist. This means that when we give our time to our beloved, we love them by giving to them what God has given to us. With the time God has given each of us, may we love those around us by being present, attentive, and generous with His precious gift of time.

Is Love Working? —continued

> **Bible Principle: Love is poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit** (Romans 5:5)

We are “born of God” by the Spirit and we “know” God in the Spirit. We were coaching a lady named “Beth”. What she said is true of many Christians. “I know God loves me but I can’t get it into my heart. I want to *experience* His love.” What are we missing about the love of God?



“Large portions of my identity remained untouched by the truth of Christ’s love for me.” Geri Scazzero, *The Emotionally Healthy Woman*, Page 29, 30. The problem of feeling unloved is rooted in our identity. Our life experience comes out of our identity, who we believe we are. Many Christians live with an identity *untouched* by Christ’s love. Our old identity is set early in life, shaped by messages we were given by human hearts, hearts that could only love us with human love.

Beth, like all of us, will need to do her work. This means getting rid of the embedded strongholds that tell her she is unloved. Does she need to work hard for God’s love? No, the Holy Spirit, who has been given to her, pours out God’s love into her heart. To experience God’s love is to get rid of strongholds and learn to trust God’s Spirit in us. There is hope for Beth and for everyone who will be “*made new in the attitude of your minds.*” (Ephesians 4:23)

Your Support Impacts Marriages!

When we’re asked how much our coaching costs it is a blessing to say there is no fee. While people who are being coached give what they can, we are thankful God moves in the hearts of individuals like you who partner with us by giving to this ministry of restoring marriages. Your prayers and donations are strong encouragement that God is with us. Thank you!

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