

# Transformations

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2017

**H**OW WAS YOUR SUMMER? We heard people saying it was too cool, too wet, and too short. But we liked not having to look at brown lawns and spend our hard-earned cash on weekly watering. Personally, we enjoyed the summer, especially two wonderful weeks with our family who ‘come home’ each summer.

We hope you had some good holiday time and you’re feeling re-energized. We are thankful for a full summer of ministry at MBC and Fair Havens, as well as here in the living room with many couples, including some for the first time. God is so good to us. We hope your cup is filled with opportunities for joy in ministry, first in your own home, and then with others whom God brings. We hope you are looking forward to the beauty of fall – Thanksgiving, a wonderland of colour, sun-filled days, and pumpkin-flavoured everything. Enjoy reading this edition of ‘Transformations.’ —*Blessings, Dave and Linda*



## RSM Updates

**OAKS of Righteousness** – Building men for spiritual leadership in the home. Sept.–Nov., Thursday evenings, 7:30-9pm. Talk to Dave about joining us.

**Ladies OAKS** – An evening of learning, sharing, and encouragement. Oct. and Nov., Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9pm. Talk to Linda about joining us.

**‘Family Forum’ Experience** – Oct. 28, 9:30am-12:30pm – learning from ‘Ephesians Essentials for Successful Parenting’ – Parenting principles from Ephesians. Parents and grandparents are welcome. Location TBA

Visit [www.rsm-helps.com](http://www.rsm-helps.com) for more details on upcoming events.



## Rebuilding Marriage

Extra-marital unfaithfulness is happening in our church homes. We know this because of the increasing number of couples who are coming to us for help. How sadly ironic that even with the multitude of marriage materials we have today, the problem of tragically broken marriages is growing.

The good news is that God is powerful and patient to heal and restore hearts and marriages devastated by unfaithfulness, whether it’s the unfaithfulness of sex outside marriage or of pornography. We know that a marriage damaged by unfaithfulness receives healing and restoration only through obedience to God’s word and prayer, and in the presence of another couple called by God to come alongside.

How do we keep our marriage free of the tragedy of unfaithfulness? We build and re-build a strong foundation. The recent hurricanes in the South prove the point. Build a strong structure on a strong foundation. What should be in your foundation? Proverbs 3:3 says, “Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.” Continuously cultivate your love and faithfulness for each other, day by day, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

—continued on reverse

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

## Available Resources

Visit [www.rsm-helps.com](http://www.rsm-helps.com) for more details



## Speaking Truth to Our Children —Scott Halse

It's September, which means that we've returned to the routine of our children coming home with stories from their day. It's easy for me to ignore the minutiae of my children's lives. But these moments present opportunities for Christ to be formed in them. We might raise an eyebrow at a new song they've learned in dance class, or we might detect an unhealthy pattern of behaviour among their friends. Whatever the specifics, attention to the details of these daily debriefings allows us to speak truth into our children's lives.

When the crowd heard John the Baptist's call to repentance, they asked him the fundamental moral question: "What then shall we do?" (Luke 3:10). This is the cry of every heart, young and old, which seeks to know and obey the will of God. Ultimately, our children must answer that question for themselves. But it is our privilege as parents to shepherd their hearts in such a way that the Good Shepherd is formed in them. Our prayer going into the busyness of autumn is that the ministries of RSM will help parents take the time to shepherd their children, so that Christ might be formed more fully in all of us.



## The Family is God's Greatest Masterpiece —Dianne Nolson

Relationship Support Ministries has a God-ordained mandate to speak to the many aspects that affect marriages and families today. This includes being part of God's plan to bless families through the generations. As Psalm 71 reminds us, "O Lord, You alone are my hope. I've trusted you from childhood. You have cared for me. No wonder I am always praising You...and now in my aging, don't set me aside. Don't abandon me when my strength is failing. Let me proclaim Your power to this new generation; Your mighty miracles to all who come after me." This is written in thankfulness to God as I become a Great-Granma in 2018. This will be the 6th generation of experiencing God's faithfulness to my family in my lifetime. My prayer is that RSM will continue to reap eternal results as we are available to folks who truly want to be spiritual transformers in their families today, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

## Rebuilding Marriage —continued

### BIBLE PRINCIPLE: 'Love and Faithfulness'

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." —PROVERBS 3:3



This verse says to let **"love and faithfulness"** never leave us. The idea seems so quiet and simple. It doesn't impact us at first. It's not a lightning bolt, shocker of a statement. It sounds mild and gentle. I think, "Well of course, love and faithfulness, we all know that. Tell us something we don't know."

But the verse is found in one of the most powerful chapters in the Bible, Proverbs 3. There must be something we need to take in here. Furthermore, the second line is an imperative that multiplies the impact of the verse. It tells us to **"bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."**

Yes, love and faithfulness are **foundational** in the life and marriage of a believer. Are there two more solid building blocks than these? Probably not. Nowadays, we can observe couples in their 80's who have been married for 60 or more years. What will you find in their marriage? Love and faithfulness. In dangerous times like these, we ask God to help us keep **love and faithfulness** in our marriage.

### The RSM Team

**Ministry Directors** – Dave & Linda Halse

**Affiliate Ministry** – Dianne Nolson, Counseling

**Admin Director** – Scott Halse

**Admin Assistant** – Tina Cowie

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