

"...I will make a way in the desert, and streams in the wasteland..." *Isaiah 43:19*

Fall Wives' Weekend

Rev. Ray and Joyce Henderson were the speakers for our last Wives' Weekend held October 21-23. Their years of experience in marriage and ministry along with their great knowledge and insight were a blessing to our Teen Challenge students and their wives. They taught about marriage being a covenant commitment with God to be kept as opposed to the world's view of a contract to be broken. They taught about love and oneness in relationship with God. A Christian marriage was described as "a total commitment of a man and a woman to Jesus Christ and to each other." The Bible's definition of love was a part of the discussion. They spoke of the importance of loyalty to each other and letting contentment rule our lives and homes.



Speakers, Rev. Ray and Joyce Henderson

The Hendersons gave each couple two books: *Every Man's Marriage* by Fred Stoeker and Stephen Arterburn and *The Power of a Praying Parent* by Stormie Omartian.

In separate sessions, Ray discussed with the guys some principals from the book *Every Man's Marriage* and Joyce shared some practical home-making ideas with the women

In addition to the teaching sessions, the couples enjoyed times of fun and fellowship. The great Saturday morning brunch at Teen Challenge is always a winner. Thanks to the generosity of First Assembly of

God in Jefferson City, Missouri, the group was treated to dinner Saturday evening at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Des Moines.

The Hendersons also helped the couples create a vision statement of what they want their marriage to look like from here on. They described it as "having a realistic dream for what you and your spouse's relationship can become under God's direction."

Our Winter Wives' Weekend is scheduled for January 20-22. Our speakers will be Rev. Norman and Cleo Tosten from Des Moines. Rev. Tosten is a former district superintendent for the Assemblies of God in Iowa. You will enjoy the ministry of the Tostens. Please RSVP by January 4th if you will be able to attend. Call me at (402) 551-0911 or (515) 988-2204 or email me at judyaubuchon@cox.net.

Inside this issue:

Recommended Reading	2
Not for a Million Dollars	3
Mark Your Calendars!	3
Recommended Reading, continued	4



Recommended Reading: *Every Heart Restored*

I have recently acquired a book that I believe will offer hope to many troubled women. The title is *Every Heart Restored – A Wife’s Guide to Healing in the Wake of a Husband’s Sexual Sin*. Fred and Brenda Stoeker authored this sensitive and helpful book.

It offers “wholeness and healing for women caught in the crossfire.” Millions of men in our society today are addicted to pornography and millions of wives suffer as a result.

Pornography is a problem that has also invaded the church. One startling sentence from this book states: “Surveys regularly reveal little difference between the rates of pornographic addictions in Christian and non-Christian men.” No doubt, part of the reason for this is the fact that this insidious sin is now available in our own homes through the internet. As a result, countless marriages are devastated.

During the last decade, over 500,000 men have found help and hope in *Every Man’s Battle*, the best-selling guide to victory over sexual sin. In *Every Heart Restored*, there is at last help and hope for women who have been the casualties in this fight for sexual purity. This book “offers godly guidance and wisdom for a woman facing such personal betrayal.”

In the foreword by Stephen Arterburn, he writes: “If you are a woman in a relationship with a man who is struggling with sexual sin, this book can help you in ways you never imagined...*Every Heart Restored* will guide you from dark despair to new hope, from resentful bitterness to emotional freedom, from protective detachment to the possibility of a deep connection with your husband.”

Marsha Means, counselor and author of *Living with Your Husband’s Secret Wars* praises this book by the Stoekers. Her comment: “Finally, hope has arrived! On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of women whose dreams and hearts are

shattered, I say ‘Thank you!’ The authors of *Every Heart Restored* give women the permission and the authority to confront and put an end to enabling their husband’s inappropriate sexual behavior...and tell us that with hard work, accountability, and a constant guarding of the eyes and mind, a man can retrain his brain and keep lust out of one’s being and marriage.”

Dr. Gary and Barbara Rosberg, America’s Family Coaches and authors of *Divorce-Proof Your Marriage* had this to say. “The Every Man series has shed light into the hearts of men and on the temptation and trappings of sexual sin. Now *Every Heart Restored* gives women compassionate, spiritual insight into the often misunderstood, confusing, and heart-wrenching area of sexual sin.”

Let me share a little about the authors. Brenda is a registered nurse, mother of two sons and two daughters and a seasoned marriage teacher with life experience in rebuilding a broken marriage. Fred is founder and chairman of Living True Ministries, coauthor of the Every Man Series, and a conference speaker who has counseled hundreds of men and married couples. He and Brenda have been married for 23 years. His web site is www.fredstoeker.com.

One of the very helpful aspects of the book is that Fred and Brenda take turns writing. Therefore, the reader gets viewpoints from both the male and female perspective.

This book is not only beneficial to hurting women and married couples, but is also recommended for engaged couples. It helps both men and women to understand how men are “hardwired” and the differences between the male and female brain. “Medical scientists have identified the part of the brain that drives sexual desire. The nerve bundle that trips sexual desire is usually twice the size in man’s brain as compared to a woman’s.” (Continued on page 4)

Not for a Million Dollars

I read a story many years ago that illustrated to me the proper motivation for our service to Christ. A wealthy woman who had contributed large sums of money to Christian missions decided to take an extensive overseas trip. Her purpose was to visit some of the mission stations that had been beneficiaries of her generous giving.

In country after country she was impressed by the modern facilities which her financial giving had helped make possible. She was completely satisfied that the mission boards had invested her money wisely.

Finally she came to a faraway leper colony. In a small room in the dispensary she saw a young nurse who was treating a putrid, festering sore on the body of an aged leper. Revolted by what she saw, she exclaimed in horror: "I couldn't do that for a million dollars!"

"Neither could I," replied the young woman quietly and simply, as she looked up from her neat bandages into the shocked face of her wealthy visitor. All the money in the world could not have persuaded her to work day after day in these nau-

seating surroundings far from the comforts of her home and loved ones.

Yet she was here faithfully doing the very thing that all the money in the world could never have persuaded her to do. Why? Because a power far more persuasive than all the riches in a thousand treasure chests had captured her heart and was now controlling her behavior.

That power is the love of Christ that had redeemed her for all eternity. The Apostle Paul says: "Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

The wealthy woman learned something that day about the love of Christ and the miracles it can perform in the human heart. Have we experienced the motivating power of that love?

Mark Your Calendars!



These are special events at Teen Challenge, and the wives of students are invited. If you have any questions, call Judy at (402) 551-0911 or (515) 988-2204.

Candlelight Service — December 24th
Wives' Weekend — January 20th-22nd
Cursillo — February 23rd-26th
Wives' Weekend — April 28th-30th
Spiritual Emphasis Week — May 10th-13th
Wives' Weekend — July 28th-30th



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Recommended Reading, continued from page 2

For women in need of this type of restoration, there is also a companion workbook available that I am sure would prove to be very helpful. It includes questions that are both introspective and pertinent.

Other titles in this Every Man Series coauthored by Fred Stoeker and Stephen Arterburn include *Every Man's Battle*, *Every Young Man's Battle*, *Preparing Your Son for Every Man's Battle*, *Every Man's Marriage*, *Every Man's Challenge* and *Every Man, God's Man*. These books offer practical guidance to help men live lives of sexual integrity. Similar books for women are *Every Woman's Battle* and *Every Young Woman's Battle* written by Shannon Ethridge and Stephen Arterburn. The

purpose of these books is to “challenge and equip women to live sexually and emotionally pure lives.”

