

# Married for Life

## Fortified Marriages Ministry's Newsletter

*A wise man builds his house on the Rock ~ Matthew 7:24*

### Creating a Beautiful Marriage

#### *A Beautiful Garden*



Who wouldn't want a garden like the one in this photo? It is beautiful, calm, and even soothing to the soul. It is a place one could feel safe and serene, away from the pressures of the world. But what would it take to have a garden like this? It would take work. One would have to water it, trim the bushes and trees, mow the lawn, and fertilize it – in short it would take a lot of work to create and then maintain a garden like this.



What happened in this photo? Could it be neglect? There was a lack of care and work in this yard that led to it drying up and looking like it is dead. But could it be restored? Sure, with a lot of work, one could bring this yard back to life.

#### **Marriage Takes Work**

Marriage is like a garden; if you want a beautiful, flourishing marriage, you must invest time and energy into it. Great marriages do not just happen; going about the daily grind of life

and neglecting your marriage will bring about a dried up, seemingly dead marriage. Restoring a dried up marriage takes a lot of work, but it can happen and it is worth the work. The fact is that love will die if the marriage relationship is ignored. Couples race through the week working at a frenzied pace in an attempt to complete work assignments, care for children and accomplish personal, vocational or spiritual goals. They think that they will catch up with their relationship on the weekend, during vacation or somewhere along the way, but too often, *it does not happen!* Couples invest in homes, careers and retirement, but do not spend the time, energy or money to build a strong marriage—a marriage that will withstand any storms that will come against it.

The *work* required to build a strong marriage is not bad – in fact; it can be fun! Can you spend a few minutes connecting with your spouse each evening talking about your day? Can you spend a few hours each week doing something together— going out for coffee, playing games, taking walks, doing a hobby or craft; something you can both enjoy together? Can you commit to spending a weekend alone (at home or away) at least twice a year? Send the children to grandma's house and take some down time for the two of you. You must be purposeful about building your relationship—that is the *work* of marriage. You did it naturally while dating and with a little effort you can do it again. Your investment into your marriage will pay off. It can become a beautiful, calm relationship that like the beautiful garden will be soothing to your soul. Commit to working on your marriage and making it fulfilling, loving, strong, and a testimony to your family and friends.

### You Can Get Involved With This Ministry!

Let your family, friends—your pastor know about this ministry to build strong marriages. Word of mouth is the single most effective way to let people know about what this ministry is doing.

**Join the Prayer Team!** Contact us to join our prayer team, the engine providing power to the ministry. Without a faithful prayer team, this ministry could not exist. Send us an email or call to be added to the prayer team.



## FOR TIFIED MARRIAGES

Fortifying Marriages to  
Strengthen Families,  
Churches and the  
Community

A 501(c)(3)  
non-profit organization

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Fortified Marriages Ministry is dedicated to building strong marriages by helping couples work together to better understand each other and face the challenges of life *together*. Working with the local church and individual couples, the ministry provides resources and training to minister to couples through small groups and marriage classes.



Chris & Carmen Garner