

Newsletter, September 2020

Note to members: Equipment failure has forced us to revert to this simpler, less traditional format. Please forgive and we *hope* to be back with the usual format next month. -- *Staff*



Marriages by Design

What started as an opportunity to help one friend turned into an ongoing ministry for Todd and Andrea Carter. The concept started in 2003 and, 17 years later, continues to grow and is going strong.

The ministry started when a good Christian friend of Todd's confided in him that he was about ready to walk away from his marriage, his wife, and two young children. Todd spent about 45 minutes talking with the man. That 45 minutes not only changed Todd's friends' life, it changed both Todd and Andrea's life and mission.

The man decided to stay with his marriage. His take away from talking with Todd was that "God did not want him to walk away from his marriage." The couple is still together and have welcomed a third child into the union.

Todd and Andrea, along with two other couples, were given the opportunity to have a Sunday School class at James River Assembly of God Church in Springfield dealing with marriage.

"We always told people this was a men's class, but the women were welcome to attend as well," Todd said. "If you try to drag the guys along you accomplish nothing," he added. They also made sure to have a lot of fun along the way in the class.

"We always started by telling them what our marriage and family had been through," says Andrea. "Being transparent with the challenges their own marriage and family has faced and overcome, gave many people hope that their marriage could survive and thrive," she added. The Carters do the counseling together.

After a few years James River changed their class focus and the class was no longer offered. Todd and Andrea realized that the need was still there.

"Marriages by Design," was born out of that need.

God blessed the ministry and it quickly expanded as the couple began to work with a number of churches across Southwest Missouri and beyond. Todd and Andrea continue to work full-time jobs and Marriages by Design has no office space or store front location. They are ordained by Acts Ministry.

One dream would be to have an actual place, a retreat where they could bring couples to and let them just get away and work on the things they need to in their marriage. They would also like to have the financial resources to pay for the retreat.

There are many fine marriage retreats around, Todd says. Most of them cost around \$4,000 to attend. When you consider that financial problems are one of the biggest issues facing many couples that drive them apart, many of the couples who need the counseling the worst simply can't afford it.

Some of the tidbits from their training sessions are: Christ has to be in your marriage. "Participants are encouraged to: "Ask God to see their spouse as he sees them."

You hear people say that marriage is a 50/50 proposition. The Carters says each party needs to give 110 percent. They encourage the couples to not make decisions based on feelings.

The pandemic has forced Marriages by Design to be innovative in running their course. They are doing some sessions virtually. Most of those that want the course have adapted. Several, however, have chosen to wait until they can attend in person. One couple who is raising an autistic child has actually benefited from the virtual class. Todd says, "I honestly don't think in-person would work for this couple." They are hands on with the child 24/7 and, with the virtual, one parent can step out or a few minutes and come back if necessary. The virtual classes have the pros and cons, but it has worked during this unusual time.

The Carters offer their services on a sliding scale or even free for some couples who simply lack the funds.

The Carter's license plate sums it up nicely: WAMH, With All My Heart, Luke 10:20.

What is Acts Ministry?

Acts Ministry has been around for over 20 years and provides a covering and accountability for affiliated nonprofits and ministries. Acts Ministries headquarters is located in Springfield, Missouri. Affiliates provide a diverse far-reaching ministry that reaches across the globe. Acts Ministry also ministers worldwide through Acts Media, which continues to grow and expand their programming lineup.

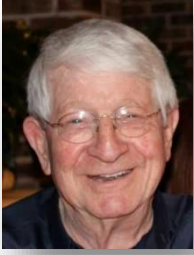
Do you know these Acts Affiliates?

- ? What Springfield-based ministry provides a home for former prisoners who are newly freed and trying to rebuild their lives?
- ? Who turned a passion for garage sales and dumpster diving into a ministry that provides good quality books at no charge to pastors and missionaries?
- ? Known for his parity songs, this Acts Media host works with people experiencing mental illness and with veterans. Who is this minister? **Bonus:** What is his wife and ministry partner's name?

(Answers at the end of the newsletter)

When you support Acts Ministry these are just a few of the ministries you help.

Remember August SRG Reports Are Now Due



Article of the month...

"When Is Enough" Upstairs over a Vacant Lot

By Dr. Paul Collins

Here we go! It's time for a second installment about money, the love of which is the root of all evil! This statement begs the question, "When is enough (money) enough (money)?"

There are probably as many answers to the question as there are investors, people with a shortage of money, and the "filthy rich." I don't have an answer but I do have an opinion. For instance, I know for a fact that a salary (plus benefits) in 1970 of \$8000 per year is now closer to \$60,000 per year (plus benefits). Where did I get these figures? I was the man! That's what I was paid in 1970 and what the man in that same position is paid today.

So you want to be a millionaire? If so, you better hurry every chance you get! A million dollars today will not be a million dollars tomorrow. You see, there's that little thing in economic circles called "inflation." In fact, according to a published report in a "dependable" news source, to be wealthy in America today, you have to have a net worth of 2.7 million dollars. So, when is enough enough?

If you have enough food, enough clothing, enough shelter, enough transportation, is that enough? What if you factor in the love of family, good friends, health, leisure time, and a small amount of entertainment? Oh, yes, don't forget worship, freedom to worship, and the genuine peace that comes from knowing Jesus is the Christ and he is your constant companion.

Now, where is money in the equation?

It is simply a utilitarian something that has the "value" assigned to it by the government, merchants, traders, and the purveyors of all types of commerce.

Please, very quickly, please consider this source: me! I have never been wealthy (I haven't even come close), but I have had (most of the time) enough. The times I have had enough greatly outweigh the times when I did not have enough. Have you had enough of the word "enough?" If so, for this essay, "enough is enough" until the next installment.

Answers to Questions on Page 1:

- ✓ CrossWalk of Hope
- ✓ Bishop Dennis Eversen
- ✓ Randy Baar, Bonus: Gail Baar

Acts Television Network

SIMULCAST ON ACTS RADIO

Archives are available on ActsMediagroup.com

Click on Acts TV tab along the top of the home page or check out our YouTube channel

Morning Drive *Mon.-Fri., 8-9 a.m.*
Hosts: Matt Pearson and Jason Cobb

Brighter Living *Mon., 9-10 a.m.*
Host: Steve McAllister

Sacred Ways *Mon., 10-11 a.m.*
Hosts: Troy and Belinda Johanson

The Spirit in America *Tues., 9-10 a.m.*
Host: Randy Baar

Crime Time *Tues., 10-11 a.m.*
Host: Steve Albright

The New Gold Standard *Wed., 9-10 a.m.*
Host: Tony Hammock

Open Ended *Wed., 10-11 a.m.*
Hosts: Peggy and Geoff Lee

Penny for Your Thoughts *Thurs., 9-10 a.m.*
Host: Susan Abar

Power Hour *Thurs., 10-11 a.m.*
(Pre-recorded)

Morning Mouth *Fri., 9-9:30 a.m.*
Hosts: Johnny Rooster and Matt Pearson

Happy Hour *Fri., 9:30-10:30 a.m.*
Hosts: Dr. Paul and Nancy Collins

New Afternoon and Evening Shows

Mondays

House of God Ministries *3-4 pm*
Host: Beth Hicks (*Beginning Sept. 14*)
Children's Program *4-5 pm*
Recovery *5-6 pm*

Tuesdays

Soul's Harbor *3-4 pm*
Hosts: Beverly Lee & LeAnn Martin
(*Begins Sept. 8*)
Children's Program *4-5 pm*
Programming TBA *5-6 pm*

Wednesdays

Stahls Ministry in Word and Song *3-4 pm*
Hosts: Bill and Anita French Stahl
Children's Program *4-5 pm*
Programming TBA *5-6 pm*

Thursdays

Exposing the Candy-Coated Cult *3-4 pm*
Host: Nemra Rhoden
(*First and Third Thursday*)
Journey of Truth *3-4 pm*
Hosts: Darrell Nemra Rhoden
(*Second and Fourth Thursday*)
Children's Program *4-5 pm*
Programming TBA *5-6 pm*

Fridays

Beside Still Waters *3-4 pm*
Host: Joanie Buchanan
Children's Program *4-5 pm*
Recovery *5-6 pm*