

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do mentors have high success rates?

Trained lay leaders have time to lavish on mentorees. A couple, as opposed to an individual, offers a richer mentoring experience. Both genders give valuable insight from a male/female perspective. They model a healthy marriage and share their marital wisdom.

What's wrong with cohabitation? Everyone's doing it.

Cohabitation has diverted millions from marrying. There were 21 million never-married Americans in 1970 which tripled to 63 million by 2009 – the major reason the marriage rate has plunged 54% since 1970. Many view cohabitation as a “trial marriage” Yet, those who marry after cohabiting are 50% more likely to divorce than those who don't. In addition, 75% of children born to cohabiting couples experience separation of their parents before they reach age 16. .

Why mentor premarital couples? Of 288 couples mentored in one church in the 1990's, 58 couples decided *not* to marry. Studies show such couples avoided a bad marriage before it began. There were 16 divorces of 230 couples who married over 2 decades. That's a divorce rate of only 7% - a 93% success rate over 20 years. That's virtual “marriage insurance!”

CONNECTING
COUPLES
TO BUILD
BETTER
MARRIAGES



www.marriagesavers.org

9311 Harrington Dr.
Potomac, MD 20854
301-469-5873

Marriage Savers, founded by Mike and Harriet McManus in 1996, is dedicated to reducing divorce and cohabitation rates and increasing marriages

***couple by couple.
congregation by congregation
community by community.***

Marriage Savers' primary goal is to forge a consensus among area clergy across denominational lines to make marriage a high priority. Pastors publicly sign a *Community Marriage Policy*, and Marriage Savers trains Mentor Couples from their churches to implement the Covenant's strategies of rigorous marriage preparation, enrichment, and restoration.

Marriage Mentoring Matters!

Train Mentor Couples the Marriage Savers Way!



Get Equipped!

What Is A Marriage Mentor?

Successful marriages don't just happen. Even strong marriages need care. Mentors are couples in healthy marriages. They are trained to equip other couples at all stages of the marital life cycle to build strong marriages by giving them time and "tools" to nurture lifelong partnerships.

Marriage Mentors are a source of support, encouragement, accountability and prayer. They help couples explore and strengthen their relationships through facilitation. They encourage couples to find *their* solutions to *their* problems.

They serve under the authority of their pastor or designated Marriage Mentor Supervisor in their church. As part of mentor training, they are expected to take a relationship assessment, such as PREPARE/ENRICH.



Mentor Couples Are Not:

- Marriage counselors or therapists
- A substitute for clergy
- Untrained or unsupervised
- Meddlers
- Rescuers
- Experts
- In a perfect marriage

Mentor Couples Help Other Couples:

- Achieve a high functioning marriage
- Improve understanding and commitment through facilitation and teaching practical relationship skills
- By modeling healthy but imperfect marriages
- By sharing their marital wisdom.



Benefits for Mentored Couples:

- Premarital Individuals make wise choices of marital partners
- Premarital couples' risk for divorce is diminished
- Healthy marriages improve the wellbeing of children

Benefits for Marriage Mentors:

- Strengthens their own marriages
- Deepens intimacy
- Improves communication

Benefits for Pastors:

- Lifts their burden
- Frees up valuable time
- Multiplies their marriage ministry



***A new day for marriage.
An old day for divorce.***

The church is the gateway to marriage. Churches have great access to marrying couples because 86% of couples are wed by clergy. Many troubled couples turn to their pastor for guidance in times of crisis. However, such couples divorce at the same rate as secular society.

Marriage Mentors: An Answer for the Church

Premarital: Administering an inventory by a Mentor Couple prompts 20% to reconsider marrying, avoiding divorce and sparing future children distress and turmoil.

Couples in Crisis: Trained "back-from-the-brink" Mentors share their stories of recovery with troubled couples, prompting healing and reconciliation.

Stepcouples: Such couples typically divorce at a 70% rate. Mentors manning a stepfamily ministry offer a place and a plan of support, fellowship, coping skills and prayer, enabling 80% of remarrieds to be successful.