

Marriage and Family Ministry (MFM) Newsletter



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY MINISTRY

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Marriage and Family Ministry Statements

"Hearts in Shape" Event - A Huge Success

Couples, kids and singles kept their hearts in shape as they stretched, danced and played during the "Hearts in Shape" Valentine's Family Night at the New York Sports Club Marlboro on Saturday, February 17, 2007.

The evening started with a delicious array of mouth-watering and scrumptious dishes. To let the food settle down before exercising, singles played the game "Q & A about hearts in the Bible." Later the couples played the newspaper dance, where couples made sure their feet managed to step on the newspaper as it was folded in half during each round.

Special giveaways were given to the couple who first signed and paid for the event (Dave and Nancy Rosen), the first couple to arrive at the event (Jean and Danielle Joseph) and the best-dressed couple in active wear (Fabio and Maria Lanzieri).

Benil Salvador led the group in dancing the "Gospel Slide," the Jesus' Apostles March. A special prize was given to Julie Verdi as the most active dancer of the night - shaking and grooving like a jumping bean.



Kimberly Campbell (left) taught PraiseMoves, the Christian alternative to yoga, and managed to challenge the group to do some difficult stretch moves.

The night culminated in the distribution of an article from Rick Warren about the importance of keeping our bodies healthy in order to make ourselves more effective in ministry. Pastor Joe closed the evening in prayer. (More photos on page 2 and the church's website at www.monmouthworship.org)

Vision Statement:

For Monmouth Worship Center to have Christ-centered marriages and families which are the key to the Great Commission strategy and the bedrock of a strong Church in the Lord.

Mission Statement:

1. To build prayerful marriages and families that acknowledge and believe that prayer is the first line of defense and not the court of last resort against the evil attacks of the enemy.
2. To equip couples to be strong committed followers of Christ as they make Him the central part of their marriage equation.
3. To equip parents to be the primary spiritual trainers of their children so that discipleship happens within the family.
4. To encourage, support and equip single parents in their awesome task of raising children in the ways of the Lord.

Values Statement:

We dedicate ourselves to cultivating a culture of prayer in the home, to showing love and concern for single parents, couples and their families, and to helping parents and their children in their spiritual growth.

Beliefs Statement:

We believe that marriage is the core relationship of the family and that the family is the cornerstone relationship of the Church. The Church can only be as strong as the marriages and families that comprise it.

We believe that the family must be our first target for discipleship.

We believe that God has ordained the family to be the leader of multigenerational faithfulness so that His name may be known and glorified in all the nations. The most important goal of each parent is to be able to pass on the Christian faith to their children.

Ephesians 5:33 (New Living Translation)
So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Focus on a Family: The Riveras

Jose and Madelyn Rivera began attending our church in late 2003. They have three daughters: Sarai (6), Priscilla (5) and Julia (3). Jose and Madelyn are proud of their girls, their Puerto Rican heritage, and most importantly, their faith and commitment to the Lord. They love the warmth of the congregation and the fact that it is like one big family. As Madelyn shared, "You really feel God here!" The Rivera family also believes it's important to get involved in the church. They became members in 2004. Jose and Madelyn lead the Hispanic Ministry and work with the Youth Ministry. In addition, Madelyn is also part of the worship team.



Jose and Madelyn Rivera with their "tres marias": (L-R) Julia, Sarai and Priscilla.

God is clearly the center of their lives. They explained, "We believe that God has called us to do a great work for Him. We believe that we are well on our way to doing that. God has used us to preach, worship, pray, and minister whenever He sees fit." They love serving God and serving others. How does a family stay strong for the Lord during the times we live? They believe that prayer has a lot to do with it. In fact, they have even partnered up with another family to pray for one another, knowing how important it is for families to lift up families. They also believe that it's important to make time for one another. When asked what suggestions they have for strengthening the Marriage and Family Ministry, they think that it is important to recruit, appoint or send individuals to learn how to counsel. As Jose stated, "Counseling is so needed in this world we live in."

- Rachel Basden

Prayer Focus on Marriages and Families

The Marriage and Family Ministry (MFM) is sponsoring Prayer Focus Weeks on Marriage and Families, in cooperation with the Intercessory Prayer Ministry. It will start on Monday, May 7 and end on Sunday, June 17 (Father's Day). A family devotional, to be distributed on Sunday, May 6, will have daily devotions written by our very own MWC church family. Fasting will also be encouraged during these prayer focus weeks.

This will be an opportunity for couples and families to gather and cultivate times of prayer and devotion. We claim and expect the mighty power of prayer, fasting and agreement to be manifested through marriages being restored, families being strengthened, prodigal sons and daughters returning to the Lord, physical and financial healings - all for the glory of the Lord!

These weeks of prayer and fasting will culminate on Father's Day as we believe that fathers are called to be the spiritual head of the family. Our services on that day will involve couples and families assisting and serving in various aspects of the service.

- Efren and Benilda Salvador



Some of the members of the Marriage and Family Ministry are (L-R): Vic and Mari Davi, Fabio Lanzieri, Efren and Benilda Salvador (ministry leaders), Ana Davis and Roz Rivers. Other members not shown in photo are Maria Lanzieri, Denis and Grace McKeown, Jean and Danielle Joseph, and Charles and Rachel Basden.

"Hearts in Shape" Valentine's Family Event

