

# COUPLES RETREAT

JANUARY 2023

## CALIFORNIA

### Happy New Year



### A New Year Prayer from the Directors

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6: 24-26)



As we contemplate the challenges, pitfalls and obstacles that can face us as married couples we must always remember to pray. Rita and I trust that these monthly newsletters are a source of blessing to you as you read and share them with others. There’s no perfect marriage because we aren’t perfect people. Yes, we make mistakes, we mess up, we say the wrong things sometimes, but don’t give up on your marriage. Choose to say with us...I still do.

### Fundamentals of a Christian Marriage



“A personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of marriage, giving meaning and purpose to every dimension of living.”

1. Christ-Centered Home: Everything rests on that foundation. “The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” Matthew 7:25

2. Committed Love: It’s the brace against the inevitable storms of life. “Very few certainties touch us all in this ,royal existence, but one absolute is that we will experience hardship and stress at some point.” “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

3. Communication: That’s good communication by the way! Are you a good listener? James 1:19 says “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

4. Money: It can be the great-mischief maker but it doesn’t have to be! Materialism and debt have devastated more families than perhaps any other factor and it could destroy your marriage as well. The key for couples is to talk to each other and make decisions about their spending philosophy ahead of time-preferably before marriage. And, it’s never too late to get back on track.

(Find more on [focusonthefamily.com](http://focusonthefamily.com))