

NEWS FROM THE ROCK

THE WOODWARDS IN THE SAN JUANS

InFocus Family Ministries

September 2009

Marriage in America...

Statistics from the latest U.S. census are just coming out this month. The Associated Press reports; "Newly released census figures show that while the number of unmarried people continued its 10-year climb, **the ranks of married people in the United States rose by nearly 6 million last year, bucking a decade-long decline.** The number of divorced people rose, but only slightly."

This is encouraging news for us and hopefully you too. More and more people are considering marriage in our country. Our hope and prayer is that they will realize the truth in the statement below.

Marriage is the foundation of the family and the family is the foundation of society: if we **strengthen** marriage, we **strengthen** the family, we **strengthen** the children and we **strengthen** the community. If your goal is to help improve the world, marriage is as good a place as any to start. Diane Sollee, smartmarriages.com

Monique and I strongly believe the statement above to be true and we are laboring tirelessly to **strengthen** marriages across our land. We are doing this through couple mentoring, small group studies and by partnering with marriage movements like Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage, www.laughyourway.com

Here is a recent quote from a couple who attended our Laugh Your Way conference in Friday Harbor.

"The Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage conference was such a blessing to my husband and I! We had a wonderful time laughing about our differences and experienced many "Aha!" moments. We have grown closer together in the two weeks since the conference than we have in 10 years of marriage. I find myself telling everyone I know to attend this amazing event!! God has blessed us immensely!"



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InFocus Family Encouragement



While riding on the ferry a couple of weeks ago I received a special blessing; words of encouragement and affirmation from God through a husband and wife. They sat down across from me and shared this;

"We have given to missions and missionaries over the years but have not often been able to see with our own eyes the benefits of their work. In the case of our support for you, we are seeing God at work using you (Vic and Mo) in the lives of others. Thank you for your ministry to marriages here in Friday Harbor."

LYW Marriage Seminars coming soon...

We have one more video seminar coming up this fall, in Mt. Vernon, WA, Oct. 16-17. It is listed on the Laugh Your Way website, go to www.laughyourway.com and click on "attend an event". You can register online. Please consider joining us. Singles will benefit as well from this life giving conference.



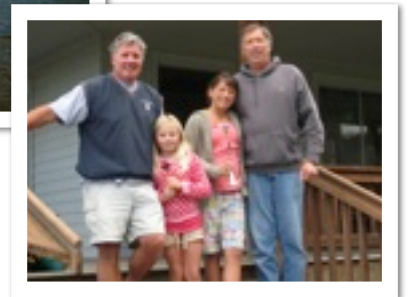
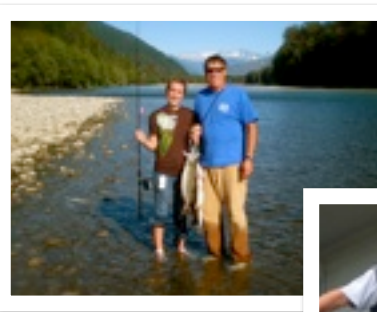
Praises...

Monique and I are excited to be facilitating several small group studies this fall. God has put these studies on our heart to lead.

- ☺ Grace-based Parenting by Tim Kimmel
- ☺ Prodigal God by pastor Timothy Keller
- ☺ Band of Brothers, exploring manhood through the HBO series of the same name.
- ☺ Vic and I have the opportunity to mentor two young children in the local mentoring program.
- ☺ Ellie and Carly are loving school. Carly is a 6th grader at Friday Harbor Elementary and Ellie is an 8th grader learning at home. We are all having fun.

Father/Daughter Days in September

I had the blessing of spending a couple of two day getaways with Ellie and Carly. I've promised daughter Erin that it is her turn next. We had a blast together, see pictures below.



Prayer requests...

- ☺ Please pray for our upcoming Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage conference in Mt. Vernon, WA
- ☺ Pray that we make wise family decisions regarding the many good things there are to be involved with in our community.
- ☺ Please pray for our financial support We are asking God to lead us to new partners in ministry to marriages and families.
- ☺ Pray that we will be continually open to God's leading and direction and hold life with an open hand.