



April 2016

A Marriage Transformed

Praises & Prayers

We had the pleasure of meeting an amazing couple last year, Gene and Andrea, after they attended the Art of Marriage® event we hosted at our church. They have a remarkable story that we believe will encourage and inspire you so we asked Andrea to share it:

My name is Andrea, I am a mother of 4, and have been married to Gene for 5 years. We are very blessed, but our lives weren't always this good. Gene and I dated for the first time 18 years ago. We went our separate ways after a short relationship. During that time he developed a drug problem which eventually sent him to prison and that prison time led to his sobriety.



I was in an abusive relationship for 11 1/2 years. I felt like there was no escape. Gene and I found each other again 12 years after our initial parting. He came alongside me as a friend and gave me the strength that I needed to get away from a horrible situation. We wound up getting married and as we began our marriage we went through a lot of trials. His drinking, partying and lack of communication; coupled with my inability to voice hurts and enabling him to do these things, led to disaster.

We finally decided to get in church. Shortly after attending Midtowne Church we both committed our lives to Christ! We were excited to be on this new journey with Jesus, but it wasn't until the Art of Marriage that we really connected as a couple. We learned how to communicate and we realized that it was okay to have a difference of opinion.

The Art of Marriage also led us to Nathan and Jennifer who we now consider as friends as well as our mentors. We started going to weekly bible studies at their home. We believe that God sent them to us to help our relationship grow and learn how to put His Word into practice in our marriage. As each week passed we saw more improvement in our relationship. We found a great respect for each other and in our differences. We found ourselves really listening, laughing, and talking about things without all of the frustration.

The Art of Marriage along with Nathan and Jennifer, and of course God, have been instrumental in building our marriage while showing us that by putting our marriage in God's hands and following His path for us, we can have the type of marriage that God intended us to have. There are still struggles but we work together to overcome them. We fall in love with each other over and over again as each day passes. Together, our faith will see us through!

Thanks for partnering with us! Your support and prayers make stories like this possible.

Working hard to build strong godly marriages,

Nathan + Jennifer

Praise: for the work God has done in Gene and Andrea's marriage! Pray that they will continue to stay focused on Jesus and look to Him to continue the transforming work He is doing in their marriage.

Pray: at the end of this month we will be heading to Indianapolis to help put on the Weekend to Remember. Pray that God will move mightily and many hearts and marriages will be transformed.

Pray: for us as we work with our local church (Midtowne) to develop a strategic plan for a strong year round Marriage Ministry that will serve our church members and community well. (See next page for details)

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 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 7:24-25





We had a great visit last month to Washington MO.

Thank You to all the friends and partners that were able to visit with us. It was wonderful to see so many of you!

Even if we didn't get a chance to see you in person, please know how thankful we are for each and every one of you!

NEW

FamilyLife Presents: Marriage Ministry Workshop

We have been very involved in trying to bring quality marriage ministry to our local church. But we have been praying for God to give us a more strategic plan for developing a Marriage Ministry.

Well, God answered our prayer! Last month we were thrilled to take part in the pilot workshop called **"Marriage Ministry Workshop"**

The purpose of this workshop is exactly what we were looking for. Here is a description of the workshop:

"Finally, a marriage ministry workshop that lets you design a ministry unique to your church. For 40 years FamilyLife has helped thousands of churches minister to marriages. From that experience we have developed a one-day workshop that takes church leaders from "We don't know where to start" to "This is something we can do."

For more info:

www.familylife.com/marriageministryworkshop

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact us. We would love to help get you started.

Call/Text Jennifer—636-358-4213

Weekend To Remember Marriage Getaway

If you are a financial ministry partner and give regularly to our ministry; please contact us, we have a very special certificate for you. This certificate will allow you to register for the Weekend to Remember for only \$78/couple (regular price is \$300/couple). If you can't use the certificate,



pass it on to someone that can. What a great way to bless someone else's marriage.

If you are not a financial ministry partner, you can still get a great deal. Just enter or group name **"FLWalker"** when registering and get a discount.

Indianapolis April 29-May 1

Chicago, April 29-May 1

Little Rock, June 3-5