



**W**e are finishing November just about out of breath. Hosting back-to-back Monterey and Sacramento *Weekend to Remember* getaways kept us on the run, but it was so fulfilling!

Close to 800 people filled the ballroom in Monterey with many couples taking a few extra days to enjoy the beauty and fun activities.

We had the privilege of having Tim and Joy Downs, author of the book "Fight Fair!" and "One of Us Must be Crazy...and I'm Pretty Sure It's You.", as one of the speaker couples. Their insight, along with their humor, set the tone for the weekend.

One of the husbands shared with us:

*My wife and I just celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary and life and children had taken over our relationship. We've attended counseling to help us get back on track. Nothing can replace what this weekend has done for our marriage. The reminder that Christ is at the center of our love for one another and being able to listen to each others hearts with out any distractions is priceless. Thank you!*

Prior to the Monterey getaway, we invited our ministry partners, Steve and Mindy Finnegan, from



Silverdale, WA to join our volunteer team for the weekend so they could experience the conference "behind the curtain" and get a first-hand experience with serving our guests. Bev and I will have them share their experience in an upcoming letter, but we can say they thoroughly enjoyed it and are planning on volunteering again at a future getaway.

The following weekend, we had nearly 400 people attend the Sacramento getaway—almost to capacity! This weekend had many issues that couples were facing—pastor's marriages needing healing, couples dealing with infidelity, abuse, and many of the marriages were just drifting in isolation. They had no direction and many of them had lost hope.

after the getaway was over, Janet Burns, one of our speakers was approached from a lady who shared with us that coming into this conference there was no hope, and that she would be seeking a divorce. Throughout the weekend she heard about God's plan for marriage but really did not believe it. At the end of the last session, she laid out a fleece to God. If her name was called as the winner for the *Weekend to Remember* gift card, she would pursue the relationship with her husband. Little did I know that when I "randomly" selected the winner it would be this lady...but God saw where she was at and met her there!

What many people don't know when they attend is that our volunteer team is praying specifically for them the entire weekend. We have a room on the hotel property that we gather while our guests are in the ballroom attending the sessions. We, as a team, pray for each prayer request that has been anonymously written down and either dropped in the prayer box or submitted on the *Weekend to Remember* app. Our team receives hundreds of requests through the weekend. We also pray for every guest, by name, that God would help

them with whatever they are facing in their marriage. It's like our holy ground on the hotel property—where we intercede and do battle against the enemy who wants to tear down what God has created.

The team also has the opportunity to talk with couples during the scheduled breaks during the weekend. Many times, these are meaningful or God-ordained conversations.

Mindy, our ministry partner who helped in Monterey, specifically was an answer to a prayer from a lady that was from the Philippines who needed prayer. It just so happened that Mindy had lived in the Philippines and was able to really connect with her.

At the Sacramento getaway, we had another ministry partner couple help us fill in the gap. Our volunteer team in Sacramento is new and just starting out. We needed an additional couple to help us so that we had a full team. Adam and Laura O'Donnell, from San Francisco, were a HUGE help at the getaway. They had only attended their first getaway last year in San Jose, but were excited to help us. Adam and Laura discovered what it takes to put on a getaway first hand and thoroughly enjoyed it. They had some great conversations with our guests and prayed for many of them that requested individual prayer.

One of the highlights of each of the conferences was that we had 25 people accept Christ as their Lord and Savior...and in doing so, allowed Him to take the lead in their marriage! To God be the glory.



Adam and Laura greeting our guests at check-in, handing out name tags and guidebooks.

## DAY TO DAY STUFF



Our son, Brian, returned safely from his very first mission trip located in a country in the Middle

East. He and his team were successful with engaging people in spiritual conversations. Brian said that his eyes were opened to the lost people of that area and he felt emboldened when sharing his faith. He hopes to carry that same strength now that he is home.



Bev and I will be spending Thanksgiving with my two brothers and their families. I asked them when was the last time we were together for Thanksgiving and they were unable to tell me. My guess was before we moved to Arkansas 31 years ago! It will be a good time for sure!

In Luke, Chapter 17, Jesus shares a story about ten men who had leprosy and asked to be healed. Jesus healed them to show themselves to the priests. One of them, a Samaritan, when he saw that he was healed, turned around and walked back to Jesus to thank him. He was so grateful.

Bev and I want to be like that man—showing gratefulness to our Lord for calling us for his purpose and using you in that purpose. Thank you for your love, support and prayers.

FOREVER

*Thankful*

*John & Bev*