

John and Bev Cooper
Ministry Representatives
for Northern California

Everyone Speaks Family

NOVEMBER 2021



Weekend to Remember Prayer Team praying for each guest throughout the weekend.

Weekend to Remember in Monterey, CA



Close to 700 people packed the Monterey Hyatt Resort and Spa ballroom for a much needed getaway to realign their relationship. Some couples were in a good spot and just wanted to grow deeper while others needed some much needed maintenance.

“ We came in discouraged and overwhelmed believing our marriage was just about surviving but we have a new hope and new tools that we can use to make our marriage better. Also we need to have more fun!
- Wife, married 8 years ”

This was a training event for Bev and I. We were learning about all the different aspects of ensuring our guests were having the best experience possible.



40% of married couples with children in the U.S. are stepcouples. Is there adequate ministry in your church for their unique needs?

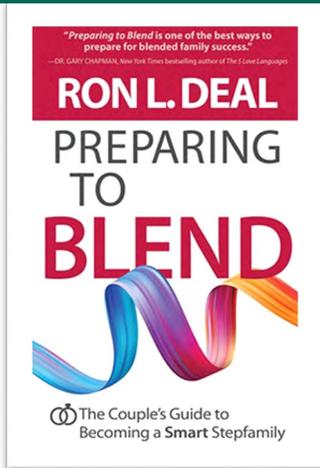
FamilyLife wants to be a part of a generational change. We now provide a certificate in Blended Family Ministry in order to equip you theologically while empowering you practically. This is a video-led course where you will learn how to create, support, and sustain a thriving stepfamily ministry in ways that help couples begin healing. We help you address tough questions about divorce and remarriage and respond with mercy, grace, and truth.

So, if you are ready to be a force of healing in blended families, you can get started with the self-paced study by going to familylife.com/learn. The cost is only \$49.



The Summit on StepFamily Ministry was a huge success last month in Marietta, GA. Folks from all over the country came to learn about how to help families prepare for life in a blended family. FamilyLife is the leader in equipping the church to minister to stepfamilies.

The summit has already taken place, but if you would like a digital access pass that will allow you all the benefits of being there, then just go to this link: <https://www.familylifeallaccess.com/>



CONSIDERING A BLENDED FAMILY MARRIAGE?

If you want to enter a blended family marriage well, this is the book for you. Aimed at engaged or pre-engaged couples who have at least one child from a previous relationship, *Preparing to Blend* offers wise counsel on parenting, finances, establishing family identity, and daily routines for your new life together. Within these pages you will learn how to:

- predict common issues
- define expectations
- create solutions

You, your soon-to-be-spouse, and your children will benefit from exercises designed to accelerate family bonding and help you better understand each other. There is even a chapter to help you plan your wedding with your children in mind, so you can build a strong future together. *Preparing to Blend* is also an ideal premarital counseling tool for marriage coaches, mentors, and pastors wanting to prepare couples for complex blended family dynamics.

If you are considering forming a blended family or know of a couple that is considering it, let us know and we will get one to you.

TRANSITION / PRAYER UPDATE

- Thank you for your prayers for Bev's back. She's doing much better.
- Please pray for us to learn quickly. Ask the Lord to go before us and lead us to the right people to volunteer and find favor with pastors, and volunteers
- Praise report! We met with our Family Pastors and they are

totally onboard with us, and are excited to use *FamilyLife* resources to reach more families in the church and community. They had actually been praying for guidance in the direction of their ministry and felt we were there at just the right time. To God be the glory! In fact, we are going to join the Marriage Enrichment group so we can connect with others that have a heart for marriage and family. Pray for divine connections!

In Other News...

- We just found out that our Seattle *Weekend to Remember* getaway will not be held in 2022. The COVID restrictions have not let up as much as other parts of the country. We are so sorry.
- Our oldest daughter, Kimberly, will be flying down from Spokane to visit us at Thanksgiving!
- Bev and I will be flying out to Little Rock in mid-December for Christmas. We will be house-sitting for a former FamilyLife staff couple while in Little Rock. After Christmas, we will drive up to northern Missouri to visit Bev's mom for a few days. We then fly out of Kansas City to go home.
- Our granddaughter, Emery Jane, turns one this month!!!



Philippians 2:14-16 The Passion Translation

Live a cheerful life, without complaining or division among yourselves. For then you will be seen as innocent, faultless, and pure children of God, even though you live in the midst of a brutal and perverse culture. For you will appear among them as shining lights in the universe, holding out the words of eternal life.

Gratefully,
John + Bev