



A Couple working on one of their projects during a Weekend to Remember getaway.

John and Bev Cooper
Ministry Representatives
for Northern California

Everyone Speaks Family

JANUARY 2022

Weekend to Remember in Sacramento, CA



Close to 350 people attended the Sacramento Hilton DoubleTree getaway in late November. Bev and I are with our *Weekend to Remember* Directors—Rudy and Kelly Crisolo. They are volunteers that are in charge of helping us manage the event. They are an amazing couple that God has empowered to make a difference in the northern California region. We are very blessed to work alongside them. Their role is similar to what Bev and I did when we were FamilyLife volunteers in Seattle prior to coming on staff.

Our next training will be in Napa, CA. We have two back-to-back events on Feb 4-6 and Feb 11-13. What a perfect Valentine's Day getaway!



We were able to spend the Christmas holidays with our kids in Little Rock and had a treasured time together—especially enjoyed our growing granddaughter.

Please pray for:

- The last of our training this month.
- The planning of our support development for this year.
- God to raise up a volunteer team for San Francisco.

THE GRAY DIVORCE TREND

Since 1990, the divorce rate of people over 50 has doubled. Many couples will have raised children together by this time and discovered things about one another they admire, as well as ways in which they wholly disagree. One might think that, if any of these issues suggested incompatibility, a marriage would end long before a couple was in their 50s or 60s.

That's not the case anymore. Over the past few years, many are deliberately choosing to part ways. One or both people in the marriage are making an overt choice to change course for the time they have left. And recognizing that life is short and precious, one or both partners choose what they feel is the most fulfilling path. Basically, your spouse is disposable. This type of egocentric thinking is so in-your-face!

Let's be real, some couples do face troubling issues for months—if not years. They've been to counselors and yet remain frustrated...and have probably lost hope. My guess is that they want the quickest way to get out of the bitterness, disillusionment, and hurt. And for the unbeliever, this is not a surprise.

But for the people confessing Christ as their Lord and Savior, there is hope. A prophet in the Bible, Jeremiah, has given us a lifeline with this observation, ***"Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."*** Nothing means *not one thing*—including restoring a stagnant, dying marriage. Oh, I don't pretend it will be easy, but who better to travel with you on this road than Jesus?

The God who chose you, who cares for you...who loves you beyond measure is able. Call on Him for He desires you.