



# Hello

# FALL



John and Bev Cooper  
Ministry Representatives

*Celebrating  
30 Years*

SEPTEMBER 2023



The 2023 Summit on Stepfamily Ministry is a 1-day VIRTUAL event to help equip you to minister to blended families.

If you want to be a catalyst and effect change in your church and community, come join a growing movement of leaders ministering to stepfamilies. Whether you are brand new to blended family ministry, have a small group, or thriving ministry, join us! This event will encourage and equip you and your whole team.

This year's Summit will be on October 12th, 9-3:30 pm CST. Watch at home or watch as a group at your church or organization. This event will be broadcast live but we will utilize DVR and Video on Demand functionality to allow viewers in different time zones to watch at a convenient time for them.

Topics will include:

- How to merge stepfamily basics into your church's established ministries such as premarital, marriage ministry, student/child, women/men, and counseling.
- Leading dynamic small groups, in-person and virtual.
- Cohabiting couples.
- and much more!

Visit <https://www.summitonstepfamilies.com/> to learn more about the schedule, speakers, price, and streaming the event.

**Bev and I want to encourage all of our ministry partners that are blended to attend. You won't regret it!**

The *Weekend to Remember* Fall conference season kicks off this month with the first event kicking off in Augusta, GA.



**30** getaways are scheduled for the fall. **49** are scheduled, so far, for the spring. Surely, there is one that will fit your schedule...

Valentines, Anniversary, or birthday will make a terrific excuse to attend. Find a getaway that fits your schedule at [WeekendtoRemember.com](http://WeekendtoRemember.com). **Remember, since you are a ministry partner of ours, you only pay \$50/person to attend.** Just drop us a note to which one you would like to attend.

*“ Almost no one is foolish enough to imagine that he automatically deserves great success in any field of activity; yet almost everyone believes that he automatically deserves success in marriage. ”*  
- Sydney Harris

Do you know of anyone that would like to attend the getaway? Maybe your son or daughter, brother or sister and spouse? Maybe a good friend. Invite them and we will arrange for them to get the same discount you do. And remember, this event has a money-back guarantee. If you are not happy with your getaway experience, you will get your registration fee refunded! And, hey...maybe you would enjoy a Northern California experience!





# SUMMER TIME FUN!

This last year has certainly challenged us in so many ways, but especially our schedule. This summer gave us some time to relax a bit, although we truly are never “off the clock.” We had some of our kids wanting to come and visit us along with our staff conference at FamilyLife headquarters, and a few extra events.

## JULY

Our daughter, Brittany, paid us a visit during the July 4th holiday week. It gave us an opportunity to explore Northern California since we typically don’t have time during the conference season. We actually visited a nearby gold mine where California gold was first discovered!

Bev and I took a trip to southern California to visit the Ronald Reagan presidential museum. It’s my goal to visit each of the presidential museums. One of the highlights was being able to go onto Air Force One.

Later in July, Bev and I attended our FamilyLife staff conference. This was the first time all of FamilyLife staff has gotten together at headquarters since the move to Orlando, FL. We stayed two additional days for some training in our jobs.

On the way back home, we stopped in Missouri to celebrate Bev’s mom’s 90th birthday! Bev did all the planning remotely and all the family flew/drove in to celebrate! It was a great way to honor her.

## AUGUST

Bev and I were invited to a retreat center close to Yosemite for a little relaxation and some dedicated time with God. It was our first time there and it was refreshing, relaxing, and awe-inspiring!

Our son, Brian, flew out for the week to visit us. It was his first time out and boy, did he love Northern California! One of his favorite times was whale watching in the Pacific Ocean past the Golden Gate bridge...yes, we saw whales!

## SEPTEMBER

Back to work we go. This month we are helping plan a one-day Vertical Marriage event at a church in Reno, NV. Bev and I will be the emcees for the event. Should be a nice challenge.

