



# MARRIAGETEAM *News*

## Empowering Couples for Winning Marriages

Summer 2007

**Vision** Empowered couples in winning marriages that create strong families and communities

**Mission** To improve marriages through education, development and delivery of coaching services and delivery of marriage building seminars.

### Story of a Winning Team

It's 7:00 Tuesday evening as the doorbell rings, and MarriageTeam coaches, \*Bill and Barbara, hurry to the door to greet \*Marsha and Doug. This is the fourth week in pre-marital coaching, and the four have become friends and look forward to their weekly meetings. Marsha and Doug registered for MarriageTeam coaching to learn and practice relationship skills that will help them to develop a close, loving relationship that will last a lifetime.



The goal for this evening is to discuss family life experiences and how those experiences might impact Marsha and Doug's relationship. Coach Barbara explains that Marsha and Doug have learned to "play" on different teams – their family of origin team – and they bring those plays into this new relationship. Barbara uses an example from her own family. "My family was very verbal and loud when they discussed a problem while Bill's family was very quiet and didn't talk about problems. You can imagine how those two different plays didn't work well at all when we were first married." Coach Bill explains that Marsha and Doug are forming a new team together and will be learning how to create winning plays that will work for both of them.

Barbara and Bill facilitate a discussion by reviewing statements that Marsha and Doug have previously answered. The statement, "Parents and children made

decisions together in our family" prompts a serious discussion about Marsha's and Doug's differing expectations on parenting roles. Bill and Barbara coach the discussion to assure that Doug and Marsha understand both views. At one point, Coach Bill says, "Doug, I noticed that you seemed to withdraw from the discussion. Is this what happened?" When Doug confirms that Bill's observation is correct, Bill asks him to tell Marsha what caused him to withdraw. They are able to continue the discussion and later, Marsha tells Coach Bill that they tend to get stuck during disagreements because Doug does have a tendency to withdraw – usually when she raises her voice. Bill says, "Marsha, why don't you ask Doug how you can help him to get back into a discussion when you sense that he has withdrawn? I'll bet the two of you can come up with a winning play." Marsha directs that question to Doug and, after some discussion, they decide that Marsha could say, "Doug, I think you might be leaving the game, and that is not what I want for us. What do you need from me?" They practice saying it a couple of times and are very excited that they have come up with a play that seems to work for both of them. Coach Barbara has Doug write out the exact words on a 3x5 card (called a dynamic play card), and he gives the card to Marsha so she can use it the next time he withdraws from one of their discussions.

The evening ends with hugs at the door and a commitment from Marsha and Doug to practice their new play during the week so they can report back to their coaches when they see them again next Tuesday.

\*names are fictitious

MarriageTeam is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

MARRIAGETEAM  
[www.marriageteam.org](http://www.marriageteam.org)

PO Box 873086, Vancouver, WA 98687-3086  
360-450-6042

## From the Executive Director's Clipboard

Alan Ray, co-founder and Executive

I must begin by thanking those of you who joined our team during our initial fund raising campaign. The last three months have seen tremendous activity brought to fruition through your contributions and support.



- The Coaches Guide and Player Workbook (couple's exercises) are finally published so we have materials with a very professional appearance.
- Take a look at our two NEW marketing videos and see the impact of your support. We'd love to hear your comments, too!  
([http://www.marriageteam.org/f/Couple\\_Sharing\\_god.mov](http://www.marriageteam.org/f/Couple_Sharing_god.mov)) and  
(<http://www.marriageteam.org/f/ACoachingConversation.mov>).
- In July Autumn and I presented workshops at the Smart Marriages Conference in Denver and the Association of Couples for Marriage Enrichment Conference in Orlando. Both presentations were very well received, and we are currently in discussions that could result in expanding MarriageTeam to Los Angeles, CA, Norfolk, VA, and Bellevue, WA.



MarriageTeam Workshop Coaching Demonstration

- Meetings in Longview, WA have resulted in coach training in that community beginning in late October. Details can be found at [www.marriageteam.org](http://www.marriageteam.org)
- We have partnered with the local Head Start program to provide resources for families participating in their program.

- Christian News Northwest published an article about MarriageTeam coaching in the August edition.
- We are exploring a very exciting opportunity to host a local radio show on marriage coaching that would air weekly as yet another vehicle for empowering couples for winning marriages. You can help underwrite the cost of this show (\$400 per show), which could begin as early as September. Let us know if you would like to partner with us on this.
- Coach training in Vancouver begins September 28. If you are interested in learning more or know of other couples who might be interested, give us a call at 360-450-6042.



Presentation in Orlando in July

It is great to share all of the progress that has been made in the last three months, but none of it would have been possible without YOU! Our many donors, coaches, and volunteers truly represent a marriage team, empowering couples for winning marriages.

### Message from a Winning Team

“The guidance, coaching and assistance you provided to my wife and me was invaluable, and I know our marriage is much stronger because of it. Of course, I can't downplay the role that God had in it all, as I'm sure that without His intervention, I probably wouldn't even have a marriage anymore. Perhaps someday in the future, we may actually be able to help other couples the way that you have helped us. I suppose stranger things could happen, right? Keep in touch and keep us in your prayers as we continue onward together.”

### You Can Join MarriageTeam

MarriageTeam has partnered with Just Give to simplify your donation process. By clicking on the “Donate Now” button, <http://www.marriageteam.org/Donations.html>, you will be directed to the Just Give website. Please include your contact information so we can mail your tax-deductible receipt, and thank you for including MarriageTeam in your charitable giving program.

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