

FAMILY FIRST

FEBRUARY 2007

VOLUME 3

*... Empowering couples to live together in accordance
to God's blueprints for marriage*



**An Exhortation of
Family Restoration Ministries World Outreach.
Couples Fellowship
70 Beach Street
Staten Island, New York 10304**

Editor's Note

Welcome back to Volume 3 of Family First magazine. We hope you enjoyed reading our previous edition. 2006 was a great year for couple's fellowship. We successfully re-launched the Family First magazine, and we are very grateful to all who made the launch a success. This edition promises to be more fun filled and inspiring for all couples and future couples to be.

As part of 2006 activities, our first event of the year, titled **Valentines Dinner**, took place at the Harbor Manor in Staten Island. All who graced the occasion had a romantic candle light evening with their spouse. We were grateful to share the night with couples from other ministries outside Family Restoration Ministries (FRMI). Not only did couples have a candle light dinner with their spouse, but the event was televised on Staten-Island Cable for weeks on end. Through this medium, we hope to have reached even more couples out there that might need a word or two of encouragement for their marriage. During this activity, we were privileged to hear a very powerful message from our very own Archbishop Emmanuel Powerson on how to 'Enjoy not Endure your Marriage'. We also heard a word of exhortation from our very own Pastor Mrs. Victoria Powerson.

Our second event titled **Couples Forum** was held at our local assembly on 70 Beach Street, Staten-Island. During this forum, we had a question and answer session in which couples asked questions that were in turn answered by a Panel of Pastors and the Archbishop. During this event, our newest married couple was officially welcomed into the FRMI body of Christ.

We also had two family forums in the church in 2006. The first was held on March 26th 2006, and the second was on June 4th 2006. Both were very informative sessions in which questions pertaining to family issues were asked. 2007 will surely be a more promising year, as we have great activities lined up for you.

Mark your calendars as the couples' fellowship team is planning a night to remember cruise in the summer with a major cruise line in NY City. Engaged couples are also welcome, so invite a couple, and they will surely be blessed. Stay tuned and be blessed!



OLUSOJI & OMOLARA OWOLABI
Couples Fellowship Coordinators

Enjoy Not Endure Your Marriage

{An excerpt from Healthy Family Manual Vol. 4}

God created marriage to be enjoyed never to be endured. If a marriage is at the point of endurance, something has terribly gone wrong. One of our greatest place of joy is our home. A house can be too hot to live, but a home is always a cool welcome and relaxing place. God said "It is not good for man to live alone". God gave him companion from inside of him not outside. **The real source of joy is within.**

Wrong situation or circumstances is equal to wrong marriage. If you are wrong in a marriage, get out of it - HOW?

1. Not through divorce or separation!
2. Change whatever approach or system of relationship.
3. Be secure in who you are!
4. Stop competing with your spouse.
5. Listen & obey your spouse as long as it does not demean God's mandate.
6. Communicate well and clear your head.
7. If you are a female (Wife) stop trying to correct and compete with your husband, it doesn't work. (Submit, it's not optional).
8. If you are male (Husband), stop screaming, and ignoring your wife communicate your vision with her gently and in love.
9. Communication shall help you to overcome sex problem, bank problem, children problem, business problem, and investment problem. If you are anointed and you don't know how to communicate it to people you have a big problem. You will not enjoy your anointing. You will not be successful until you find a successful way to communicate your anointing. The one cause of divorce is not sex problem, money problem, family & friend problem etc. but wise or successful communication problem.
10. Your ability to lead people successfully depend on your ability to communicate effectively & successfully = "Husband".
11. I Sam 18:20-29 (David & Michal). David defeated Goliath, bear, lion and all but he had a problem. (The woman he loved & who loved him, had communication problem). David should not have married Michal, but Saul said "I shall give her to him, that she may be a snare to him". The hand of the enemy may reach him. (All you need men, Women, is one silly mistake - that spouse would become a snare to you).
1 Sam 19:10-13
1 Sam 25:44
2 Sam 3:12-13
2 Sam 6:11-23

Shalom!

His Grace - Archbishop E.O Powerson

Testimonials

Glory be to God for his mercy endureth for ever.

What a privilege to testify to what God has used the couples fellowship to do in our marriage on different occasions, and through diverse means while ideas were been shared in the fellowship. We were able to identify and expose little foxes in our marriage that has befallen our relationship. Issues in life in general had one time pre-occupied us and kind of tore us apart without us realizing it. Each of us was fighting these battles alone and the task seems overwhelming. Forgetting the fact that the bible says one shall put two to flight but two shall put ten to flight.

The fellowship equipped us through dynamic teaching, and balanced expository of the word of God by our spiritual father and testimonies from other couple that marriage is not a one man show. The old devil cannot become saved so he has not changed from his old tactics of removing communication between couples. And once this is absent, the story becomes “things fall apart”.

The fellowship has helped us to respect and trust each other more. And God said; let us make a help mate for him. Even though man didn't request for a partner, the creator knows what a man needs and not what he wants. Please, value your partner. He or she may seem not to be what you want but if you can look deep and think deep, I can guarantee you that it is what you really need.

Happy reading, and kudos to the couple's fellowship leaders for a job well done.



ELIJAH & BOLA AKINDE

Since first attending FRMI in 2001, I was introduced to the couples' fellowship. I have learned so many things about marriage according to the word of God, and even about relationships with people in general. A relaxed environment allows us to open up freely and discuss anything from family issues, children, household financial troubles, etc.

It has been a great help to my marriage, and for everyone that attends, whether your marriage is "better" or "worse"!!! My husband and I have a great understanding that if God was not the focus in our lives, we would not have the marriage we have today. I encourage every engaged and married couple to join in, and hear what God has to say about YOUR marriage!



GINA & SEAN FORSYTHE

The Lord has really blessed my marriage through the couples' fellowship and I can't miss it for anything.

I have been married for 4 years, and I have been able to handle the trials of this period by God's grace based on the education that I have received in the couple's fellowships we have attended.

They include:

1. Appreciation of what my spouse does even if he doesn't do it to my standard.
2. Putting my husband first before the children
3. Our finances
4. Putting aside friendships or relationship/associations that are not acceptable to my spouse.
5. Patience/Endurance/ not always having your way.

I believe my husband has learned a lot too. He cooks, cleans and helps with the children. I mean he does house chores without feeling like it's my duty. I think that is cool.

!



BANJO & TITI ADESHINA

Fighting For Your Family

{A message from FRMI Family Forum by His Grace
Archbishop E.O Powerson }

Nehemiah 4¹³⁻¹⁸

The family is a very important part of the household.

Always **fight for your family** by invoking the standard of God, using His word. Nehemiah 4¹³⁻¹⁴ says: ¹³Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

How to fight for your Family

1. You as a person give your life to Jesus.
2. Fill your heart with the word of God – The bible.
3. Pray always and avail yourself to God's service.
4. Monitor and control your children - It is your God given right.
5. Get your family involved in things of God with their heart.
6. Spend extra curricular activities and time with them.
7. Educate your children. It is not enough to just go to school. **They must have the Spirit of Excellence.**

Excellence produces purpose, and Purpose produce Loyalty. Daniel was preferred because he had the spirit of excellence. He was preferred above the presidents and princes over the whole kingdom.

How to have a sane household

When you come home from your daily activities, do not scream and yell. Have a meaningful conversation with your children and spouse.

Have intelligent discussions rather than make allegations.
Have a goal for every member or child in the family.

May the Lord bless your family and keep your home in order – Amen.

His Grace – Archbishop E.O Powerson

A Parent's Daily Prayer Guide

Monday: Ask God to place a protective, solid hedge around your children so that Satan cannot reach in and lead them into temptation and so they will be safe from harm (2 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 33:20).

Tuesday: Pray that your children would use Godly wisdom in selecting friends and peers that will make a positive difference in their lives. Ask God to give each child a discernment of people as well as knowing the difference between right and wrong (Proverbs 1:10; 18:24; Deuteronomy 13:6, 8).

Wednesday: Pray that your children would stay pure in their thoughts and deeds (Psalm 24:4-5; Job 17:9).

Thursday: Pray that they will be caught if they wander into cheating, lies, or mischief (Hebrews 13:18-19).

Friday: Pray they will be alert and thinking clearly as they attend school and extra curricular activities and as they take exams. Ask God to help them be motivated to do the best they are capable of doing (Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Saturday: Pray for the spouse each child will marry someday. Ask that they will come from Godly homes and have an appetite to live the spiritual truth they've learned. Pray also that their goals and purpose will be the same as your own children and their future homes would be Godly (Deuteronomy 5:29).

Sunday: Ask God to help them live their lives for Him and that He will use them as a testimony and witness for His glory. Pray that they'll be grown to full spiritual maturity (Psalms 78:1-8, 103:17-18; Isaiah 54:13; Ephesians 3:20-21).

Do not leave your children unprotected-that is, vulnerable to Satan's attack. The greatest shield of protection we as parents can provide for our children is prayer It's never too late to start (1 Samuel 12:23; James 5:16; Colossians 4:2).

Don and Sue Meyers

What does a woman really want from her man?

.....a survey from twenty women.

We asked twenty women this question:

WHAT ARE YOU LACKING IN YOUR MARRIAGE? MOREOVER, WHAT CAN YOUR HUSBAND DO TO STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE?

Below were the answers we received:

1. All I want is to hear him say how much he loves me.
2. I will like to receive a phone call, text message or e-mail stating how much he cares about me occasionally.
3. Everyone else compliments me on a daily basis about how beautiful I look even my children but he does not even notice me even if I just got my hair done.
4. I will like to hear him say thank you for taking care of the kids and him at least occasionally.
5. I do not remember the last time he bought a gift for me. I mean, I do not want to receive gifts only during our anniversary, my birthday, Xmas or Valentine. I will like him to come home with a gift, no matter how little, just to show he loves me.
6. I just want him to spend valuable time with me. He's never at home and when he is at home, he sleeps or studies,
7. I will like us to watch a program together on the television, so that I can lay my head on his chest. I just miss him a lot. We do not get a chance to be close to each other.
8. He used to write me love letters and buy me love cards.
9. I just want him to tell me that I am important to him.
10. We have been married for X years and he has never taken me out for dinner or vacation just for both of us.

SEVENTY PERCENT STATED THAT THEY ARE LACKING ROMANCE IN THEIR MARRIAGES-HOWEVER; ABOUT NINETY EIGHT PERCENT STATED THAT THEIR HUSBAND DO NOT GIVE THEM ATTENTION NOR SHOW THAT HE CARES FOR THEM.

.....stay tuned in our next edition for what a man really wants to hear from his woman.

Survey conducted by:

Rev. Titi Olugakinro & Mrs. Lara Owolabi

Marriage Beats Money for Happiness Most Americans Have Found Key to Happiness-but Married and Moneyed More So

Jan. 4, 2007 -- When reaching for the key to happiness, it's better to go for the golden ring than the greenback.

A new Gallup poll of 1,010 adults shows most Americans are generally satisfied with the way their personal life is going.

But those with higher personal incomes and especially those who are married are more likely to say they're very happy with their personal life.

Married adults at any income level were as likely, if not more likely, to report being happy than even the wealthiest unmarried adults.

Overall, the poll shows more than nine in 10 Americans describe themselves as "happy" and just 4% are "not too happy."

About 64% of married people said they are very satisfied with the way their personal life is going, compared with 43% of singles.

And while 72% of respondents with incomes of \$75,000 or higher reported being very satisfied with their personal life, a mere 36% of those with an annual income of \$30,000 or less did.

Money, Marriage, and Happiness

Researchers say Americans have always reported a high level of personal satisfaction, with at least eight in 10 adults saying they're happy with their personal life in polls since 1993.

Although the vast majority of Americans were satisfied with their personal life, researchers found money and marriage appeared to go hand in hand with higher levels of personal satisfaction and happiness.

Combining the results of the 2006 poll with those from 2005 and 2004, researchers say **marriage may be more strongly associated with personal happiness than money.** For example, 56% of married adults in the lowest income bracket reported being very happy, compared with 50% of unmarried adults in the highest bracket. But marriage and money seemed to be even better -- 67% of married adults in the highest income group said they are very happy. SOURCES: Gallup Poll of a random national sample of 1,010 adults interviewed by telephone Dec. 11-14, 2006. News release, Gallup Organization.

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Pictures From 2006 Valentine's Day Bash



Getting Away to Get It Together

With the maddening pace of life today, it can often feel like you are trying to keep a lot of different "balls in the air" while running full speed on a treadmill.

But what if one of those balls you're juggling is your marriage - and it just keeps slipping out of your hands?

If you feel like your marriage is not getting the attention it deserves, then change that by *Getting Away to Get It Together*.

In *Getting Away to Get It Together*, you'll see the importance of "marriage retreats" ... special times away to "re-energize" and "clarify your vision as a couple."

Although it seems ironic, you speak with your loved one throughout the day and yet fail to connect with them on a heart-to-heart level.

That's why it is so important to find the time to get away...

In *Getting Away to Get It Together*, look for all the details of a weekend escape with your spouse:

- Where to go on a budget you can afford
- What preparations to make
- How to make sure your expectations for the weekend are in line with your spouse's like and much more!

What a "getaway" schedule looks like

You need to **make time** for you and your spouse to take a mini-vacation - it doesn't need to be expensive - to be sure that the important stuff of marriage isn't being overlooked as part of the daily routine.

Sometimes you simply have to "stop the world" ... get off ... and plan much needed quality time together.

Bill and Carol Wellon
Family Life Ministries
<http://www.familylife.com>

Creative Ideas to Romance Your Spouse

Remember, use these ideas any day of the week - they aren't only for February 14.

Romancing your spouse shouldn't end after marriage; it should increase!

Tips to Romance Your Wife:

(Excerpted from *Simply Romantic®: Tips to Romance Your Wife*)

- Rent her favorite type of car one weekend. Drive to her favorite places.
- Remember what makes your wife laugh and then tickle her "funny bone." Laughter makes any day better.
- Turn your bedroom into a romantic getaway: rose petals, scented candles, and soft music. Then romance her.
- Take \$10 to the Dollar Store and buy her 10 fun gifts that remind you of her. Over dinner, give them to her one at a time and tell her why you bought each of them.

Leave roses in the front seat of her car—just because.

Tips to Romance Your Husband :

(Excerpted from *Simply Romantic®: Tips to Romance Your Husband*)

- Serve him his favorite dessert and gourmet coffee - by candlelight.
- Drop by your husband's workplace unexpectedly and whisk him away for lunch.
- Purchase a piece of clothing for yourself that you know he will especially like. Pick a special time and place to wear it!
- On a small piece of paper, write a short note of encouragement and slip it into his pants pocket. He'll find it later when he's fishing for change.
- Compliment your husband in front of others. You may be the only one in his life who's doing it!

Simply Romantic for Married Couples,
Family Life Ministries
<http://www.familylife.com>

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BY THE APOSTOLIC CALLING ON HIM WHICH GOD HAS MANIFESTED SO GREATLY IN HIS MINISTRY, MOST ESPECIALLY AS A WARFARE MINISTER, THE HEARTFELT DESIRE OF EMMANUEL POWERSON MINISTRIES IS TO AFFECT THE DESTINY OF CHURCHES, LEADERS, NATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

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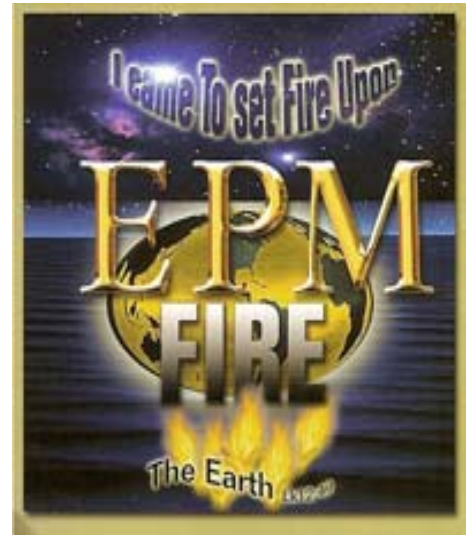
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Archbishop Emmanuel Powerson is a dedicated minister of God and a speaker on family and marriages worldwide. He is the founder/General overseer of Family Restoration Ministries World Outreach, and Emmanuel Powerson Ministries (EPM) to name a few. He has traveled to various states and countries over the world, speaking on the importance of the Family and marriage in our society. He is happily married with children to Pastor (Mrs.) Victoria Powerson. To schedule or request for a conference or seminar on Marriage and family, pls write to:

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 Please feel free to inform us, regardless of their family or religious
 background. We are here for the people.*

*For any questions or comments, please feel free to contact:
 Brother Soji and Sister Lara Owolabi
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2007 COUPLES FELLOWSHIP DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10th, 2007 @ 5:00 PM - VALENTINE DINNER
 SATURDAY June 16th, 2007 @ 5:00 PM - MARRIAGE SEMINAR
 SATURDAY October 20th, 2007 @ 5:00 PM – BOAT CRUISE/SUMMER FEST
 --- Stay Tuned for Venues

Meet The Crew . . .



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