

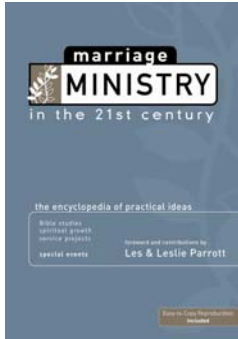
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact:** Ben Laurro, Pure Publicity  
818.753.4056 or [Ben@purepublicity.com](mailto:Ben@purepublicity.com)

# **Saving Marriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church**

With increasing divorce rates and a challenging marriage culture and society, a new book seeks to minister to the hurting couples in the pews

**Denver, CO** – “Countless couples on any given weekend file into churches across the country, looking their ‘Sunday best,’ while quietly keeping their marriage problems to themselves,” write Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, in the introduction to *Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Group Publishing), a comprehensive book for strengthening marriages and families in today’s church.



Many churches offer marriage counseling, resources, support groups and seminars and on the surface church couples may seem happy but the divorce rate tells the truth as there is no difference in the divorce rate between Christian marriages and marriages outside the church.

According to the contributors, two major problems have prevented marriage ministries from fully succeeding in the nation’s 400,000 churches: overworked ministry leaders and counselors, and troubled couples avoiding counseling as they feel ashamed, alone or they will be judged by other attendees.

With over twenty marriage experts contributing, *Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* is “chock-full of new and innovative ways to minister and meet the needs of today’s couples” and covers pressing topics and ideas for married and engaged couples, including:

- The Importance of Growing Together Spiritually
- Working with Second Marriages, Blended Families and Later-in-Life Marriages
- Ministering to Couples Going Through Divorce
- Connecting with Other Couples and Marriage Mentoring
- Get Away: Weekend Retreats, Date Night and Getaway Ideas
- Communication, Conflict Resolution, Financial Priorities and Parenting In synch

The book includes over 200 ideas to strengthen marriage, from building self-esteem, meeting the core needs of spouses, to practical ideas like fifteen movie night suggestions and twenty ideas for connecting with other couples through small groups or outreach opportunities.

“Most married couples need more fun in their lives. As they go through the daily, weekly, monthly, and lifetime grind of dealing with work, family and other relationships, they simply need time to reconnect,” they write. *Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* holistically reignites the spark.

“A big part of marriage ministry involved equipping all couples to maintain and grow healthy relationships in their homes, with their families, and of course, with each other. The ideas in this book hit on all these areas,” writes editor Brad Lewis. Perfect for pastors, counselors, marriage ministry directors and laypeople, *Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* will help strengthen marriages and family in America.

## **About *Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*:**

*Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Encyclopedia of Practical Ideas* by Brad Lewis, ed. Published by Group Publishing. January 2008. Paperback, 223 pages. \$24.99. ISBN: 978-0764435676.

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# About Les & Leslie Parrott

Contributors to *Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott are founders of [RealRelationships.com](http://RealRelationships.com) and the Center for Relationship Development at Seattle Pacific University. Their bestselling books include *Love Talk, Your Time Starved Marriage*, and the award-winning *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*.

## Content Contributors

Men and women who contributed to *Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

- Linda Bever
- Stephanie Carney
- Dave Embree
- David Frisbie
- Lisa Frisbie
- Dave Gallagher
- Cheri Gillard
- Cheryl Gochnauer
- Linda Halloway
- Jeanette Littleton
- Keith Madsen
- Robin Martens
- Jim Miller
- Pat Mitchell
- Les Parrott
- Leslie Parrott
- Kristi Rector
- Dean Riddings
- Doyle Roth
- Larry Shallenberger
- Jason Tarka
- Molly Wright

## Suggested Interview Questions

*Marriage Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

1. What is the status of marriage in the church in America? Is it different than the secular world?
2. What are some of the greatest challenges for marriages to overcome in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
3. How important is it for couples to spend time together despite busy schedules? What are some ideas for nights out or weekends away?
4. Why do you feel married couples growing together spiritually is so important?
5. What are some ways couples can grow together spiritually? Prayer? Devotions? Serving?
6. The book talks in-depth about marriage mentoring. What benefits are there to having another married couple to mentor marriages?
7. Marriage often goes through stages. How is marriage different for newlyweds versus couples that have been married for 30 years? How does the book speak to these differences?
8. With about half of marriages in America ending in divorce, what are some of the keys to starting off a marriage right?
9. How can marriage counselors best help rocky marriages or couples facing divorce?
10. What are some ideas for building strong families in America?

**For an interview or to discuss an excerpt, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at 818.753.4056 or [Ben@purepublicity.com](mailto:Ben@purepublicity.com).**