



October 2004

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Dear Friends,

In 2003, Families Northwest released a report that included these statistics:

88% of Washington teenagers want to be married,

93% of teens believe that marriage is a lifelong relationship

90% think that couples should not expect their marriages to end in divorce –

Yet 57% of all marriages do end in divorce

And over 60% of second marriages end in divorce.

The fact is that *for every \$1000 spent* to deal with the effects of family disintegration, *only \$1 is spent* to prevent that disintegration. (June 2000, *The Effects of Divorce on America*, Patrick Hagen)

The need for marriage reconciliation is huge – in the world, in this nation, in our communities and with our clergy. The mission of Bethel Ridge Family Resources is to be a ministry of reconciliation of families to each other and individuals to the Lord. It is God who has the solutions to life's problems and His solutions are the only ones that change lives.

Despite the lack of cultural support for marriage in the 21st century, marriage still represents our deep-rooted hope for strong families and lasting love. Marriage is the most basic and universal human institution. It has been vital in every civilization. No other institution offers more hope for positive change than the family. God's blueprint makes sense.

As counselors, we can spend hours working with a family or a couple on a weekly basis and feel like we have barely scratched the surface of the real issues. Why? Because defenses can remain in place; because each week we have to back track in order to move forward; because appointments are missed; because people give up.

Glenna and I believe that the intensive counseling experience that we offer at Bethel Ridge makes the difference in effectiveness and life change seen in families and marriages. Our passion is to save families. We have seen miracles happen in a matter of days as we work in a secluded private setting, using Biblical counseling, group interaction (ropes course) and therapeutic activities.

Your support of Bethel Ridge helps make a difference in the lives of families and Christian leaders. God has used you through your vision, your gifts, your support and your prayers to change lives.

Our heartfelt thank you for your partnership in this "life changing" ministry.

In His Service,

Gregg and Glenna Hires

Comments from the Bethel Ridge Guest Book

† *Husband, separated from his wife:* As beautiful as your setting is here, it was the beauty and love you both showed me that I will take away from here. You have touched my heart, and helped restore our marriage. . I thank God for you both and your ministry!

† *Pastor and his wife:* How can we begin to summarize the tremendous impact these few days have had on our lives? Upon arrival, we felt an instantaneous oneness in Spirit. The tranquil, nurturing environment allowed us to truly be still and hear from the Lord...The very unique hospitality and delicious meals (gourmet) made us feel so special. The genuine sensitivity of Gregg and Glenna, the sincere empathy, tenderness in speech, humility and unconditional love – they truly possess, is a divine picture of our Lord. We will be forever grateful for the time we were able to share with these faithful and loving “servants.” They truly listen with their hearts! You two are great (discreet) referees!

† *Married Couple:* Thank you for the love and care you have extended to us in so many ways. Bethel Ridge is a lighthouse in the fog, a safe harbor in a storm. You are “way cool” ... You have led us through some dark valleys even as you provided green pastures and still waters! Thanks for living out before us and leading us into the Light of the Word.

Praises

- Mother and son accepted the Lord!
- A volunteer that keeps on keeping on helping us with construction of both cabins!
- First cabin for families completed, fully furnished and in use
- Kitchen supplied with donated brand new dishes, utensils and cookware
- Second cabin progressing toward completion as faithful volunteers work on electrical, plumbing, and siding
- Bathrobes and slippers donated for guest rooms.
- Completion of road for easier access to cabin
- For a reunited couple
- Separated, now reunited pastor and wife testify, “the best our marriage has been in 25 years”

Prayer Requests

- Volunteers (housekeeping, landscaping, construction, clerical)
- Healing and Restoration for the families we serve
- Staff couple or individual for administrative assistant, domestic and maintenance services
- Prepare the hearts of couples, families and pastors to be counseled
- Cabin to be fully used
- Volunteers to finish electrical, plumbing, deck, insulation, and siding by fall
- Landscaping and irrigation sprinkler system

Needs

- \$4,500.00 for completion of deck on second cabin (deck is required to complete siding)
- Scholarship \$ for low income families and pastoral couples.
- Music CDs, Educational Christian video series, audiotapes and books related to relationships, marriage, family, and parenting, for our family resource library.
- Funding for the completion and furnishing of the second family cabin. (\$50,000)
- Labor and materials for remodel of staff house. (\$30,000)