



KCM Launches *Rayah* Premarital Counseling Program

April, 2008

KCM announces the launch of an additional ministry focus – premarital counseling. The new program is named *Rayah*, which is a Hebrew word meaning: *darling, beloved, or the object of love and affection*. KCM founder, Dr. Michael Mannia (D.Min.) says, “The term embodies the kind of relationship God desires a husband and wife to share for a lifetime. *Rayah* is specifically designed to explore the strengths of an engaged couple’s relationship, as well as identify possible areas where growth can occur.” The eight week program offers four sessions covering such relational facets as: communication, conflict resolution, financial management, and matters pertaining to family-of-origin. The final four sessions focus on what God’s word says about the roles of husband and wife. Dr. Mannia stated, “We base the first four sessions on information gathered from the PREPARE assessment that the couple takes prior to beginning the program. In the second half of the program, we focus intently on God’s word with respect to marriage – specifically, the roles of husband and wife. There’s a lot of misconceptions about what God says these roles are to be. We believe it’s vitally important to dispel these misconceptions, in order to give marrying couples the Christ-centered focus that is needed to make marriage work effectively.”

In the U.S., 40 percent of *first-time* marriages end in divorce – typically between years seven and eight. However, 60 percent of *second-time* marriages, and 73 percent of *third-time* marriages end in divorce. The effects of divorce on the family are often times staggering. According to the American Heritage Foundation:

- Children whose parents have divorced are increasingly the victims of abuse. They exhibit more health, behavioral, and emotional problems, are involved more frequently in crime and drug abuse, and have higher rates of suicide.
- Children of divorced parents perform more poorly in reading, spelling, and math. They also are more likely to repeat a grade and to have higher drop-out rates and lower rates of college graduation.
- Families with children that were not poor before the divorce see their income drop as much as 50 percent. Almost 50 percent of the parents with children that are going through a divorce move into poverty after the divorce.
- Religious worship, which has been linked to better health, longer marriages, and better family life, drops after the parents’ divorce.

Regarding these points Dr. Mannia said, "Divorce has long range implications on children well into adulthood. Daily we work with counselee's who come from broken homes; even as adults, the challenges posed from growing-up in a home touched by divorce can be significant. All-too-often, children who grow-up with divorced parents develop dysfunctional methods of coping with their pain and anguish through behaviors involving: addiction, promiscuity, significant repression and more. Our goals with Rayah are to equip young couples with effective coping skills to work through the challenges of marriage; as well as, give the couples a sense of comfort and familiarity about counseling, so they might be more apt to reach-out for support earlier-on as opposed to waiting till their marriage is on the verge of crashing-and-burning."

Kingdom Community Ministries (KCM) is located in Bakersfield, CA, offering Christian counseling services. KCM's mission is to bring people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, helping them to overcome the crippling effects of sin and guilt, and find forgiveness.

For more information, visit us at: www.kcmcounseling.com, or e-mail us at: info@kcmcounseling.com.