

CENTREPOINT

RON WELLS DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

HELPING FAMILIES GROW HEALTHY

The Point
by Ron and Beth Wells
Centrepoint Ministries

I was recently invited to speak on marriage and family in an East Asian country. I taught seven classes with several hundreds of university students. I began each class by tearing a piece of paper into shreds to illustrate how easily a "Civil Contract Marriage" could be ended and thrown away. I then introduced the idea of a "Covenant Marriage," one where the couple's relationship included a vertical relationship with God.

With the help of a young Asian couple who translated, we demonstrated a scripturally-based Covenant Wedding ceremony. This powerful, learning experience opened up a great time of sharing about family and marriage with these Asian students. We talked about how both our countries were being deeply affected by divorce and its effects on future generations.

At Centrepoint, when visiting with couples in crisis, we always share that God's perfect will is to keep their marriage covenant with each other. However, we also explain that God does not want them "living like they are" another day—with destructive behavior towards each other. The mission of Centrepoint is to help couples discover both before and after marriage how a personal relationship with the true and living God and each other can give them power to have a vital living Covenant Marriage and produce healthy lives and families. Thank you for your support as we carry out this mission across Texas, our nation and around the world.

Blessings,
Ron & Beth
Ron and Beth Wells
Come see our new office
at 418 S. Broadway (across
from the Catholic church).



What Is a Covenant Marriage?

Joshua vowed in front of his people and country: "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

"The closer the man and his wife get to Christ, the clearer they see how important it is for them to stay close to each other."

Richard D. Dobbins

A Covenant Marriage is based on the acronym V.O.W.

V is for Voluntary: As a couple mutually and voluntarily chooses to yield themselves to the Lordship of Christ and each other, God begins making their marriage thrive. The word "marry" means "to connect or unite" and describes the birth of a new, living organism. Matthew 19:8 explains why God allowed decrees of divorce: "Because of the hardness of your hearts, God permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so..." (see Mark 10:5).

A heart that is hardened will destroy relationships. In Covenant Marriage,

choices are made voluntarily by a man and woman to yield their hearts to God and to each other on a daily basis. This foundation allows their family to be nurtured and cared for in the way God intended (see *cont'd on back*)

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"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well..." 1 Thessalonians 2:8

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Ephesians 5:21).

O is for Obedience: Matthew 6:33 is the focus for Covenant Marriage. Simply said, "First seek to please God; then allow Him to give you, as man and woman pledged together for life, the desires of your heart." We learn how to obey from God's Word—not from our media-driven culture. Reminding each other of the simple promises and commands God gives, it becomes our choice to be obedient to God as an individual and as a couple.

W is for Worship: Often, when we visit Beth's parents, we hear her ninety-year-old father read a chapter of Scripture at the breakfast table and pray. It is a powerful reminder of the worship standard for marriage in Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Many couples attend church but often have never prayed over needs in their home or read scriptures together. Worship must start at home; then, it overflows into times of worship with the Body of Christ. Personal worship naturally extends into a family who walks with God. The old adage is true: "The family that prays together, stays together!"



With this ring I give you my world

Centrepoint Ministry Opportunities

2010

- July 7** Bible Study, First Baptist Tyler Prayer Meeting
- July 14-25** Mission Trip to Alaska
- July 28** Bible Study, First Baptist Tyler Prayer Meeting
- Aug 20, 21** Mentoring Couples Training Retreat, Timberline, Lindale, Texas
- Aug 28, 29** Speaker, Cowboy Church Advanced Training for Pastors, Stephenville
- Sept 8** Speaker, Tyler Junior College Baptist Student Ministry
- Sept 20, 21** Leadership Retreat, ETBU, Marshall, Texas
- Oct 14** Speaker, Community Marriage Conference, Jacksonville, Texas
- Dec 7** Centrepoint Christmas Celebration Dinner- Rose Garden, Tyler

2011

- Jan 27-30** Conference for Pastors, Newton, Texas
- March 4, 5** Central Baptist, Jacksonville, Texas
- March 18-20** Fortified Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia