



2006 BRANSON PASTORS'
MARRIAGE CONFERENCE
BRANSON, MO

Assessment Results

by

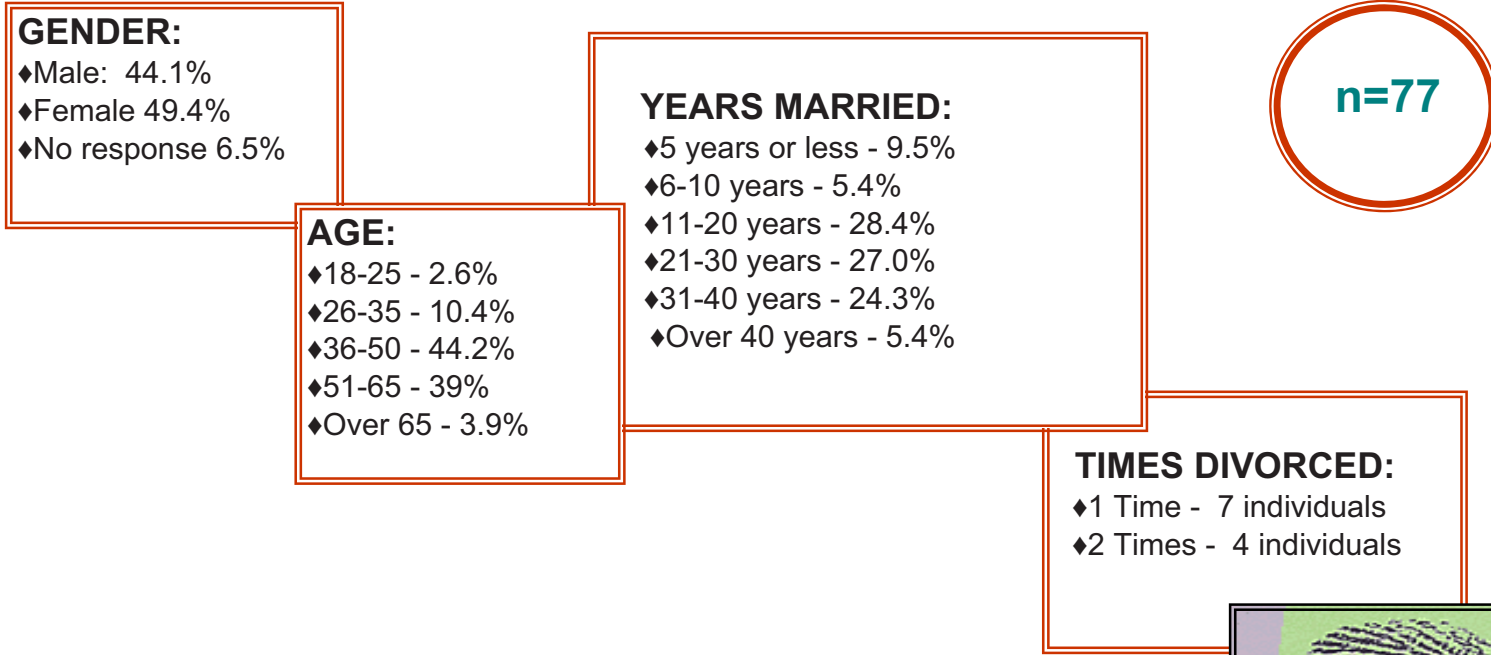
The Center for Relationship Enrichment

on the campus of John Brown University

2000 West University Street

Siloam Springs, AR 72761

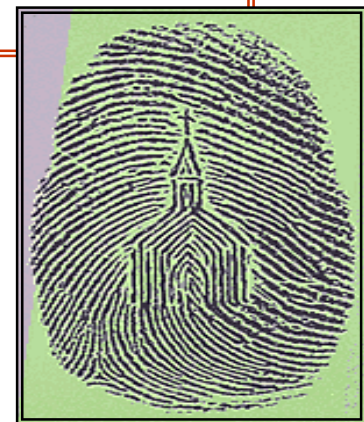
BRANSON CONFERENCE

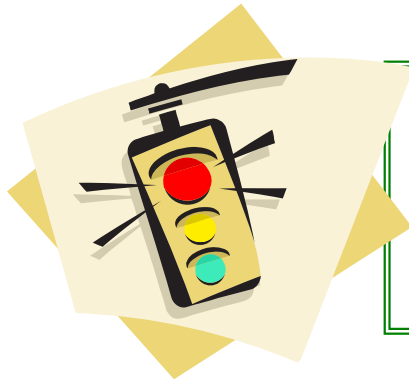


Do you have an ongoing marriage ministry at your church? **Yes: 21.6%**
No: 78.4%

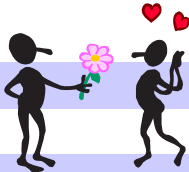
Do you require premarital counseling at your church? **Yes: 91.8%**
No: 8.2%

If so, how many sessions? The majority do between 3-6 sessions





KEY
Red Light = Low levels of satisfaction
 Relationship in the marriage is disappointing.
Yellow Light = Moderate satisfaction
 Relationship in the marriage is mediocre.
Green Light = High satisfaction
 Relationship in the marriage is satisfying.



| | Red Light | Caution | Green Light |
|--|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| How satisfied are you with your marriage? | 5.2% | 15.6% | 79.2% |
| How satisfied are you with your husband/wife as a spouse? | 3.9% | 13.0% | 83.1% |
| How satisfied are you with your relationship with your husband/wife? | 3.9% | 33.8% | 62.4% |
| SUMMARY | 4.3% | 20.8% | 74.9% |

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

| | Red Light | Caution | Green Light |
|--|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| We have a good relationship | 3.9% | 22.1% | 74.1% |
| My relationship with my spouse is very stable | 6.5% | 18.2% | 75.4% |
| My relationship with my spouse is strong | 5.2% | 19.5% | 75.4% |
| My relationship with my spouse makes me happy | 5.2% | 27.3% | 67.6% |
| I really feel like a part of a team with my spouse | 10.4% | 28.6% | 61.1% |
| SUMMARY | 6.2% | 23.1% | 70.7% |

Degree of happiness that best describes your relationship?

| UNHAPPY | | | | PERFECTLY HAPPY | | | | | |
|----------------|------|------|------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1.3% | 0.0% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 13.0% | 15.6% | 23.4% | 31.2% | 10.4% |
| 3.9% | | | | 53.3% | | | | 41.6% | |

1.2% No Response



What I think about my marriage....

| | Red Light | Caution | Green Light |
|---|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| I want this relationship to stay strong no matter what rough times we may encounter | 1.3% | 2.6% | 96.1% |
| I may not want to be with my spouse a few years from now | 1.3% | 9.1% | 89.6% |
| If feel good about our prospects to make this relationship work for a lifetime | 1.3% | 18.2% | 80.5% |
| I am very confident when I think of our future together | 2.6% | 20.8% | 76.6% |
| My relationship with my spouse is more important to me than almost anything else in my life | 3.9% | 20.8% | 75.3% |
| I like to think of my spouse and me more in terms of "us" and "we" than "me" and "him/her" | 9.1% | 26.0% | 64.9% |
| I believe we can handle whatever conflicts will arise in the future | 7.8% | 29.9% | 62.3% |
| My spouse knows more about my relationship with Christ than anyone else | 13.0% | 32.5% | 54.5% |
| We have the skills a couple needs to make a marriage last | 5.2% | 49.4% | 45.5% |
| SUMMARY | 5.1% | 23.3% | 71.7% |

Overall, **how satisfied** are you with your spiritual relationship with your spouse?

| DISSATISFIED | | | | SATISFIED | | | | PERFECTLY SATISFIED | |
|---------------------|------|------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1.3% | 0.0% | 3.9% | 10.4% | 9.1% | 18.2% | 16.9% | 29.9% | 5.2% | 5.2% |
| 15.6% | | | | 74.1% | | | | 10.4% | |

SECTION 2 Relationship With God

Overall, **how satisfied** are you with your relationship with the Lord?

| DISSATISFIED | | | | SATISFIED | | | | PERFECTLY SATISFIED | |
|--------------|------|------|------|-----------|------|-------|-------|---------------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.6% | 3.9% | 2.6% | 7.9% | 35.5% | 36.8% | 5.3% | 5.3% |
| 6.5% | | | | 82.8% | | | | 10.6% | |

| Behavior: | <i>How often do you do the following?</i> | Red Light | Caution | Green Light |
|--|---|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Talk to your spouse about your personal relationship with Christ | | 6.5% | 46.8% | 46.8% |
| Pray with each other (excluding meal times) | | 31.2% | 37.7% | 31.2% |
| Pray for one another | | 1.3% | 16.9% | 81.9% |
| Attend church together | | 3.9% | 5.2% | 90.9% |
| Talk about how God is working in your marriage | | 16.9% | 42.9% | 40.3% |
| Have regular devotions together | | 71.4% | 18.2% | 10.4% |
| Study the Bible together or some other type of spiritual book designed to help you grow strong in the Lord | | 65.3% | 22.7% | 12.0% |
| Pray in the midst of a marital conflict | | 28.6% | 27.3% | 44.0% |
| Discuss how you can apply the truths of the Bible to your marriage | | 29.9% | 37.7% | 33.5% |
| Pray prior to major decisions | | 3.9% | 25.0% | 71.0% |
| Minister together as a couple | | 6.5% | 24.7% | 68.9% |
| Participate together in a small accountability group or home fellowship group | | 52.0% | 21.3% | 26.7% |
| Share with each other what God is teaching you in your individual spiritual journeys | | 18.2% | 29.9% | 52.0% |
| SUMMARY | | 25.8% | 27.4% | 46.8% |



KEY:
 5 = Always
 4 = Often
 3 = Sometimes
 2 = Rarely
 1 = Never or rarely



Write-in Comments

MARRIAGE RETREAT ASSESSMENTS

| Q36 Unique Challenges | | Q37 Unique Issues in Marriage | | |
|--|----|--|---|---|
| Sharing spouse with others | 26 | Time balance between home and ministry | 6 | |
| Family & together time | 23 | Financial | 4 | |
| Too busy (24/7) | 10 | Bi-vocational | 3 | |
| Fish bowl existence & higher standards expected | 10 | Time for each other | 3 | |
| Others expectations | 4 | Communication w/each other | 2 | |
| Dealing with negative people | 3 | Wife working outside the home | 2 | |
| Knowing priorities/time mgmt | 3 | Getting time away from work (church) | 2 | |
| Time to minister together | 2 | Pulled in too many directions | 2 | Q37 Unique Issues in Marriage |
| Balance: Home & church | 3 | Intimacy | 2 | Continued |
| Never sit together in church | 2 | Jealousy | 2 | |
| Leaving one church and going to another | 2 | Sharing husband | | Not much professional training |
| Working together can cause conflict in marriage | 2 | Trying to meet needs of others and not neglect my wife | | Forgiving people |
| Spouse not seeing herself as part of ministry team | 2 | Being flexible | | Not able to share work concerns with spouse |
| Finances | 2 | Anger | | No energy for home life |
| Lack of close friendships with other couples | 2 | Expectations of pastor's wife | | Unrealistic expectations of children |
| Cope with different personalities in the church | | Try to keep up a good front | | Unrealistic expectations of us |
| Phone ringing | | Wife allowing husband to be "in charge" when working as a team | | Hold ourselves to a higher standard |
| Communication centered on church issues | | Shortchanging family's spiritual growth | | Knowing what to share and what not to share |
| Deacons | | Stress in traditional vs contemporary | | Dealing with our special needs child |
| Husband/wife schedules are different | | Time to talk about our marriage | | Resentment in children |
| No home of our own | | Nosey parishoners/gossips | | People talking to pastor's wife about problems and not the pastor |
| Lack of mentors/people to talk to | | Everyone knows about your marriage | | |
| Too many people want to know you | | Being what is "expected" | | |
| Bi-vocational challenges | | Food allergies | | |
| Effect on children | | Son lives across country | | |

MARRIAGE RETREAT ASSESSMENTS

| Q38 Impact on Marriage | |
|--|---|
| Pressure to always be the example | 5 |
| May differ on course of action for church | |
| Limits time for each other | 6 |
| Serving together is rewarding | |
| Stress | 4 |
| Makes family time more difficult | |
| Makes us stronger; brings us closer together | 4 |
| Making new friends when transferred | |
| Never leave the office | |
| People's expectations (critical) | 4 |
| Balance of family and church | |
| Challenges us to have a stronger marriage | 3 |
| Affects everything we do | |
| Positive: time together; retreats, etc | 2 |
| Positive: youth parents we work with are examples to us | |
| Lack of male friends for pastor | |
| Too many church activities we are expected to attend | |
| When couples work closely together -- hard to separate home and ministry | |
| More accountable | |
| Being both husband and pastor to wife | |
| More focus on Jesus | |

| Q39 How to Strengthen Marriage | |
|--|----|
| Attend seminars like this together | 20 |
| Pray together & for each other | 19 |
| Talk with each other | 17 |
| Regular Dates | 15 |
| Get away for time together | 10 |
| Take time to be alone with each other | 8 |
| Spend time having fun together | 6 |
| Read books | 6 |
| Travel | 3 |
| Lunch together | 2 |
| Daily walks to debrief | 2 |
| Ride bikes and camp together | |
| Make family a priority | |
| Let him lead & respect him | |
| Help with kids | |
| Give husband time for study and ministry; consider ourselves as a team | |
| Dry erase board with things my wife needs me to do to honor her | |
| Draw on teaching of godly people | |
| Call and send notes to husband; show interest in what he is doing | |
| Accountability groups; worship together | |

Q40 Questions about Marriage

Any way to guarantee it will last 'til death do us part?'

Why did God put us together?

How to stay out of the 'flesh' during problems

How can people want away from their commitment to each other?

How do you know you chose the right one?

How do you keep the marriage fresh?

How to love women that are obsessed w/your husband?

How to find balance with a growing church?

How do you determine priorities?

When would you recommend divorce?

Need information for husbands who are the spouse of pastor

How do I (wife) know I am doing enough to support my husband?

How can I get my husband to focus on and talk about our relationship?

Why is it so hard for my husband to be the spiritual leader at home?

How to tell the church you want a home of your own.

What did the Apostle Paul mean, "I have obtained mercy of the Lord?"

Where are more resources/retreats, etc for ministry couples to build marriages?

How to help people who are ready to separate get the vision that Christ has for their marriage?

How can a man learn how to communicate with a woman?

Why do men always have to be right and correct your statements/stories?

How can I get my spouse to want to pray & read together?

A Biblical explanation of two becoming one.

What is a good age to get married?

What are the responses of speakers to Josh Harris' views on dating

How can we prepare young people for the realities of marriage, the good & the difficult?

Why is it so hard to communicate as a couple?

How do you deal with a spouse that's not trying?

Sexual boundaries

How to prepare couples for interracial marriage?

How do I become Christ-like for my spouse?

Is those who lead the conference real?

Why do there have to be changes and stages to go through?

| Q41 - Difference with Christ-centered | Q42 - Difference Between Memorizing and Hiding God Word in Your Heart | Q43 - How to "Hide" God's Word in the Heart |
|---|--|---|
| Eccl. 4:12 --not easily broken | Memorizing: just knowing words | Memorize then meditate |
| Includes Christ in every aspect of life | Hiding: meditation & obedience | Continually recalling it |
| Closer to God--closer to each other | Applying to situations in life | Discipline |
| Oneness not just married Christians | Affects heart as well as mind | Put into practice |
| Able to practice what you preach | Makes a difference in your life | Through the power of the Holy Spirit |
| Seeks God first | Helps anchor my commitment to my wife | Purpose to move from mind to heart |
| Become one flesh--not just individuals | Head knowledge vs. Heart application | Speak aloud when memorizing |
| Christ the head--husband the priest--wife the help mate | Facts vs. confidence, peace & stability | I have a "Brag Book" of verses God has impressed on my heart--read them over everyday |
| Resilience | Focuses on freedom in Christ and achieving victory and abundant life | See, say, hear, write, do... |
| Deep level of trust, companionship | Duty vs. victory | Prayer and practice |
| Bring their relationship with Christ into their relationships with each other | Using Scripture to encourage & teach | Use visual aids for daily memory |
| More prayer involved | Keeps you in fellowship | Use music--sing praise songs or create songs |
| Guidance by the Holy Spirit | Connect verses to particular problems & promises | Learn verses that apply to current issues |
| Christ the focus of each life | Letting what is in your heart influence your mind | |
| Share common purpose/vision | Helps in time of temptation | |
| Power to be successful | Like planting a seed that will grow | |
| Both have growing relationship with Christ | Having it there for the Holy Sprit to bring to mind when needed | |
| Motive for actions is due to faith | | |
| Married Christians=2-way relationship; Christ-center=3-way relationship | Making my life reflect the truth of the Word | |
| Loyalties are right | | |
| Not self-centered | | |
| Joy in the relationship | | |
| It's all about Jesus being first | | |
| Looks to Christ for leadership | | |
| Differences in purposes, hope, handling conflict, stability | | |
| More willingness to give of yourself because of what Christ did | | |
| Not based on performance but on Christ | | |