

## THE CHALLENGE OF RELATIONSHIPS

Someone once said "marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth."

In our society, with the pressures of conflicting demands and too little time, personal relationships are often taken for granted. With all the distractions, we easily forget that strong, caring, loving relationships take work.

Without attention and care, marriages wither. Couples slowly and quietly drift apart or are being torn apart by terrible words and actions. Many are married in name only, or just stay together "for the sake of the kids." For many, it has been ages since they knew the joy of a loving relationship.

When infidelity, alcohol abuse, or drug dependency is involved, the situation may seem even more hopeless.

Retrouvaille is helping couples put the pieces back together and rebuild loving relationships. Retrouvaille, pronounced re-tro-vai', is a French word meaning "rediscovery."

If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you.

## A COMMON DENOMINATOR

All ages of couples come to Retrouvaille from many walks of life and ethnic backgrounds. Some have already separated or divorced, but want to try again. Many are struggling to stay together. What all these couples have in common is a sincere desire to build a stable, loving marriage.

Retrouvaille is Catholic in origin and orientation, but is open to all married couples regardless of religious background.

## RETROUVAILLE PROGRAM

Retrouvaille consists of a weekend experience and a series of 12 presentations offered within the three months following the weekend phase.

## RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

Retrouvaille begins with a weekend experience in which husbands and wives are helped to re-establish communication and to gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple.

This part of the program is presented by three married couples and a priest. The team couples, who have experienced disillusionment, pain, anger, and conflict, offer hope as they share their personal stories of struggle, reconciliation and healing. You will find courage and strength in the realization that you are not alone in your struggle.

The weekend is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering, nor is it counseling.

You will not be asked to share your problems with anyone else. However you will be encouraged to put the past behind you, to look beyond the hurt and pain, in order to rediscover each other in a new and positive way.

The Retrouvaille Weekend offers a very different message from the current secular themes of self-gratification and self-reliance. The weekend will help you discover how listening, forgiveness, communication, and the dialogue process are powerful aids for building a loving and lasting relationship.

*Retrouvaille Weekends are held at either a local hotel or a retreat facility.*



## POST WEEKEND

A follow-up series of presentations, which provide a time and place to work on your relationship, is an important phase of the Retrouvaille healing process. The hurt and the pain of falling out of love cannot be healed in a single weekend experience. This phase of the Retrouvaille program offers a more relaxed setting to explore other subjects relating to marriage and love, to renew your commitment, and to develop new insights and skills.

The following topics will be explored during this phase:

- Beginning Again
- A Look At Me
- Listening
- A Place for God
- Values
- Conflict
- Love is a Decision
- Forgiveness
- Sexuality
- Trust
- Intimacy
- We are a Sacrament

Each Retrouvaille community is given the freedom to establish their own follow-up schedule.

## HISTORY

Retrouvaille had its beginnings in the Province of Quebec, Canada. In 1977, the first Weekend program was presented to French speaking couples. Later it was translated into English by the Retrouvaille community of Toronto who strengthened the contents and developed the Post Weekend phase.

In 1982, the Toronto community began sharing the program with other communities throughout Canada and the United States.

Retrouvaille communities are actively serving most of the United States of America, many of the provinces of Canada, as well as Australia, Costa Rica, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Trinidad, and Zimbabwe.

## MESSAGES OF HOPE

"Retrouvaille hasn't eliminated our problems, but has given us the tools to work with. We have a better understanding of each other and the maturity to talk things out instead of fighting."

"We're not sure if God brought us to Retrouvaille, or if Retrouvaille brought us to God."

"We didn't know what to expect. We were willing to try, but not sure it would help. We were certain it couldn't hurt, and knew that if something didn't happen soon, it would be too late."

"My husband didn't know how he felt about us anymore. Our weekend was a miracle. We got our marriage back on track by using our new tools."

"I felt hopeful. For us, it was a new beginning after much darkness and pain."

"The program helped me save the most valuable thing in my life."

## HOPE IS A PHONE CALL AWAY

If you want to talk to someone, or if you want more information, or if you want to register for the Retrouvaille Program, please call.

**Retrouvaille Atlanta**  
**(770) 495-8592**

[www.retrouvailleofatlanta.org](http://www.retrouvailleofatlanta.org)

If you wish to remain anonymous when calling for more information, you do not need to identify yourself. If you then wish to register for the program, please be assured that all names are kept confidential.

## PROGRAM COST

On the weekend, you will be asked to make a donation. One donation will cover the expenses of lodging, food, and materials for both the Weekend and the Post Weekend phase.

A **non-refundable registration fee** is required to confirm your reservation, food and lodging. There is limited capacity so early registration is necessary.

No couple is ever denied the chance to heal and renew their marriage because they are facing financial difficulties. This concern should not influence your decision to come to Retrouvaille.

## WEEKEND SCHEDULE

For more information on programs in your area please call.

**1-800-470-2230**

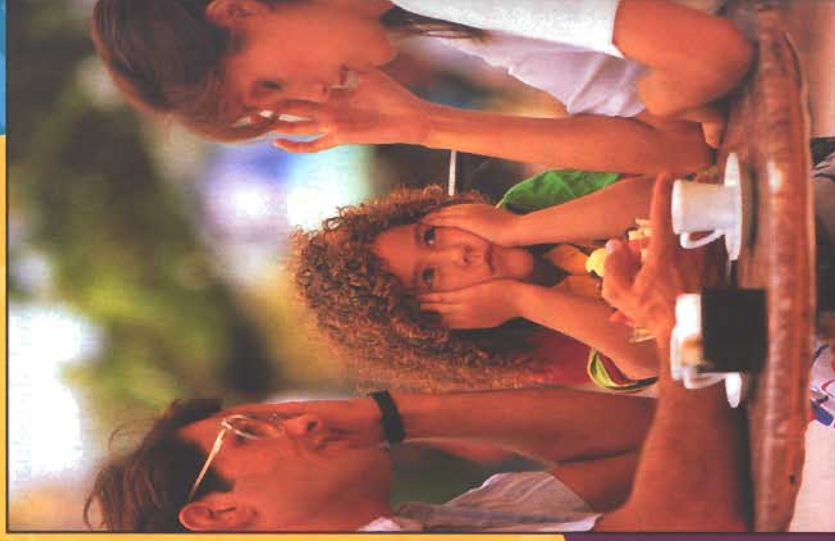
Visit our **Web Site**  
[www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

# Is Your Marriage Tearing You Apart?



## Retrouvaille

A Christian Peer Ministry



## A Lifeline for Troubled Marriages