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THE GRAY GAZETTE

FAMILYLIFE™

Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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BLENDING AND BLESSED

Did you know that up to 40% of families in your church and community are blended families? **FamilyLife® can help.** We want to equip them to prevent re-divorce, strengthen their family relationships, and help break the generational cycle of divorce.

For example, FamilyLife is offering **Blended & Blessed™**, a **FREE** one-day live event and livestream for stepfamily couples, single parents, dating couples with kids, and those who care about blended families. Join hundreds of sites around the globe on **April 29, 2017** as facilitators unpack five keys that are crucial to healthy stepfamily marriages. With some of today's most trusted and respected experts, Blended & Blessed will challenge, inspire, and encourage you.

You can sign up today to host the Blended & Blessed livestream in your church or your community, or find a location near you to attend. You can even host an event in your home with your small group or friends, bring-

ing together couples for one incredible day of teaching, music, and humor! Did we mention it's **FREE?**

You can also choose to join us for the live event in Little Rock, Arkansas. We would love to see you! If you are part of a stepfamily, or know someone who is, this is a can't-miss opportunity!

Another event to consider is the **2017 Summit on Stepfamily Ministry** for those who want join a growing movement of leaders ministering to stepfamilies and affect change in your church and community. It will be a live event held in Nashville, Tennessee **October 26-27, 2017.**

If you are interested in Blended Family ministry but are not able to attend either of these events, don't forget that a wealth of resources can be found at <http://www.familylife.com/familylifeblended>, or listen to Ron Deal's FamilyLife Blended™ 60 second program on your local radio station.

God cares about stepfamilies!



Prayer Requests

- Please pray that we will seek God and follow Him as we work.
- Please pray for us as we present in 2 training sessions for churches in TX who need to create a marriage ministry (see article below left).

WHAT WE ARE DOING

We recently returned from Houston where we trained the local volunteer team (Session One). It's a good thing we are not laboring alone, because there is a great deal of work to do there! We are thankful for our tireless volunteers and the connections that God has made for us in that city.

It is easy to get overwhelmed at times when we consider the scope of the work to be done in the 4th most populous city in the nation. Not only is the population huge, but the entire metropolitan area (which includes suburbs) contains about 8,778

square miles! That's slightly smaller than the state of Massachusetts, but larger than the state of New Jersey. It is also extremely diverse, with over 90 different languages spoken there.

Of course, we are not the only people working in Houston to spread the gospel! God is at work in many ways, and we are blessed to have a small part. We try our best to see where God is leading and follow Him, because He can see much better than us!

For the next few weeks, we will be working in the office. In early March we will head back to Houston for an exciting opportunity! God has connected us to some-

one who is concerned that many churches do not have a marriage ministry in place, although the need is evident. So she has invited us and some colleagues of ours to help train and equip churches across the state of Texas! Visit esteemmarriage.org for more information about her organization.

Later in March we will be back in Texas doing a second round of volunteer training. We are so thankful for the teams that God has put together, and we are thankful too for the part that you have in the ministry that God has given us!

(Note: Houston facts were obtained from <http://www.houstontx.gov/about/houston/houstonfacts.html>)

