BlessedLIFE

Starter Pack

LOVE AS GOD INTENDED.

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

-Lao Tzu



In this Starter Pack

1. ABOUT THE BLESSEDLIFE MINISTRY

- Vision
- Mission
- FAQs

2. **BUILDING YOUR TEAM**

- Team Leader Role Description
- The Team At-a-Glance
- FAOs
- Resources

3. **COUNTING DOWN TO LAUNCH**

- Week 3
- Week 2
- Week 1

4. TOOLS TO GET STARTED

- BlessedLIFE Table Sign
- About BlessedLIFE Card
- BlessedLIFE Volunteer Card
- Small Group Ideas

Dear Pastor,

Our Senior Pastor has challenged us all to become "I-deal" families that deal with the challenges inherent in marriage, parenting and family life. To support this goal, this quarter, Lovin' Life is evolving the Blessed Family Department into something new: BlessedLIFE, a contemporary, local ministry for couples.

The vision of BlessedLIFE is for married couples to experience love as God intended and the mission is to build successful marriages by educating individuals about God's intention for married love, preparing them for the marriage Blessing, and providing couples with skills and support as their marriage grows.

This packet provides you with the tools to organize the volunteers who have been taking care of the Blessing and marriage work into a focused BlessedLIFE team. The team approach is essential to the success of any ministry. By starting with those working with the couples and families in your community, including your current BFD Rep, and expanding from there, you can develop a BlessedLIFE team. The first step is to identify who will serve as Team Leader. A role description is provided in this packet. Based on that, you and your community can assess who is best suited for this role.

The BlessedLIFE ministry includes three areas: preparation, enhancement, and healing. As with all team ministries, people contribute based on their gifts. Some counsel or teach, some network and communicate, some organize couples' events, small groups or things like dinner nights in their home to build a BlessedLIFE culture. Check out the BlessedLIFE At-a-Glance, the FAQ sheet, and the resources on www.familyfed.org/blessedLIFE.

Start by building your team and then checking for program ideas and resources on www.familyfed.org/blessedlife. By first having your structure in place and a team on board you can go beyond simply holding events to building a ministry. This pack gives you the framework you need to move forward. Look for BlessedLIFE plug-ins in future LAUNCHpads so that you can build your ministry step-by-step.

We look forward to hearing back from you as BlessedLIFE develops in your community.

Rev. Phillip Schanker

Director of BlessedLIFE - USA



About BlessedLIFE

Vision:

Our vision is for married couples to experience love as God intended.

Mission:

Our mission is to build successful marriages by educating individuals about God's intention for married love, preparing them for the marriage Blessing, and providing them with skills and support as their marriage grows.

About BlessedLIFE (Cont.)

FAQs

How is BlessedLIFE different from the Blessed Family Department?

The work of the BFD has been carried out by a few dedicated volunteers who have been preparing candidates for the matching and Blessing and doing their best to address the many challenges facing our families. These wonderful, sacrificial volunteers worked hard with few resources and many needs have gone unmet. BlessedLIFE happens through a ministry team of brothers and sisters in each local church. This means going from one BFD Rep to a team approach. A strong ministry team will move your community from "crisis management" to building healthy support systems and providing stronger education. It means developing small group study, interactive programs and participatory education that engages young and old alike. This will allow our families and communities to grow, as more will be empowered to contribute and more will be served.

What is the role of the current BFD Rep going forward?

Your current BFD rep could become part of your BlessedLIFE team depending on their interest and availability, and they may even serve as the team leader. However, their skills might fit better in a specific part of the team instead of as the overall administrator. The Pastor can work with the BFD rep to discuss his or her new role and job title going forward. Building this new ministry team in your community gives everyone the opportunity to reconsider their role and passion as well as opening the door for new leadership talent.

What is the role of the BlessedLIFE - USA Support Team (formerly National BFD)?

Our BlessedLIFE - USA team at Lovin' Life serves as a resource and support for the sake of your success. We provide a speaker's bureau, curriculum development, coaching, consultation, and counseling. We have lots of educational resources and contact information for critical situations at our website at www. familyfed.org/blessedlife.

How do we reach the BlessedLIFE - USA Team?

www.familyfed.org/blessedlife blessedlife@unification.org office: 212-997-0055 fax: 212-997-0054 481 8th Avenue, Room 605 New York, NY 10001





The Role:

BlessedLIFE Team Leader

What They Do:

The BlessedLIFE team leader works directly with the Pastor to develop activities and programs for Blessed LIFE. He or she manages a team that works in three areas: Blessed marriage preparation, marriage enhancement, and marriage healing.

Why This Role is Important:

Healthy marriages are the backbone of a thriving church community and are also at the heart of our faith. We've always had marriage ministry, but now we are shifting the paradigm from having the responsibility falling on just one person to a shared responsibility and team approach. This empowers others to discover their gifts and takes the burden from just one person or a handful. It also increases the capacity of the ministry to take care of people. The Team Leader is part of the Pastor's core team and is instrumental in building this team.

Who's a Good Fit:

Someone who can identify talent and encourage it, has good communication, pastoring and team building skills, understands the value and heart of the marriage Blessing, and is able to work well with their pastor.

How They Can Be Most Effective:

Team leaders are most effective when they work closely with the pastor and their team, maintain a public presence in the community, understand the path to the Blessing, and are able to communicate it to others. Also, they are most effective when they can delegate responsibility and match strengths with roles and hold team members accountable with respect and privacy.

Areas of Focus At-a-Glance

Marriage Enhancement

Blessed Marriage Preparation Marriage Healing

Areas of Focus In Detail

Marriage Enhancement

- Organize a couples' small group
- Put together regular, ongoing events for couples (for relationship education or for fun)
- Mentor newly Blessed couples
- Watch BlessedLIFE relationship webinars together with other couples from your community
- Encourage couples to take the Couples Check-up

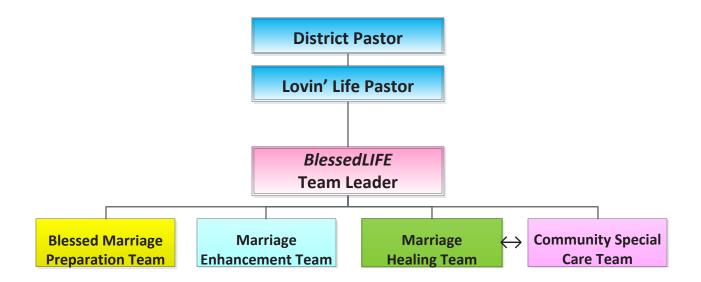
Blessed Marriage Preparation

- Organize Blessing education (Levels 1, 2, 3)
- Organize a workshop or study group locally
- Invite national level speakers
- Organize a district level workshop
- Educate parents & candidates about the matching and Blessing
- Set up a Matching Handbook study group
- Hold a district level Parents Matching Convocation
- Help prepare candidates and organize Blessing ceremonies

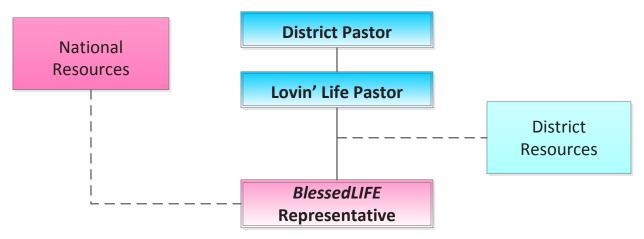
Marriage Healing

- Identify marriage-friendly, commitmentaffirming counselors in your area
- Find and list local emergency and critical care resources and support groups
- Organize or participate in a specialized care ministry (ex. Preventing Divorce)

Local BlessedLIFE Team- Premium Version



BlessedLIFE "Lite"





Resources Available to You

As you develop BlessedLIFE in your community, you don't have to do it all. Here are some additional resources and support systems that can help remind you that you are not alone.

Resources for Blessed Marriage Preparation:

- 3 Levels of Blessing Education Check out www.familyfed.org/blessedlife for an overview of the age-appropriate, comprehensive education curriculum. We can provide materials and resources for your local education programs and will be holding occasional national workshops as well. The goal is for the entire curriculum to be available in workshop manuals, small group study guides, DVDs and online in 2012.
- Matching Handbooks learn the most successful and healthy ways to approach the matching
 process based on the experience of others. The Family Matching Handbook (for parents and their
 children who are candidates) is available in print, and the Unificationist Matching Handbook (for
 single members) is downloadable from the BlessedLIFE USA webpage.
- Parents' Matching Convocations Held 2 to 4 times each year, PMCs provide an opportunity to meet parents, consider a wide array of candidates and learn about the matching process. Watch for official announcements from National HQ on our webpage and in our monthly "HeartBEAT" e-newsletter.
- Matching Advisors We have trained more than 100 Blessed members, including a number of Blessed Children, to support candidates and parents in a healthy matching process according to new international guidelines embodied in the handbooks. Find them on our webpage, or write to matching@unification.org for more information.
- Webtools to support the Matching Process Find the International Matching Website for Blessed Children at www.bcmatching.org and the Online Matching System (OMS) for single Unificationists at www.cheon-il-guk.org/matching.htm. Or ask a matching advisor for more information.
- You can also find a variety of forms, applications, education and information to support the matching and Blessing process at www.familyfed.org/blessedlife.

Other Resources:

- "Matchbook -" a wonderful webtool to support the family matching process. Candidates and their families can express themselves, network with other families and work with advisors and advocates to discover their eternal partner. Find it on the Blessed Family Association (BFA) website at www.blessedfamilies.org.
- Community Care Ministries to provide support for BCs 24 and older and adult singles who are in the matching process. Find them at the BlessedLIFE webpage, or the BFA website.



Resources for Marriage Enhancement:

- Professional Relationship Education from Trained Marriage Educators We have a number of trained Unificationist marriage educators, available to your community to teach seminars, hold a teleconference or webinar, or even train and certify marriage educators in your district. Find them at the BlessedLIFE webpage, or write us at BlessedLIFE@unification.org for details.
- Marriage Small Group Ideas small group participation is essential to connect to a healthy spiritual community. Find simple ideas, activities and programs for relationship-oriented small groups at our webpage.
- Marriage Mentoring Ideas Can you have dinner and simply share with a young or newly Blessed couple once in a while? It's as rewarding for the mentors as for the mentees. Find ideas, programs and materials for marriage mentoring at our webpage.
- Regular Training and Education Webinars We organize an educational webinar every 6 weeks, on topics as varied as healthy communication and solving conflict, forgiveness, pornography, and the matching process. Watch for future webinars at our webpage or in our e-newsletter.
- HeartBEAT Monthly e-newsletter BlessedLIFE news, events, education and inspiration delivered to your inbox every month. If you're a member at www.familyfed.org, you already receive it. Or to order, send us an email at BlessedLIFE@unification.org.

Other Resources:

- Blessed Family Association (BFA) a grassroots membership association supporting the members and families of the Unification Movement. Participate in a BFA group you enjoy, find resources and information, learn what's going on with our families, submit a prayer request and/or use "Matchbook." Find it all at www.blessedfamilies.org.
- Community Care Ministries to enrich the family life of specific groups in our community: Japanese families, SungHwa, Adoption, Friends and Family of the Ascended, etc. Find them at the BlessedLIFE webpage, or the BFA website.
- Marriage Education Resources There are many effective, engaging and successful marriage enrichment programs available in your area: "Mastering the Mysteries of Love," PREP, Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage and more. For a comprehensive guide, visit http://www.smartmarriages. com/directory_browse.html.



Resources for Marriage Healing:

- Online Helpline If you or someone you care about is in crisis, or you simply need some
 understanding and support, find the "Family and Youth Helpline" at www.familyfed.org/
 blessedlife, send us a message and tell us how to reach you. Someone will be in touch within 2448 hours.
- Professional Counseling Network Find trained professional Unificationist counselors, for individuals and couples alike, under "Marriage Healing" at our webpage.
- Regular Webinars This year's webinar series will include topics for personal healing and relationship renewal. Watch for future webinars at our webpage or in our e-newsletter.

Other Resources:

- National List of "Crisis Care" Resources On our webpage, under "Marriage Healing," you will find
 a comprehensive contact list of national crisis resources and support organizations for suicide,
 addiction, domestic violence and abuse, mental health issues and more.
- National Network of Marriage-Friendly, Commitment-Affirming Therapists Find 350 marriage counselors, listed by city and state, who affirm commitment and value marriage. You will also find important questions to ask any counselor to determine whether they will support your values and faith perspective. Find the link on our webpage or visit http://marriagefriendlytherapists.com.
- Community Care Ministries To support marriages in times of difficulty, save relationships in crisis, and support healing and renewal when needed. Find them at the BlessedLIFE webpage or the BFA website.



Countdown to LAUNCH!

3...2...1....

WEEK 3...

District and Lovin' Life Pastors should begin preparations by first sitting down with your district and existing local Blessed Family Ministry representatives. They are the ones who have carried out the BFM work until now, and will have valuable ideas and experience. At the same time, they also need to understand the paradigm shift and will be able to help you develop your BlessedLIFE team. You should carefully consider with your BFM reps what role they want to play in BlessedLIFE.

It is also important to look over the local BlessedLIFE Team chart included in this Launchpad. Take time with your BFM reps to identify the most important needs in your community and the aspects of BlessedLIFE that are most important to you. Consider your capacity and resources: What should your BlessedLIFE team look like? Who are some key people that might like to contribute? Who is doing some of these things already? Use the Have/Need exercise on the next page to prioritize what you want to focus on first. Doing this brainstorming excersize helps you to see what you have available locally, what you need to urgently develop, and what help you can use from the national resources available to you.

WEEK 2...

Expand your core team by gathering some of the people you have identified as key volunteers who are already invested in supporting couples and Blessed families. Share the vision of BlessedLIFE with them and the important conclusions you reached in week 3: priorities, haves, needs. Get their input on what is important to them and where they might like to contribute. Look over the volunteer checklist provided in the LAUNCHpad, and feel free to brainstorm additional roles and ways to contribute what will work for your community and fit the people you have.

Have the people on your core team take the "Couples' Checkup" with their spouses, using the link included in the LAUNCHpad. Once completed, they can receive and print out a report and evaluation highlighting their couple's strengths, and suggesting areas they can work on. The checkup will be available for all your couples during this quarter. It will be helpful for your core team to be familiar with its value and to encourage others to take advantage of the insights it can provide. Each couple can discuss the results and your core team can discuss the benefits and how to promote the checkup in your community.

Some other things to consider with your core team: how to utilize National Marriage Week, which runs from February 7 – 14th (Valentine's Day). Find great ideas for churches at www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org. Blessed Life - USA will also be sending out "Love Is," 10-minutes of daily inspiration, or couples' activities for 40 days, beginning the week before Valentine's Day and running until the end of the Winter quarter.

WEEK 1...

Prepare for the Winter LAUNCH Party! Use your tools to set up a BlessedLIFE table at the LAUNCH party and share with your community. Have BlessedLIFE volunteer cards and "About BlessedLIFE" cards printed. Having a photocopy of the resources list from this pack may also be a helpful way to share with others about BlessedLIFE at the party, as well as the small group ideas promotional flier to get things started in your community.



The Have/Need Exercise

Here's a chance to brainstorm with together about the following questions: What do we wish we had for Blessed couples in our community? What do we Have/Need? What's the top priority?

Wish List	Have	Need	Priority
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9	Ш		
10			
11			
1 2.			



BlessedLIFE- USA PASTORS TRAINING: Introducing BlessedLIFE

Rev. Phillip Schanker Mrs. Debby Gullery December 21, 2011

What is **BlessedLIFE**?

- 1. A Community-based team
- 2. Supports matching & Blessing, couples & marriage

VISION:

Our vision is for married couples to experience love as God intended.

MISSION:

Our mission is to build successful marriages by educating individuals about God's intention for married love, preparing them for the marriage Blessing, and providing them with skills and support as their marriage grows.

How is it different from the BFD?

- 1. Integrated with church ministry- part of LL Pastor's Team [BFD was sometimes separate]
- 2. Keeping ministry under the pastors
- Collaborative, Team Approach [before: BFD Rep w/ heavy load]
- 4. Empowers more people to contribute in smaller, unique ways, based upon their interests and "gifts"

What is the current BFD Rep's role?

BlessedLIFE Team needs a team leader Quite possibly BFD Rep, but also possibly NOT

- 1. BFD Rep may feel called to a specific role in BlessedLIFE.
- 2. BFD Rep may want to move on.
- 3. Pastor(s) may want to utilize BFD Rep's skills in a different way.

What does BlessedLIFE look like?



Blessed Marriage PREPARATION

getting ready to tie the knot

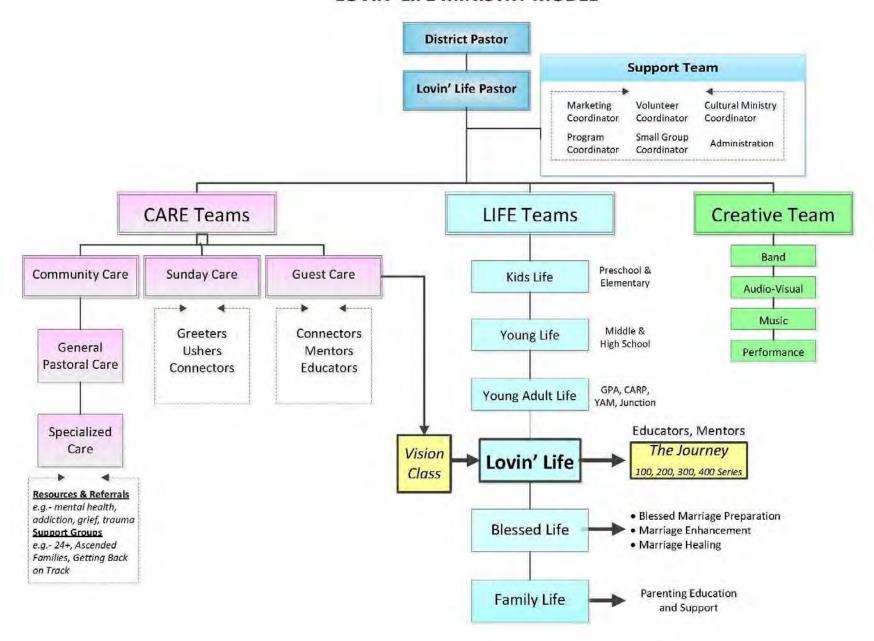
Couples' Check Up take the Quiz

CLICK HERE

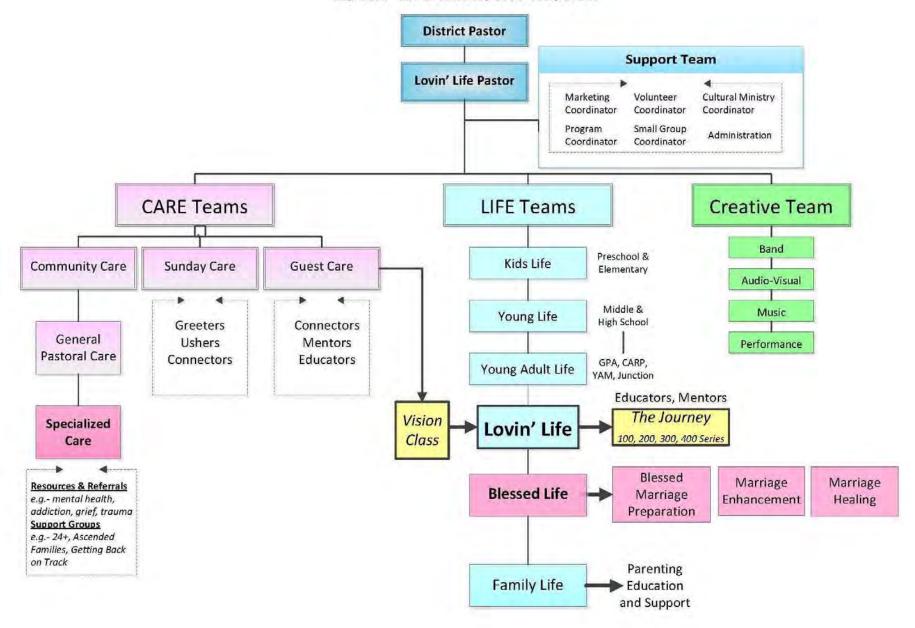
Marriage support when you need it most

Marriage ENHANCEMENT making marriage last

LOVIN' LIFE MINISTRY MODEL



LOVIN' LIFE MINISTRY MODEL



Blessed Marriage Preparation

- Organize Blessing education (Levels 1, 2, 3)
- Organize a workshop or study group locally
- Invite national level speakers
- Organize a district level workshop
- Educate parents & candidates about the matching and Blessing
- Set up a Matching Handbook study group
- Hold a district level Parents Matching Convocation
- Help prepare candidates and organize Blessing ceremonies

Marriage Enhancement

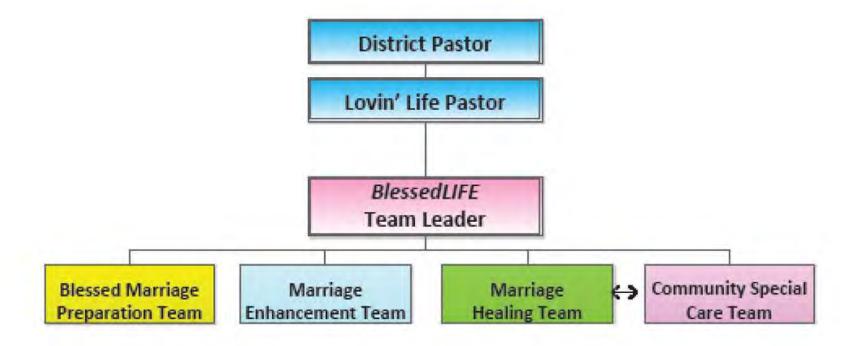
- Organize a couples' small group
- Put together regular, ongoing events for couples (for relationship education or for fun)
- Mentor newly Blessed couples
- Watch BlessedLIFE relationship webinars together with other couples from your community
- Encourage couples to take the Couples Check-up

Marriage Healing

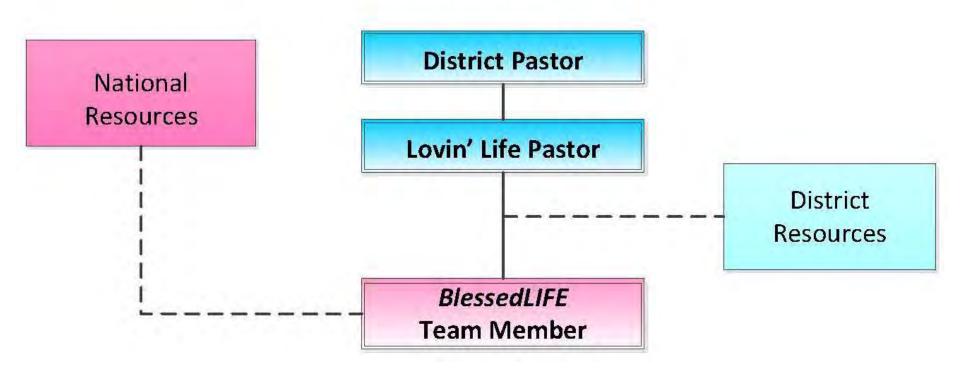
- Identify marriage-friendly, commitmentaffirming counselors in your area
- Find and list local emergency and critical care resources and support groups
- Organize or participate in a specialized care ministry (ex. Preventing Divorce)

NAME	t	
NUMBER	5	dessed 5
EMAIL		uples' Ministry Lovin' Life
I would like to help out with		
Blessed Marriage PREPARATION	Marriage ENHANCEMENT	Marriage HEALING
Help organize a local Blessing Workshop or ceremony. Host a Matching Handbook small group. Learn more about the	Host a couples' small group. Organize an event for couples. (For relationship education or for fun)	Build a list of marriage counselors in your area. Learn about the national network of professional marriage counselors in our church community.
Matching process and be an advisor in the community. Share marriage advice with engaged couples.	 Mentor a newly Blessed couple. Share BlessedLIFE webinars with others in your community. 	Host a small group addressing a shared concern. (Communication, anger, fidelity, divorce)

Local BlessedLIFE Team - Premium Version



BlessedLIFE "Lite"



The BlessedLIFE Team Leader

What They Do:

The BlessedLIFE team leader works directly with the Pastor to develop activities and programs for Blessed LIFE. He or she manages a team that works in three areas: Blessed marriage preparation, marriage enhancement, and marriage healing.

Why This Role is Important:

Healthy marriages are the backbone of a thriving church community and are also at the heart of our faith. We've always had marriage ministry, but now we are shifting the paradigm from having the responsibility falling on just one person to a shared responsibility and team approach. This empowers others to discover their gifts and takes the burden from just one person or a handful. It also increases the capacity of the ministry to take care of people. The Team Leader is part of the Pastor's core team and is instrumental in building this team.

Who's a Good Fit:

Someone who can identify talent and encourage it, has good communication, pastoring and team building skills, understands the value and heart of the marriage Blessing, and is able to work well with their pastor.

How They Can Be Most Effective:

Team leaders are most effective when they work closely with the pastor and their team, maintain a public presence in the community, understand the path to the Blessing, and are able to communicate it to others. Also, they are most effective when they can delegate responsibility and match strengths with roles and hold team members accountable with respect and privacy.

Support from BlessedLIFE- USA

Resources for Blessed Marriage Prep

- 1. Three Levels of Blessing Education
- 2. Matching Handbooks
- 3. Parents Matching Convocations
- 4. Matching Advisors
- 5. International BC Matching: www.bcmatching.org
- 6. Single Unificationists: www.cheon-il-guk.org/matching.htm
- 7. Forms, applications, education, information

Resources for Blessed Marriage Preportion OTHER RESOURCES:

7. "Matchbook" Family Matching Webtool www.blessedfamilies.org

8. Ministries: 24+ BCs, Adult Singles

Resources for Marriage Enhancement

- Professional Relationship Education from Trained Marriage Educators
- 2. Marriage Small Group Ideas
- 3. Marriage Mentoring Ideas
- 4. Regular Training and Education Webinars
- 5. HeartBEAT Monthly e-newsletter

Resources for Marriage Enhancement OTHER RESOURCES:

- 6. Blessed Family Association (BFA) www.blessedfamilies.org
- 7. Ministries: Japanese Families, SungHwa, Adoption, Friends and families of the Ascended, etc.
- 8. Marriage Education Resources

Resources for Marriage Healing

- 1. Online Helpline
- 2. Professional Counseling Network
- 3. Regular Webinars

OTHER RESOURCES:

- 4. National List of "Crisis Care" Resources
- 5. National Network of Marriage-Friendly Therapists
- 6. Ministries: Preventing Divorce

www.familyfed.org/blessedlife

How is BL different from the BFD?

- Integrated with church ministry- part of LL Pastor's Team [BFD was sometimes separate]
- 2. Keeping ministry under the pastors
- Collaborative, Team Approach [before: BFD Rep w/ heavy load]
- 4. Empowers more people to contribute in smaller, unique ways, based upon their interests and "gifts"

QUESTIONS?

Preparing to Launch BlessedLIFE

IT'S AS EASY AS 3-2-1!

WEEK 3: District and Lovin' Life Pastors meet with BFD Representatives- Needs? Resources? Roles?

WEEK 2: Gather a core team- who can help? Share initial plan & develop / Take Couples Check-up

WEEK 1: Prepare for Launch Party! Volunteer cards, About BlessedLIFE, small group ideas, resources

The Have/Need Exercise

Here's a chance to brainstorm with together about the following questions:
What do we wish we had for Blessed couples in our community? What do we Have/Need? What's the top priority?

Wish List	Have	Need	Priority
1.			
2			
3			-
4			
5	_ _		-
6	_ 🖳		
7	_ _	Ш	-
8	- -		-
9	- 📙		
10	-		
11	- -		
12	_		



Getting Back on Track Retreats

For Blessed Children who have had a sexual relationship outside of the Blessing, and want to reconsider or renew their faith, or find a path to the Blessing.

Los Angeles: January 13-16, 2012

New York: May 31- June 3, 2012

For information: backontrack@unification.org

Getting Back on Track Retreats

"The Getting Back on Track Workshop was the beginning of my renewed life of faith. The most important aspect was the overall sense that I could put my past behind me and move forward. The support and community expressed by the staff and attendees eased my worries about being judged or feeling out of place...

"...At the workshop I finally decided to commit to my faith and for the first time I verbalized my intention to. I really appreciated the continued support from the staff... I've finally taken ownership over my life and my actions. I can confidently share my beliefs with my friends, and I finally feel like I'm no longer living a double life. I recommend this workshop to anyone who feels hopeless or is tired of living with regrets."

Getting Back on Track Retreats

"The Back on Track workshop really helped me to connect back to the church. I had known for a while that I wanted to leave my old life behind and renew my faith, but I didn't know exactly how to do it. I have never been super involved in church activities, but going to that workshop helped me to connect with other people who have been through similar experiences and gave me a sense of belonging. It provided support and direction, the two things I needed most at the time. I am so grateful for everyone who made it possible!"

For information or to register write to:

backontrack@unification.org

International Blessing Ceremony

March 22, 2012 [Solar Calendar]

New Stadium at CheongPyeong, Korea

Details will follow

Next BlessedLIFE Pastors Training

Late January, 2012

- Importance and Process of the Purity Interview
 - Qualified interviewers, M/F
 - Screening candidates
- Pastors and Mentors working with Matching Advisors for Single 1st Generation Unificationists
- The unique paths for 1st & 2nd Generation



QUESTIONS?