

## Timeline for the Crisis in Marriage and Responding To It

It has taken us 50 years to get to the crisis and mess in marriage and family in the U.S. It is starting to turn around in the last 5 years as efforts to protect marriage and to strengthen marriage have been put into place.

- Up until the end of the 1960s, unwed childbearing was 5 percent of children being born. It was an embarrassment when it occurred. Divorce was limited primarily to adultery. Co-habitation was virtually unheard of.
- 1962 The sexual revolution began when the contraceptive pill was introduced. Many states had laws banning the use of contraceptives. In the U.S. Supreme Court case *Griswold v. Connecticut*, the court decided that prohibiting the use of contraceptives was illegal.
- On January 1, 1970, the first no-fault divorce law that had been signed by Ronald Reagan then Governor of California became effective. There was no research done. Everyone assumed that divorce was best for children. Marriage counselors who had tried to put families back together stopped doing that and went the other way breaking up families.
- Judith Wallerstein of the University of California started to get calls almost immediately that children of divorce weren't doing well in schools and many issues. Any teacher of Kindergarten today will see the same thing. It is easy to tell which are the children of divorce. They are the problem children in school.
- 1979 Ten years later, most states had adopted no-fault divorce. Even though we now know how harmful divorce is to children, New York State became the 50<sup>th</sup> and last state to implement No-Fault Divorce.
- In the late 1980s, homosexuals began meeting. In 1995, *After the Ball* was published. On Amazon today, you can see the following:

"In 1987 Kirk partnered with Hunter Madsen (who used the pen name "Erastes Pill") to write an essay, *The Overhauling of Straight America*, which was published in *Guide Magazine*. They argued that gays must portray themselves in a positive way to straight America, and that the main aim of making homosexuality acceptable could be achieved by getting Americans "to think that it is just another thing, with a shrug of their shoulders". Then "your battle for legal and social rights is virtually won"

This book was a real eye-opener for me. I found it reminiscent of Saul Alinsky's 'Rules for Radicals'.

From the book flap: "Dismissing the movement's outworn techniques in favor of carefully calculated public relations propaganda, *AFTER THE BALL* unveils the key psychological

principles and national strategies that gays must follow..." "At the same time, Kirk and Madsen propose a clear-eyed agenda to reform gay culture..."

To sum up the book: Two Harvard-educated intellectuals, one of which worked in Advertising on Madison Avenue, devised an agenda, to use propaganda and turn the tide of America's disregard and ambivalence for homosexuality by 180 degrees.

- 1996 – David Blankenhorn wrote a book *Fatherless America: Confronting our most urgent social problem*.
- 2001 - Maggie Gallagher and Linda Waite published *The Case for Marriage : Why People are Happier, Healthier and Better Off Financially*.
- 2003- Same sex marriage burst on the national scene and totally sucked the wind out of the room on marriage. Chuck Colson wrote a BreakPoint in July on the importance of a Federal Marriage Amendment. Those upholding traditional marriage were clearly starting late.
- 2004 – Federal Marriage Amendment gained Presidential support after the decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court to allow same sex marriage in Massachusetts. The Federal Marriage Amendment gained some traction in both the House and the Senate., but not enough
- March 2007 – The Atlantic Monthly printed an article “They won’t know what hit them.” The “them” is us. The person doing this is Tim Gill, a billionaire homosexual activist that had since 2000 been flipping legislatures from red to blue starting with Colorado and New Hampshire.
- June 2007 – NOM was formed to stabilize the marriage situation in America. The first efforts were to run ads in New Jersey where it stopped the lame duck session of the legislature from approving same sex marriage.
- December 2007 – NOM raised \$2 million between Christmas and New Years to get enough signatures for Prop 8. Maggie Gallagher was President of NOM and led that effort.
- In 2007, a group started to focus on strengthening marriage and began research the taxpayer cost of divorce and unwed child bearing which is now at least \$112 billion per year. Both the left and the right agree that it is atleast that. It could be as much as double.
- November 2008. The Afro-Americans vote in California was decisive in upholding Prop 8. There was an interesting coalition of Evangelicals, Catholics and Mormons that came together. Subsequently there were victories in Maine – referendum 1, N.J. again, N.Y. the first time, Maryland, Rhode Island and the defeat of the 3 Justices in Iowa.
- April 2008 *The Taxpayer Cost of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing* report was released on April 15<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with a White House Roundtable on Strengthening Marriage.

- 2010 –National Marriage Week USA was launched reaching 7 million Americans through the media in its first year. The following year it reached 21 million.
- 2011 NOM lost in New York by a small amount. But this did not have to be. The loss can be traced directly to Republican Senate Majority leader Dean Skelos brought forward a bill on same sex marriage that he could have hold on to.
- 2012 – There was a Reception for Members of Congress honoring National Marriage Week USA on January 31<sup>st</sup> which had a big turnout for a non-fund raiser.

### **Where Are We Now**

The Spiral of Silence at Yale University was broken on Sex Week at Yale in 2011. A junior at Yale from Queens New York formed Undergraduates for a Better Yale College and led a campaign this Fall which got a lot of attention on campus through the Yale Daily News. Just before Thanksgiving, only sixty days later, the President of Yale responded and kicked the Sex Week at Yale off campus, made them take Yale out of the student led organization name and stopped them from receiving money from the pornography industry. While Sex Week was let back on campus, there was an alternative – True Love Week – which had the research on why pornography was a very harmful to the health of kids.

The year, there are referendums on traditional marriage on May 8<sup>th</sup> in North Carolina and in the General Election we have Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and the State of Washington.