

Report on Matching Retreat, January 18-19, 2019

The Retreat was attended by 21 people, including 3 staff, 11 parents, and 7 candidates. (Names below.)

Here is a link to the schedule: <http://themarriagelibrary.com/Matching/RetreatSchedule.pdf>

We gathered for dinner on Friday night and then Jim Stephens made a presentation on the many resources that are available to parents and candidates, see <http://www.themarriagelibrary.com/Matching/>

Each person introduced themselves and why they had come for the Retreat.

Saturday we gathered for breakfast, then Dorit Smith gave a presentation about the many aspects of matching and included many of testimonies and experiences of the process. Here is the PPT. (<http://themarriagelibrary.com/Matching/MatchingBlessing%20Education-Dorit.pptx>).

She also showed a video from the King's Report where Hyung Jin Nim reflected on the necessity of having a victorious attitude going into matching and Blessing as opposed to self-sabotaging the relationship (<https://vimeo.com/312542524>).

Then we broke into Discussion Groups. Each one was led by one of the three staff members.

Following that was a break and then a video by Dan Panzer who is the webmaster for the matching website (<https://sanctuaryblessedlife.org/>). Dan explained how to use the site. He had requested that we provide him with suggestions for how to improve the site, so Jim led a discussion for gathering practical suggestions. Here are some that we came up with (<http://themarriagelibrary.com/Matching/WebsiteSuggestions.pdf>).

Throughout the Retreat, two computer stations were available where participants could go on the Matching Website and look at profiles of candidates and get familiar with all the features and material available.

Lunch was followed by a Testimony from Gideon and Ka Young Raucci about their own matching and Blessing. Both had been previously Blessed, but those had broken. They both shared very honestly and deeply about the many ups and downs they went through, even how they hurt each other. But through it all, they both continued to seek God first, so as a result they could share many valuable lessons. Many participants said this was the most memorable part of the Retreat.

Next was break time and a chance to go outside in the cold air and take a hike.

Because of the impending snow storm, we decided to shorten the program so everyone could get out safely.

Jim and Hiromi showed a video of Hyung Jin Nim talking about the differences between men and women and the Biblical injunction for men to love their wives and women to respect their husbands. (<https://vimeo.com/312407906>)

Then Jim and Hiromi shared a list of practical suggestions about what parents and candidates could do after the Retreat to keep in a matching mindset. (<http://themarriagelibrary.com/Matching/NextStep.pdf>)

While participants were filling out Reflection Forms, Hiromi hurriedly finished cooking dinner so everyone could start eating at 5:00pm as the snow was beginning to fall.

A big thanks to all those who came to participate and really put their hearts into the program.

It was decided that we will hold a similar Matching Retreat four times a year, so we will be making a schedule and announcing it soon.

Jim and Hiromi Stephens also volunteered to go to Massachusetts and present Matching Retreat information to families there.

List of Participants

- Parents: Angelino, Neil and Haruko
Clark, John and Fumie
Nguyen, Harrison and Akemi
Suzuki, Jacob and Reiko
Kato, Natsuko
Yamakawa, Annette
Moik, Yoshiko
- Candidates: Kristine Clark
Justin Nguyen
Julia Nguyen
Aimi Kato
Brandon Yamakawa
Jin Seung Okuyama
Maryanne Larrea
- Staff: Smith, Dorit
Stephens, Jim and Hiromi
Raucci, Gideon and Ky Young