



# The Western Wave



Photo by Jim Penrose

Attendees from the Making it Work marriage workshop interacting during a breakout session.

## Making It Work: A Recap

Written by Kenzie Sodestrom,  
Marital and Family Therapy student

On April 12th, 109 attendees and 18 students gathered at The Home Church in Campbell for a marriage workshop, *Making it Work*, sponsored by Western Seminary's San Jose Marital and Family Therapy (MFT) program. The original idea for the event came to Dr. Needham-Penrose in the middle of the night, a sudden inspiration from the Holy Spirit. Her vision was to provide marital resources as an outreach to local communities and

strengthen marriages within the church. After strong positive responses from students at Western and her pastors at The Home Church, it was clear that God was on the move.

Under Dr. Needham's supervision, 18 of Western's San Jose MFT students and alumni spent the spring semester praying, envisioning, planning, preparing, and practicing for the workshop event. With the gracious support of Dr. Needham and Western staff, students were empowered

### IMPORTANT DATES

- May 2 Summer 2014 Tuition Due
- May 11 Mother's Day
- May 16 Christian Therapist Fellowship, 12:00pm-2:30pm (see pg. 3)
- May 26 Memorial Day, campus closed
- June 4 Discover Coaching, 7-9pm  
[RSVP](#) by May 28 (see pg. 4)
- June 7 Campus Connection  
10:30am-1:00pm  
RSVP by May 30 (see pg. 2)
- June 15 Father's Day
- July 1-30 Fall 2014 Open Registration
- July 4 Independence Day, campus closed
- July 12 Commencement, 11am-12:30pm (see pg. 3)

Other [Community Calendar](#) dates

to lead this event from start to finish. Four sub-committees were assembled, and students began to divide tasks and get to work behind the scenes. Students were responsible for developing the theme, creating a budget, handling all facilities and logistical needs, designing a website, advertising, buying food and supplies, decorating, compiling presentation content, communicating the content in an engaging manner, outlining a schedule, and

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facilitating student led break-out groups. Delegation and teamwork were the name of the game!

We decided that the workshop would be based on Dr. John Gottman's book, *Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. With only four hours to fit in weeks worth of content, the presenters decided to narrow in on four principles which they determined to be the most essential: Love Maps, Fondness and Admiration, Turning Toward, and Creating Shared Meaning. A love map is the idea that couples are intimately aware of their partners' world, navigating it with ease, similar to driving effortlessly through a familiar town. Gottman found that strong expressions of fondness and admiration are the keys to a long lasting marriage - partners must like and respect each other. Turning toward is responding to your partner's various bids for attention, affection, support, etc. each

day. Finally, couples must create shared meaning within their marriage through symbols, traditions, customs, roles, and goals. For Christian couples, this may naturally extend into a biblically based mission statement for their marriage. The presenters worked tirelessly behind the scenes to develop and tweak their presentations. Each piece was grounded in research and the Bible, animated by personal stories of triumph and trials in their marriages. Joshua Crocker opened the workshop with the biblical foundation for marriage, introducing the idea of "oneness." Mike McGeoy presented the four Gottman's principles. Breakout sessions were sprinkled throughout the workshop to allow couples to practice the principles they were learning. Activities included inventories, games, role-plays, and discussion prompts to encourage couples to integrate these principles into their daily rhythms. Reverend Makela Benoit power-

fully culminated the workshop by discussing the importance of creating sacred space to worship together in marriage. Couples ended the day holding hands and worshipping together to Hillsong's *God is Able*. It was a beautiful proclamation of God's fulfilled promises to His people and a reminder that He is faithful to fulfill the promises not yet actualized.

This was a powerful experience for all students and alumni involved. The event captured so much of what we are learning in our classes, integrating theory and practice as we learned to minister to those who came to our event. Though challenging, it was a gift to have had this workshop opportunity. We have all walked away celebrating what we accomplished and reflecting on the many lessons learned. We are confident that we are better equipped

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# Campus Connection

An informational event for those who long to advance the gospel

## Saturday, June 7

10:30am - 1:00pm

[RSVP by May 30](#)

# CAMPUS NEWS

## Volunteers Needed: Commencement

Commencement for the San Jose campus will be held on Saturday, July 12 from 11:00am-12:30pm at Christ Community Church in Milpitas. The Class of 2014 is big, which will draw quite a crowd, so we'd love your help putting on this event! We'll need help with set-up, greeting/ushering, reception, and clean-up. If you can help for any amount of time, we'd greatly appreciate it! Please contact Carrie Priest at [carriepriest@westernseminary.edu](mailto:carriepriest@westernseminary.edu) if you are interested.

### YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE!

The entire Western Seminary community is invited to come celebrate with the Class of 2014 at this year's Commencement! The ceremony will be held at Christ Community Church in Milpitas on Saturday, July 12th from 11:00am-12:30pm. Cheer on your friends and classmates as they celebrate this tremendous accomplishment. We hope to see you there!

### PREPARING FOR FALL 2014 REGISTRATION

We realize the summer semester is just getting under way, but our Fall 2014 semester schedule will be posted by early June, and registration for the Fall semester will begin July 1st. As those dates get closer, one reminder of the requirements for Fall registration is that

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### "MAKING IT WORK..." CONT. FROM PG. 2

to offer more workshops down the road in our various practices and ministries.

Throughout our workshop journey, we were reminded again and again of God's favor and faithfulness to us. It was evident that God had placed the right people for each task, drawing upon each individual's natural and spiritual gifts to help the class thrive. Many couples were blessed by this workshop, and we pray that those short four hours would be a catalyst for further growth together as a couple. During our time at Western, we have all experienced first hand the blessing and challenge of gospel-centered transformation. It was truly a privilege to use what we have learned personally and academically to invite couples into deeper gospel-centered transformation as well.

## The Christian Therapist Fellowship Presents: Teaching to the Power of Kindness

**Who We Are:** The Christian Therapist Fellowship is a vibrant gathering of local counselors encouraging and equipping one another in Christ for excellence in service.

**When:** **May 16, 2014 from 12:00pm-2:30pm**

**Presenter:** John R. McNeel, Ph.D. Psychology, MDiv

**The Topic:** There is a world of difference between being "nice" and being "tender." We will look at the truth in the phrases, "Charm is more powerful than hostility," and "Sweetness is not a weakness." We will discuss how to impart these truths to those we serve so that they feel empowered to be more kind to themselves and to their loved ones.



**Location:** Western Seminary, 469 El Camino Real, Ste. 205, Santa Clara

**Cost:** A free will offering will be taken

**CEUs:** Not available for CEUs this time

Feel free to bring your lunch as we delve into this subject. **RSVP by 5/9/14 to [stevedarro@aol.com](mailto:stevedarro@aol.com).**

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you must meet with your advisor to discuss your plans for the coming semester. This is particularly important if you have plans to graduate by the end of Summer 2015. A hold will be placed on your SIS registration that will prevent you from adding classes for the Fall semester until that meeting has taken place and confirmation has been sent from your advisor to Student Services. This mandatory requirement is for the purpose of helping you plan well for the coming semester and academic year. It's highly recommended that you plan to meet with your advisor in June or July.

**THE ART OF MARRIAGE - MAY 16-17**

The Art of Marriage event will be hosted at Valley Church in Cupertino on May 16 (Friday evening) and 17 (all-day Saturday). This event is a video experience that combines dramatic stories, real-life testimonies, expert interviews, humorous vignettes, and other teaching methods to lay out God's design for marriage in a fresh, engaging way. For more informa-

tion and/or to register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-of-marriage-may-16-17-2014-registration-10075372711>  
The event hosts can be contacted at: [valleyaom@gmail.com](mailto:valleyaom@gmail.com).

**MINISTRY AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

We receive regular contact from churches and para-church organizations. Please see the Ministry and Employment Opportunities and Counseling binders in the front lobby for more information about the recent (and previous) postings below.

**Director of Youth and Student Ministries**

[Living Word Community Church](#),  
3520 San Felipe Road, San Jose  
Part-time (10-12 hrs./wk.). Contact  
Pastor Kiem Le at [kiemle@gmail.com](mailto:kiemle@gmail.com).

**Pastor of Worship and Community Life**

[Great Exchange Church](#) in Union City  
MDiv or ministry-related MA preferred  
Part-time (approx. 20 hrs./wk.).  
Contact Pastor Brian Hui at

[brian.hui@grxeastbay.org](mailto:brian.hui@grxeastbay.org)

**Worship Director**

[Great Exchange Church](#) in Union City  
Part-time (approx. 12 hrs./wk.)  
Contact Pastor Brian Hui at  
[brian.hui@grxeastbay.org](mailto:brian.hui@grxeastbay.org)

**Technical Director**

[Calvary Church Los Gatos](#) in Los Gatos  
Contact Kristi Gill at [kgill@calvarylg.com](mailto:kgill@calvarylg.com)

**Two Ways to Give Back to Western Seminary...**

**...at no cost to you!**

**Purchase Western Seminary Apparel & More** and Western receives 15% of the proceeds **AND**

**Purchase Amazon Products** and Western receives 4-15% back! You must use the Amazon search engine on the Current Students Page.

# DISCOVER COACHING

Learn how to partner with others to help them discover and achieve their God-given potential.

**June 4, 2014 • 7pm-9pm**

**Discover how coaching can:**

- Help people grow and achieve their goals
- Empower you to listen well and ask good questions
- Increase your leadership know-how
- Maximize your ministry and kingdom impact

**At Discover Coaching:**

Learn more about coaching and coach training options available at Western Seminary.

RSVP by **May 28, 2014** at [www.westerncoaching.com/discover](http://www.westerncoaching.com/discover) or contact Lisa Mueller at [lmuller@westernseminary.edu](mailto:lmuller@westernseminary.edu).

Then, experience:  
**Introduction to Coaching (MCS 510S)**  
**September 18 & 19, 2014**

Non-credit (audit) application deadline is Sept. 11, 2014. Master's level fall application (credit) deadline is July 14, 2014.

