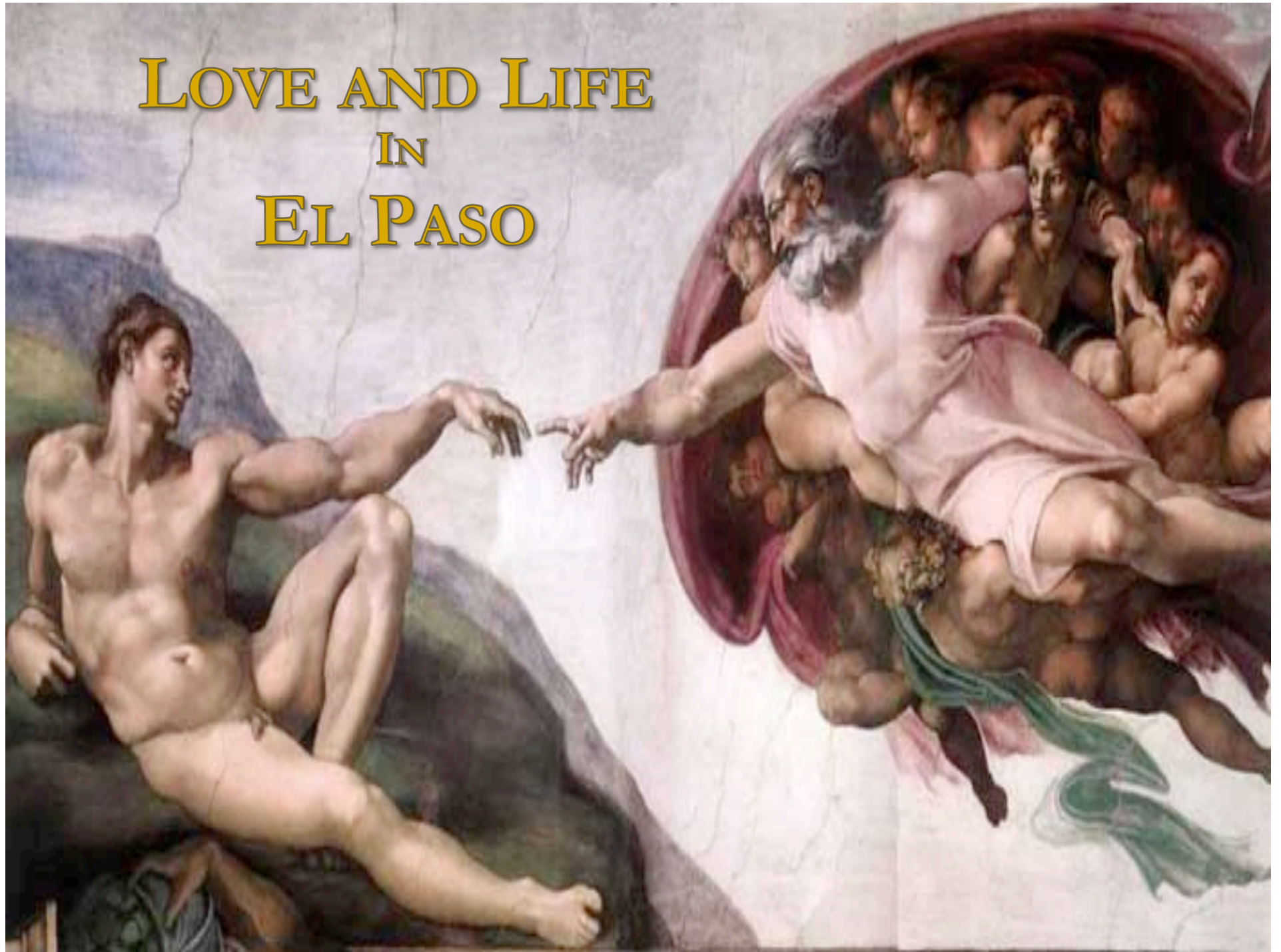


LOVE AND LIFE  
IN  
EL PASO







## MARRIAGE MENTOR MINISTRY

*Transforming Congregation & Community*

**DEFENDING OUR FATHERS HOUSE**

# SAFEGUARDING



*"What God has joined together, no human being must separate."*

-Mark 10:9

## CHILDREN, FAITH & COMMUNITY





# A TALE OF TWO CITIES

2010-11 Census Data

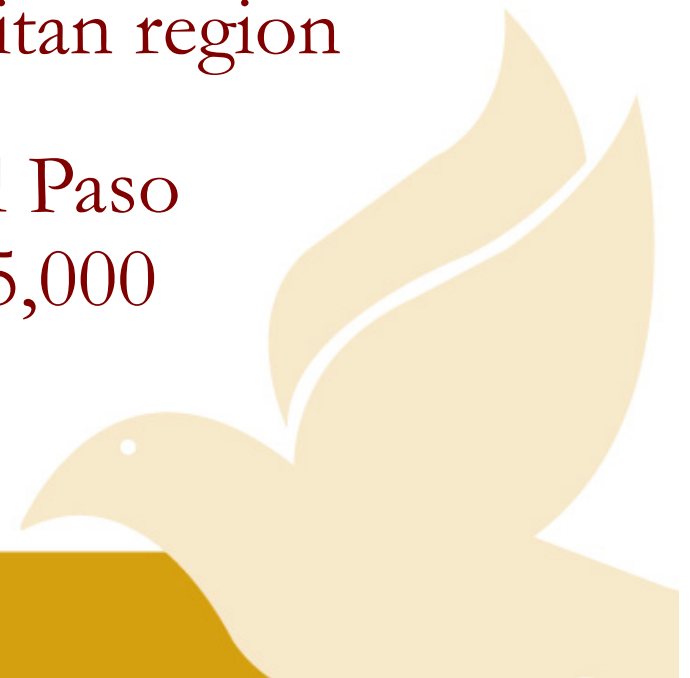
## DETROIT VS. EL PASO

- Detroit poorest American city
- El Paso 3<sup>rd</sup> poorest metropolitan region
- POPULATION: Detroit vs. El Paso  
713,000      665,000

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# DETROIT

POOREST MAJOR CITY IN US\*

\* MOST DANGEROUS TOO



# EL PASO

1996-2001

**Faith Communities Collaborate**

**DIVORCE PLUNGES 79.5%**

**A DECADE LATER...**

*PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE MARRIED?\**

**El Paso 54.6 % vs. Detroit 21.5%**

**\*2010 CENSUS**

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# EL PASO

A DECADE LATER...

SAFEST CITY IN THE US\*

\*3 Years: 2010-2012



# EL PASO

A DECADE LATER...

SAFEST CITY IN THE US\*

\*3 Years: 2010-2012





# EL PASO

How Did They Do It?



# Marriage Mentor Ministry

Breaking Bread Together

*LOVE AND LIFE IN THE DIVINE PLAN*





# EL PASO STORY

## SAFEST CITY IN THE US

2010-2012

El Paso clergy of all faiths agreed in 1995 to implement marriage mentor ministry within their individual congregations. Divorce plummeted 79.5% from 1996 – 2001 in their city.\*

\*Institute for Research  
& Evaluation

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# MARRIAGE MENTOR MINISTRY

## MARRIAGE MENTOR COUPLES

- Experienced, vitalized, and faithful couples
- Mentors walk along side another couple as equals
- They listen, encourage, & witness as role models

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# MARRIAGE MENTOR MINISTRY

## MARRIAGE MENTOR COUPLES

*Everyday people not experts or therapists*

- Mentors help couples build a house on rock & offer help along the way
- They offer empathy and information
- Mentors inspire couples to explore fresh possibilities

*LOVE AND LIFE IN THE DIVINE PLAN*

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# MARRIAGE MENTOR MINISTRY

## BUILD A HOUSE ON ROCK

- Couples take a customized premarital inventory that helps mentors *prepare* them
- Mentors *enrich* couples with relationship-building events (*e.g. 10 Great Dates*)

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# MARRIAGE MENTOR MINISTRY

## OFFER HELP ALONG THE WAY

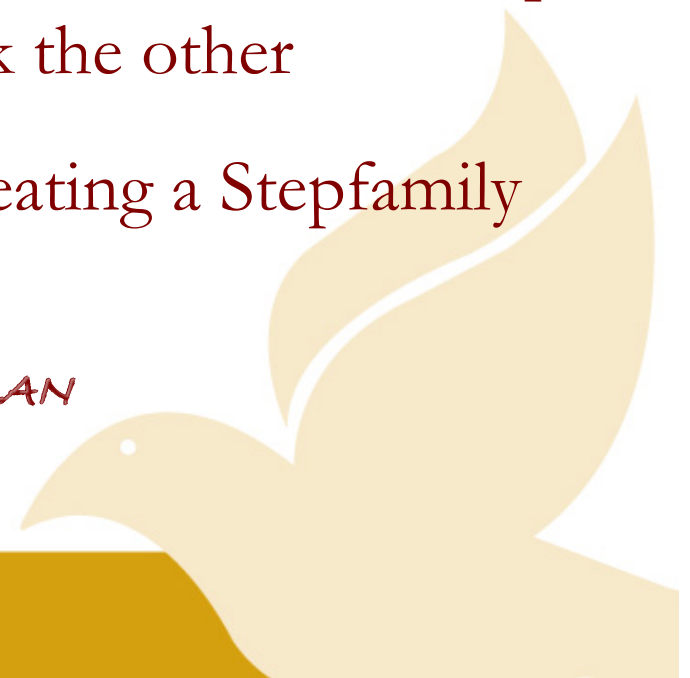
- Help *restore* marriages in crisis with trained mentors whose own marriages once nearly failed
- *Reconcile* separated couples with mentors who help one spouse attract and win back the other
- *Help Step-families* succeed by creating a Stepfamily Support Group

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# FIVE MENTOR MINISTRIES

## TRUE LOVE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

- ***Prepare*** engaged couples for marriage
- ***Enrich*** the married congregation
- ***Restore*** marriages in crisis
- ***Reconcile*** emotionally estranged & separated couples
- ***Help Step-families*** succeed by creating Stepfamily Support Groups

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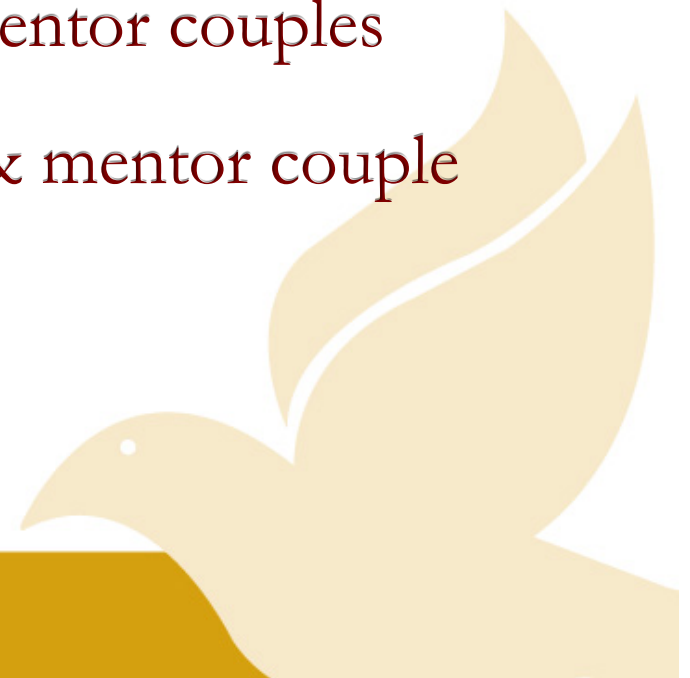




# STARTING MENTOR MINISTRY

## FIRST THINGS

- Present vision of mentoring & invite prospective married couples to meet at end of service
- Identify prospective leaders & mentor couples
- Schedule initial Prepare-Enrich & mentor couple training





# STARTING MENTOR MINISTRY

## WHO CAN BE A MENTOR COUPLE?

- Long-term married couples in vitalized marriages
- Couples that recovered from a struggling marriage
- Couples with divorce/annulment prior to healthy marriage

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# STARTING MENTOR MINISTRY

## TIMELINE

- Invite couples & identify leaders ~ 2-4 wks
- Prepare-Enrich training for mentors ~ 6-8 hrs
- Marriage Mentor training ~ 6 hrs
- Begin mentoring ~ 2 couples/yr (*minimum*)





*"The two shall become one flesh."*

*-Genesis 2:24*

# The Majesty of Marriage