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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Making Marriage Last

## 51-Year Marriage Partners Stuart and Jill Briscoe Offer Eight Proven Tips For Successful Marriages

**ELMBROOK, Wisc., Jan. 29, 2010** – Married for more than 50 years, authors and ministers-at-large Stuart and Jill Briscoe know a thing or two about relationships. The Briscoes, founders of Telling the Truth, an international broadcast and Internet ministry, and authors of numerous books and study series on relationships, have discovered essential ingredients to successful marriages. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, these eight steps are helpful suggestions of what can refresh spousal relationships for both newlywed couples and those who have already weathered a few storms together. The Briscoes' biblically-based, time-worn, tried-and-true tips to making a marriage last are as follows:

1. **Guard Your Heart Against Temptation.** Call things what they really are by being honest with oneself. If the heart is saying "Uh, uh!" Listen to it.
2. **Let the Lord Govern Your Marriage.** Many people have had weddings where Jesus was present, but only as a guest. However, when He is allowed to be governor of the marriage, these marriages are transformed into something better than is imaginable.
3. **Respect the Differences.** The fact that each person is different is what creates all of the blessings, joys, and of course, problems in a marriage. The adage "opposites attract," is never more true than in marriage. God's plan is to take the part someone doesn't have and add it to the part they do, so that together, the two can be one. The differences aren't the reason for divorce, they're the reason for marriage. First, God reconciles someone to Himself through Christ as Savior. Then He starts working in their marriage. God designed the husband and wife to be different, so they could celebrate those differences in one another.
4. **Develop Integrity.** One part of integrity in marriage is being genuine with one's spouse ... a willingness to be open with one's life. Integrity is being transparent about what one is thinking and feeling. Integrity develops through honesty with God, one's partner and oneself. Having integrity also means respecting and honoring one's mate as God instructs. Integrity requires searching for places to affirm one's spouse. Admire something in one's own mate, marvel at it and then verbalize it. Agreement is not always going to happen, but value and respect are a must.

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5. **Learn What Real Love Is.** The greatest need of every human being is to give and receive love. God's love is not selfish. Selfishness kills a marriage. Agape love, the enduring, sacrificial love talked about in 1 Corinthians, is only possible when one has a personal relationship with Jesus. Then, that perfect love of God fuels the human love.
6. **Pray About It.** Prayer is the act of getting to know God by intentionally putting oneself into His presence to admit, "I can't do this! I need Jesus! I can't be patient, I can't be kind." The deeper one's prayer life, the better their marriage. It's by getting to know God so well that one learns how God can release His power when one feels powerless and release His patience when one is impatient. It happens by learning more of the Word of God and applying it to each individual situation.
7. **Develop Intimacy.** It's a discipline to always be absolutely open to one's partner, but that is the level that marriage is meant to be for couples. The reason many marriages don't have that level of intimacy is many have been hurt and resolve to withhold a part of themselves so they can try to avoid that same pain in the future. While understandable, it inhibits intimacy in marriage. There are all types of intimacy including social, spiritual and sexual. All have a part to play, but spiritual intimacy is going to help the intimacy in other parts of the marriage, because in prayer the two are together. Even if one spouse is a long way from doing that, the other spouse can start – by beginning to pray.
8. **Encourage Each Other.** God's intent for marriage is that it would build up both spouses to be stronger together than they could be alone. The encouragement and comfort from a spouse is essential to a strong marriage. Everyone needs encouragement. One of the greatest things about being "there" for each other – and encouragement is just that, being there at all the low points of life – is having someone who loves to be leaned on.

While Stuart and Jill recognize that it takes more than eight steps to make a marriage successful, these are some of the critical elements they believe need to be in good working order to make marriage all God wants it to be. As it is His best idea for marriage, God will provide the power to help failing, fallible humans reach beyond themselves and make their marriages work.

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**Note to Editors: For more information about the Telling the Truth, or to arrange an interview with Stuart or Jill Briscoe, please contact Julie Shultz of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or [julie@alarryross.com](mailto:julie@alarryross.com).**