

Antonio's Story, May 2008: (English translation below)

Hola mi nombre es Hugo Antonio, nacido en Chile y vivo en Canada hace ocho años. Mi testimonio en la influencia de Retrouville, comienza con una crisis en mi matrimonio, en la que cometi acciones y desiciones equivocadas, que produjeron un daño terrible en nuestra intimidad y comunicacion, esto fue devastador sentia demasiada confusion, necesitaba ayuda y guia para enfrentar este gran problema, como tambien reparar las heridas producidas. Comence a reconstruir todo desde mi trabajo hasta mi religion, enfrentarme a mi mismo y ver la persona que soy y la persona que quiero ser, llegar a tener mas comprension de las faltas como parte de nuestra humanidad, trabajar duro para perdonar y pedir perdon, queria reconstruir mi matrimonio, repararlo, evolucionar y mejorar para hacerlo mas verdadero y profundo, crear solidas bases para enfrentar los desafios del mañana.

Un Domingo despues de misa, vi un boletin en la muralla que decia asi " Si su matrimonio esta en problemas ...", gracias a Dios lo tome y lo lei, la ayuda que buscaba para cumplir lo que tanto deseaba, esperanza y felicidad llego a mi vida. Despues de compartir mi descubrimiento con mi esposa, decidimos que seria una buena alternativa participar en el programa, llame al numero y nos inscribimos para septiembre 2007. La experiencia de participar en Retrouville fue increíble, despues de cada testimonio compartido por los monitores, situaciones reales llenas de dolor, miseria y desengaño se convertian en entrega y esperanza del amor verdadero, la energuia que se desarrollo me entrego motivacion y confianza. Logre niveles de crecimiento personal, entendimiento y comunicacion, que parecian inalcanzables, descubrir el "Dialogo" como un refugio para compartir nuestros sentimientos e intimidad. Cuando el fin de semana concluyo y se notifico de las post-sesiones, me senti con respaldo y ayuda para seguir trabajando en esta la experiencia mas importante de mi vida. El programa abrio las puertas a areas desconocidas por mi, me entrego herremientas y guias para convertir los ideales que anelo en mi vida, en valores con fundaciones solidas, como persona y mejor marido, lo mejor es compartir y comunicarse en un nivel superior con la pareja, sentir como el matrimonio se vuelvre mas fuerte y verdadero. Que Dios los bendiga y ayude, chao.

Carrie's Story, May 2008:

I was living in a dream where my life seemed complete: a loving and romantic husband of eight years; work I enjoyed; a new home near my family; good health; and the imminent promise of starting our own family.

One horrible day near Christmas, betrayal shattered the dream and life as I knew it. I discovered in a terrible way that my husband was not happy with me or our life. In fact, he told me that he no longer loved me and he wanted a divorce. It was like a lightning had struck from the clear blue sky. I even thought Antonio might have a terrible illness since he was irrational and was not acting like the man I had known for eight years. My feelings ranged from devastation to bewilderment to anger. I had no idea he was so depressed and dissatisfied with life. We met with a couple's counselor and yet within two months, Antonio had moved out and filed for divorce. My life changed yet again as I sold our house, moved, and adjusted to how my work was negatively affected, and tried adjust to life without my mate. Painful months passed. We kept in contact but there was so much distrust, hurt, and pain that it seemed overwhelming. The marriage seemed to be over. But the Lord had other plans. Antonio saw the Retrouvaille pamphlet in Church and we signed up. Retrouvaille began with a weekend of sharing and openness. The Lord, time without intrusions from everyday life, and the program moved us out of the shadows of pain and anger and towards real communication. We did not have to share our experiences or pain with others. The speakers were real people who had experienced pain and tragedy and we could relate to them. We were not alone and there was hope for us; there were other couples who had made it through difficult times. We received the gifts of healing and hope; this was definitely the best thing we have done to strengthen our marriage. I learned about the "married singles lifestyle"; that love and trust are decisions, how to communicate better, and how our personalities affect our relationship. Antonio and I now have a better marriage and friendship after participating in the program. We also volunteer because we believe so strongly in it. Retrouvaille is truly a lifeline to marriages in crisis.

May God bless you and guide you, Carrie