

statistics

- About 75% of those who divorce will remarry, most within two years.
- Psychologists say it takes four to eight years for a remarried family to “gel” and feel like a family.
- The divorce rate for remarriages with children is almost 65%, with most divorces occurring within the first four years—before the family has had time to blend.
- Over 50% of most Christian church congregations are in, or are related to, a blended family (i.e. couples, children, youth, grandparents, extended family, etc.).

common blending issues

- The parent and stepparent typically do not treat children in the blended family equally.
- Many stepparents find it difficult to love their stepchildren.
- Remarried spouses often make their biological children a greater priority than their new spouse, which strains the new marriage relationship.
- Children of divorce often resist connecting to the new family.
- Discipline from a stepparent often results in opposition, frustration, and disrespect.
- Children of divorce usually have two homes, with different rules and methods of discipline.
- Extended families do not always accept the new spouse or the stepchildren, causing added hurt.
- Remarried spouses often have difficulty working with the other biological parent.
- Remarried spouses often find it difficult understanding or adapting to the new role as a stepparent.

mission statement

The mission of *Blending A Family Ministry* is to be a healing place, to be a source of hope and help for today's remarried families, to give guidance concerning the issues that blended families face, to help remarried couples and their children to become the very best family that God intended, to dismiss the thought that blended families are second class families, and to see thousands of blended families flourish as they develop into the loving, peace-filled safe-haven that God intended the home to be.

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ministry

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resources for the remarried family

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By wisdom a house is built,
and through understanding
it is established.

Proverbs 24:3



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A blended family is defined as any marriage in which one or both spouses become a stepparent, regardless of the age of the children.

Blending A Family Ministry was established for the purpose of being a resource for couples who desire God's plan and God's best for their families.

In order for the cycle of divorce to be broken in the lives of blended family members, spouses must first become one. They will then be able to provide a solid foundation for their children established through God's love, mercy, grace, and principles. The goal of *Blending A Family Ministry* is to help blended families become loving families that move forward to thrive—not just survive. Since 2002, *Blending A Family* has been providing practical guidance to couples, families, and church family support groups through effective resources and services including:

- *God Breathes on Blended Families* book and workbook curriculum,
- Blended Family Seminars,
- discussion groups,
- singles conferences, and
- individual Blended Family guidance.

“Moe and Paige Becnel and their family are willing to share their trials and victories so that others can grow to understand that God does breathe on blended families.”

Dr. Shane Stutzman
Author, Pastor, and President of
Doing Whatever It Takes Ministries

the founders

Moe and Paige Becnel are natives of New Orleans, Louisiana, who met in 1987 and married in 1989, blending a family of five children who were then ages 16 and under.

Formerly the Singles Pastors at Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge, they have led various groups including singles, single parents, and divorce recovery. It was the Becnells' experience in struggling to find God's plan for their own blended family, as well as in helping others, which inspired them in 2002 to establish *Blending A Family Ministry*.



our story

July 1, 1989, is the date that our marriage united not only the two of us, but also our five children. The day also marked the beginning of the countless struggles involved in making two separate households a united family.

To our disappointment, moving from a stepfamily to a family did not happen quickly or easily, as we had naively expected. Instead, the seven of us found ourselves living with the arguments, frustrations, disappointments, disrespect, resentment, and day-to-day turmoil experienced by most young blended families. Our new life together included issues of children versus stepchildren, new rules and whose rules, competition for time, attention and affection, new schools, and losing old friends and making new friends—again.

In 1989 there were no godly resources for blended families from which we could gain guidance and insight. Professionals, most of whom are not in blended families, only offered coping skills. Yet we were determined to put an end to the cycle of divorce in our family.

During the first few years there were isolated moments of closeness, but no sustained unity or harmony. But much to our joy, our family truly blended. As we diligently sought Him for His ways, the result was that our gracious Father God did an amazing work in our family. After years of work and prayer, our fractured family was at last made whole. Our children finally came to enjoy being part of our family, and each member began to appreciate and enjoy the others.

We recognize our united family is the result of the supernatural restoration that God created in our lives and our children's lives after divorce. His Spirit breathed His breath of life in us. God promises His blessings to those who serve Him and seek His face; the current condition of our family is proof of those blessings.

God led us to found *Blending a Family* to provide hope and His truth to blended families in churches and communities everywhere. What He has done for the Becnells, He will do for others.

—Moe and Paige

All families are built—
one relationship at a time.