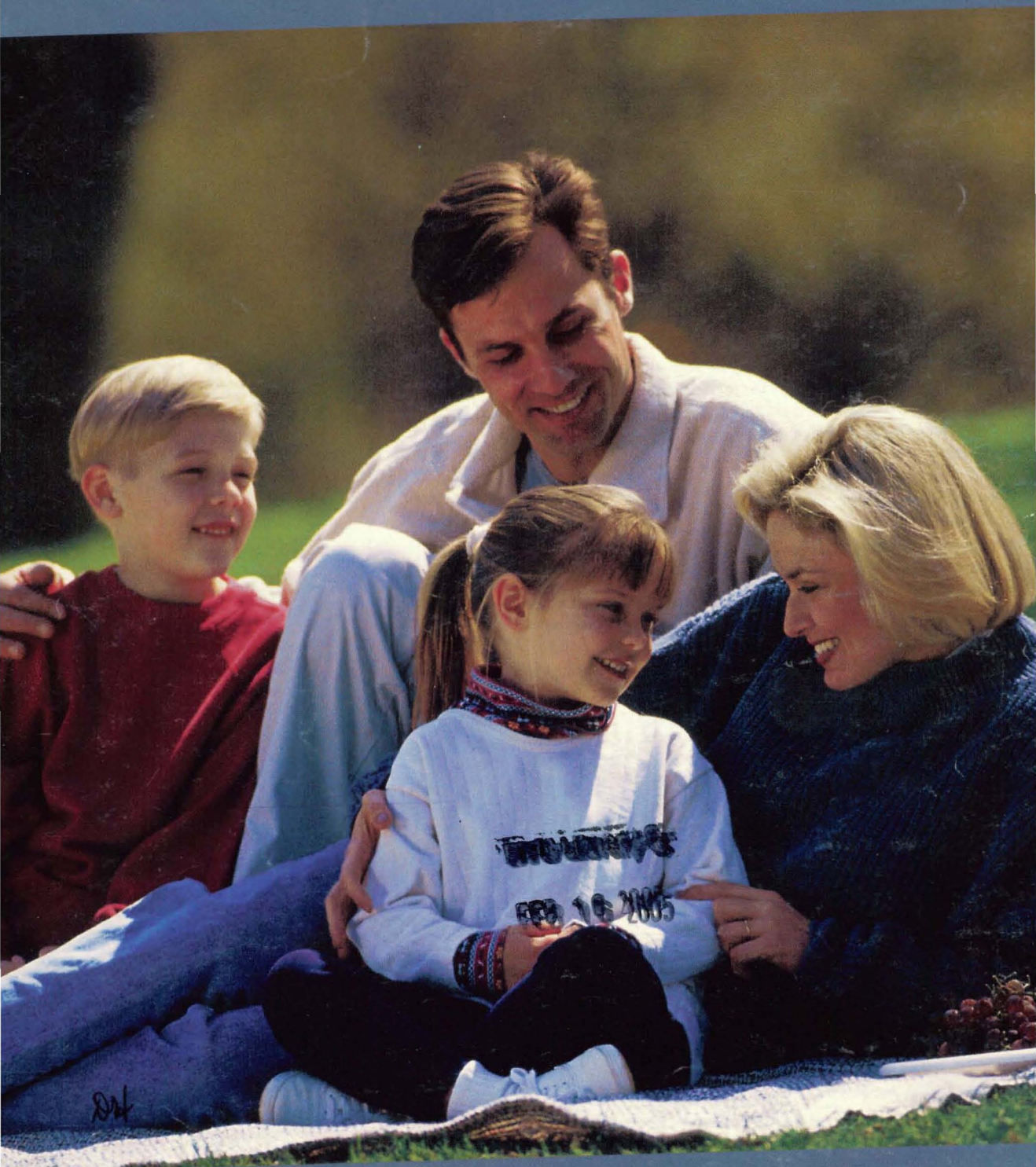


MARRIAGE  
& *families*



SPECIAL ISSUE: WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES II

## EDITOR'S NOTES

## SPECIAL ISSUE: WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES II

Imagine two thousand people from around the world, coming together in Geneva to talk about families: Muslims, Jews, and people from many Christian faiths. The declaration about families that grew out of the congress reflected in the "Statement of Principles," which is in the magazine will send a message from the traditional, natural families of the world to the United Nations. That message, supporting time-tested, pro-family values upon which people of many faiths and cultures agree, can affect UN policy for good.

It's just in time, too. According to Kathryn Balmforth of the World Family Policy Center, anti-family forces have "hijacked" the idea of human rights to use as a weapon against religious, cultural, and familial rights. Motherhood and religion are "oppressive" to women. Parental guidance of the religious, social, and sexual education and choices of children no matter how young denies the children their "individual rights." Indeed, just about anything that might protect families and allow parents to teach time-tested values to their children is shouted down as "paternalistic" and "oppressive."

All this may seem far-removed from our lives, even ridiculous. But the UN treaties and other documents, and the tactics that created them, already affect the language of national and international politics and policy. They are being enforced and championed by activists who have, Balmforth said, deceptively manipulated the UN system.

Constructive involvement by pro-family groups and individuals at the local, state, national, and international levels is essential if we are to support the many, but out-numbered, pro-family UN delegates, congressional representatives, and others working on behalf of the natural family. Involvement is essential if we are to preserve the choice of rights and principles that guide our families. We applaud the World Family Policy Center and Richard Wilkins, managing director, as well as The Howard Center for Family, Religion, and Society and its president, Allan Carlson, the conveners of the congress. Take time to read our overview of some of the key messages of the congress then consider your own involvement, locally or globally, in protecting the natural family as the fundamental social unit.



Glen C. Griffin, M.D.

***Glen Griffin is the editor-in-chief of Marriage & Families, a member of the faculty of Brigham Young University's School of Family Life, president of the American Family League, and author of It Takes a Parent to Raise a Child.***

Marriage & Families is a peer-reviewed journal for young couples, husbands & wives, parents, and professionals—including educators, counselors, therapists, psychologists, physicians, social workers, nurses, public health people, teachers, clergy, experts in family law, and everyone interested in marriage and families. Our editorial board members belong to many faiths—with a common belief in the importance of traditional families. Marriage & Families is dedicated to strengthening families. Without apology, our name begins with the word marriage—a concept that many dismiss or completely ignore these days. However, since marriage and fidelity are essentials, not options, in a healthy society, we are pleased to bring you a publication containing credible data supporting this and other time-tested principles and values related to the family.



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