



In 1960, just 13% of married adults were in a second or subsequent marriage.

Today, close to 25% are (42 million adults).

And, of new marriages, 40% are remarriages (20% for one partner, 20% for both partners).

One-third of individuals who got divorced in 2008 were redivorcing, that is, divorcing again from a second (or more) marriage.

There are 42 million Americans in the US today who are remarried, that is, in a second or subsequent marriage

The above are statistics clipped from Ron Deal's Smart Stepfamilies website—citations and many more statistics can be found there. Overall though, the message is clear: **If FamilyLife was ONLY a ministry to first marriages, we would be missing out on the chance to minister to a large segment of the population.** While we love to uphold the ideal situation of the sixty year marriage, the practical point is that we also need to support, encourage and minister to people where they are at—in their current marriage even if it is a second or third. Every marriage is worth preserving, and our FamilyLife Blended® division, headed by Ron Deal, seeks to do just that.

Did you know that pre-blended family couples are about half as likely to get premarital preparation compared to first marriage couples; 75 percent get no preparation at all? And when they do get premarital counseling it tends to be the same as what first marriage couples receive. This creates a gap in preparation for step-couples and leaves them vulnerable and unprepared for stepfamily living.

These statistics were pivotal in our Summit on Stepfamily Ministry this year! Each year this event offers breakouts on a variety of topics as well as an area emphasis. This year's event was in Atlanta, GA October 14-15 and the theme was PREPARE. The event offered a deep dive on how you can help families prepare for life in a blended family. There were 130 attendees at this in-person event. Though this may not seem like a lot, keep in mind that this event is specifically directed to front line Blended Minis-



It may seem a bit early to highlight Blended & Blessed, since it isn't until April 2022, but if you are wishing that YOU could do something to support step-couples-THIS IS IT! No special training required. You can sign up today to host the Blended &

Blessed livestream in your church or your community, even host an event in your home with your small group or friends, bringing together couples for one incredible day of teaching, music, and humor!

With some of today's most trusted and respected experts, Blended & Blessed will challenge, inspire, and encourage you. Over **27,000 people from 22 countries** have experienced the event over the past six years. Plan ahead to be part of this amazing event! <https://www.blendedandblessed.com/>

try Leaders. These 130 individuals represented some 330,000 church goers across the country! It is our prayer that each of these represented churches will see a decrease in 'redivorce' as these leaders bring back what they have learned. In Him,



Starting off our Summit on Stepfamily Ministry with worship

Happy anniversary to US! On Nov. 2nd we celebrated our 30th anniversary, then on Nov 6th the whole family joined us at the Magic Kingdom—what a blessing! Thanks to Jon, Charissa, and Ruby for flying out to celebrate with us! We are also quickly approaching our 12th anniversary of reporting to serve at FamilyLife. We never would have predicted this crazy journey that God has had for us, but we are blessed to be in it together, and excited to settle where we have palms trees in our front yard!



Tear & Prayer

Pray for the
Riedy
Family
Serving with

Brenna Deb Eric Amanda

FAMILYLIFE
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Charissa & Jon

Pray for all of the new Blended ministries starting around the country as a result of the training given at the Summit on Stepfamily Ministry-that they will grow, reach, and impact many for Christ. Pray for Charissa and Jon as they look to close on a house and move in the next month or two Praise for the audio staff being able to record, edit, and produce FamilyLife Today in the new Lake Hart recording studio-it is fully operational Praise for FamilyLife Global Team being able to meet in Orlando, November 15-19. This will be the first time the team will have been together in person since March 2020.