

hi, we are PETER & STEPHANIE QUINN

Peter and I decided to go through re|engage after remarrying one another for the third time. Yes, you read correctly, three times. The first union was in 2004 and ended spring of 2008. March of 2009, we married again and then divorced fall of 2011. Over the past 13 years, we have seen our fair share of hardships and heartaches, but through it all three things have remained constant: our love for God, our love for one another, and our love for our children.

So, when we decided to remarry last June, we knew we had to do something differently this time around; especially since I had married another man in between marriage two and three, which brought yet another child into our family bringing our kid count to four. Appearing in church each Sunday was not going to be enough as we have attended the same church for over a decade even when not together. We needed to find a group of imperfect people who were willing to share their brokenness and were committed to picking up the pieces to rebuild and repair relationships through perseverance, devotion, and humble transparency.

When the opportunity to join re | engage appeared in the bulletin, I knew that we should sign up. I immediately circled it, whereupon, a concerned look crossed Peter's face. He took the pen and scribbled below the announcement, "I thought we were doing great. You think we're having problems?" Below his confusion I wrote, "Not at all! I'd like to be proactive in this marriage instead of reactive. We need tools to fight for our marriage when times get tough again...because tough times are inevitable; we only have exit tools which leads to divorce." His eyes softened and his hand covered mine. With a light squeeze and a nod, he signaled we were on the same page.

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Later that evening, we did have a few reservations. What would people think when they heard our darkest hurts and sinful natures? How would we be perceived? I've made several regretful decisions in the past based off what others thought instead of what I knew God wanted, and each time the result has left me alone to live with my guilt. So, after continued prayers, we decided that our marriage would be placed in God's hands and our story needed to be shared as a testament of God's power and grace in healing the brokenness that many couples experience.

For us, we chose the easy way out twice. But in no way, did a piece of paper that dissolved our marriages even begin to sever the love that runs between the two of us. The shadows of our past mistakes will no longer haunt the promises for a faithful future. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Our marriage is not strong today due to the lack of suffering; it is strong because through our brokenness we have found how to be whole again while fostering a love for one another that no sin can ever destroy.

We are so blessed to have gone through the entire process of re | engage. It has reaffirmed that marriage will continue to be hard at times; but divorcing is no longer an option when we use God's word to guide us through such storms. "divorcing is no longer an option when we use God's word to guide us through such storms."

For our marriage to continue growing, we must look for ways to invest in it. Re | engage allowed us the opportunity to do just that.

The Quinns

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relengage a safe place for couples to reconnect

SUNDAY NIGHTS

STUDENT WORSHIP CENTER 6:15 PM <u>more stories at oakwoodnb.com</u>