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KURY Voices

Hi, I'm Jim Schultz, Pastor of Lighthouse Assembly of God, 15803 Highway 101 S. in Harbor.

On Tuesday my parents celebrated their 47th anniversary. It took nothing short of a miracle to get them to that point. About 6-7 years into their marriage, the vast differences between the sometimes recovering party animal and the good Catholic girl had undermined their relationship so much that they were set to divorce without a fuss. But dad felt a lot of guilt due to his hard living and bad decisions, so he accepted his friends' invitation to go to church. There he heard the story of how the Savior came from glory to save him by giving His life on the cross to suffer his punishment and yours and mine. Then He rose from the dead and launched a new creation and invited us to a part of it by trusting Him, which dad did. Dad wanted God to forgive Him and he also wanted to change—something he had tried unsuccessfully to do by himself. Not long after that, dad learned how important marriage is to God and decided to try to win back his bride.

But mom was having none of it. She just wanted that divorce no matter how much dad was changing. She simply would not forgive him his many sins against her (which, I should note, did *not* include abuse). She kicked him out. But over a few months, my mother was finally brought to the point of reaching out to God for help forgiving dad. When she prayed for that help, God did a miracle in her heart and their marriage.

Because of the cross of Christ my parents were both forgiven and enabled to forgive. My parents give glory to God that they are happily married today because God is love and the restorer of love to couples who *both* call on His name.

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