

## History and Biography

The seminar, *Foundational Principles for Family Peace* are a result of the work John and Sheryl Emra did at the Los Angeles Community Center. In 1986 they started the Center with a basketball and a bag of candy. They found themselves working in a gang infested neighborhood that society had abandoned.

Working in a culture dominated by fatalism, victimization and an entitlement mentality, John and Sheryl saw the need and developed the concepts of Life Is Full Of Choices. "Understanding the Core Needs of our kids and learning how to interpret their actions based on those needs, then pointing them into the future with the Three Cornerstones became the key to ministering to our kids and their families."

John and Sheryl are currently empowering twenty-one inner city churches in the Los Angeles area as well as Churches in Northern California; Las Vegas, Nevada; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Bismarck, North Dakota; and Guyana, South America and China. They are working with these Churches to design and develop specific after school programs to reach the "at risk kids" in their communities.

Through the three books they have written, *Cornerstones and Core Needs of Growing Kids*, *Parenting From the Top of the Mountain* and *Seven Steps to the Top of the Mountain*, they are choosing to share the truths they have worked with for over 25 years with adults who work with kids, have kids, know kids or who have been a kid.

"As we train people, the most common responses we hear:

- from grandparents is, "Where were you 25 years ago?"
- from parents is, "Parenting this way is easier. It just makes sense."
- from teachers is, "I wish I had learned this in college. I feel much more peaceful now that I am implementing this strategy."
- from teenagers is, "I wish my parents had started this when I was younger."
- from Youth Workers is, "Discipline has always been the issue. Now that I know what to do, I like working with the kids now."

Recently one man said "I've been our Church's Awana Director for over 10 years. Now that I've read this book I realize I didn't know anything about working with kids. Then after attending his Parenting Seminar this information is transforming my ministry."