



CANA Marriage Ministry Opportunity

We are Euan and Janet Ramsay - you may have seen us at the front of the church recently becoming members of JKPC. We have been married for 16 years. Before we came to Dublin, we spent two years in Boston, MA. We were thousands of miles from family (a.k.a babysitters) with a 2 year old son (Iain), limited financial resources and a whole lot of stress and busyness. Our marriage wasn't in trouble, but we had begun to function more as partners and co-parents than spouses. Iain was the most important person in our lives, not each other. We took each other for granted, and our relationship was pushed to one side. The 'good wine' of our marriage began to become diluted with the concerns of the world.

That's when we were introduced to the Cana Marriage Ministry by our pastor in Boston. Cana is a ministry that exists to strengthen marriage relationships and build them up into what the Lord intends them to be. Key to the Cana experience is the "Cana Week", a six-day retreat for married couples to strengthen their marriage and deepen their spiritual life, individually and together as a couple. Setting time aside for your marriage could provide a time of renewal, a "breathing space" or a turning point in the relationship. The session includes teachings, prayer, time together as a couple, relaxation and celebration. For us (with a small child and no family nearby), the key selling point was "Childcare". Children of all ages are welcome at Cana and have their own program during the week. For us, it felt like a vacation - a beautiful setting, fun times as a family, and lots of time reconnecting as a couple. We received so much from our Cana Week, that we want to share the blessing with other couples and families and we helped bring the Cana Ministry to California. We have served at 3 Cana Weeks (so far) as family vacation, and our son never wants to come home from them!

If taking time out from the world to strengthen your marriage relationship sounds interesting to you, we'd like to propose that you consider the next Cana Week in California, from August 8-12, 2018, at the Quaker Retreat Center in Ben Lomond, in the Santa Cruz Redwoods. We understand that a week-long retreat may sound daunting - although we firmly believe that it is time well-spent!

For more information on this retreat, or on the Cana ministry in general, please contact Euan and Janet Ramsay.