



## Meet Agapé Therapist Misty Lawrence, LMFTA, LPCA



Misty Lawrence, LMFTA, LPCA

Misty is a licensed marriage and family therapist associate and a licensed professional counselor associate. Before joining Agapé, she worked with Carolinas Medical Center in a family practice clinic, collaboratively serving clients through medical and mental health approaches. Misty holds an MA in Marriage and Family Therapy from Liberty University, and a BA in Bible and Theology from Asbury University.

another strong area of interest, focusing on healing past hurt and establishing new norms within their current approach to relationships. Through the process of therapy individuals can overcome negative influences of hurt and dysfunction while rewriting the script of their future. Compassion and sincere acceptance creates a safe place for clients to explore their struggles and pursue personal goals.

Misty serves clients in the Huntersville location, and offers late hours two nights a week.

Originally from Ohio, she has lived in Kentucky and Georgia, but is happily calling Charlotte a permanent home with her husband and Yorkie-poo, Ella. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, creating, relaxing, and exploring the great outdoors.

Misty's therapeutic approach is holistic, considering mind, body, spiritual, relational, and social elements of each person. Her hope is to serve others during major life transitions such as marital or family struggles, anxiety, grief, depression, career change, or seasons of personal growth. She specializes in working with engaged and newly married couples as they join their lives together. Adult children of divorce are



Agapé Christian Counseling - Huntersville  
14636 Reese Boulevard Huntersville, NC 28078

## CLINICAL STAFF

**GALINA OLIVERA-CELDRAN, PHD, LPCS, LCAS**

Executive Director/Therapist  
Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor

**JENNIFER H. DEAN, MA, LPCS**

Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor

**ROBYN NICHOLSON, MA, LPC**

Licensed Professional Counselor

**ZOI SALIGA, MED, LMFT**

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

**ANNA BULFIN, MA, NCC, LPCA**

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

**BLAKE CLEMMONS, MA, LPCA**

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

**MISTY LAWRENCE, MA, LMFTA, LPCA**

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist Associate  
Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

**STEPHANIE ROOFNER, MA, LPCA**

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

**JOHN WHITE, MA, LPCA**

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

**KAITLYN FRASER, BA, BFA**

Clinical Intern

## LOCATIONS

### MAIN OFFICE:

2124 Crown Centre Drive  
Suite 400  
Charlotte, NC 28227

### MYERS PARK OFFICE:

522 Moravian Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28207

### HUNTSVILLE OFFICE:

14636 Reese Boulevard

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### PHONE

704-849-0144

#### EMAIL

office@ncagape.org

#### WEB

www.agapechristiancounseling.org

# Do Love and Marriage Go Together Like a Horse and Carriage?

by Stephanie Roofner, Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

You may recognize this Frank Sinatra song as the familiar jingle from the 80's show *Married with Children*. The lyrics and tune sounds catchy, but is it really true? Do love and marriage go together so well? The show certainly seemed to indicate otherwise. Consequently, if love and marriage do go together, why do so many marriages, even Christian marriages, end in divorce? Why do so many couples come to counseling to wade through their failing marriages? And why do so many other couples settle into unfulfilling and distant daily routines?

My husband and I have also experienced the loss of excitement, the exasperation of unproductive communication, and the proliferation of differences that seem to be unreconcilable. So then what is the problem? Could there be something missing from the horse and carriage equation? Many of us are certainly left scrambling to understand and name what is wrong.

Firstly, there is certainly a disconnect between our culture's Disney-kind-of-love that has mystical power to compel people toward ongoing happiness and the actual working out of love in marriage. We can also break down the analogy of the horse and carriage and its distinct parts to find an answer. The horse obviously represents love and the carriage represents marriage. The horse gives movement and force to the carriage just as love drives and motivates partners in a marriage toward each other. Without love a marriage would be stale and driven by obligation. The carriage provides the horse with a certain purpose or goal and in the same way marriage gives love expression and specific purpose through commitment to one person and his or her needs and desires. Nevertheless, I do believe there's a vital element missing from the horse and carriage analogy and that is the reins. Without them the horse and carriage may function, but only to a certain extent. The horse is not enough for the carriage just as love is not enough for marriage because it lacks direction and regulation. The reins allow the driver an effective way of guiding and regulating the horse. Thus, the reins represent God's instructions for marriage. They complete the equation, although adding it to a jingle may not sound as catchy.

That sounds wonderful, but what does that mean? God never pretended that love would be easy, like Dis-



ney, and gave us a script to navigate the difficulties because He knows our sinful bent. His word tells us to have enduring commitment (Mark 10:9), unselfishness (1 Corinthians 13:4-7), and submission (Ephesians 5:21) even in the midst of our disappointment, self-centeredness, and frustration. This takes hard work and endurance, but most importantly, it takes a change in mindset that it's not about me and my plans and dreams for my life, it's about understanding God's kind of unifying love and reflecting that to the people around me by practicing it in my marriage. Jesus prayed that his followers would have unity so that His love would be reflected to the world and draw others to Himself (John 17:21).

I too ended up in a pastor's office for marital counseling seeking answers to my disappointments and was asked by the wise pastor very frankly "what is your goal in your marriage?" My dear husband began to talk about how his only goal was to do all that he could for me to fulfill my dreams in life and I started to shrink back in shame. My answer was the same as his, just that my goal in my marriage was to accomplish my own plans and dreams, not his. My husband's example has changed me and encouraged others to stay focused on God's higher intentions for our lives.