

# Help Needed on Study of Jewish Marriage and Inter-marriage

A research study exploring the differences between Jewish-Christian interfaith and Jewish-Jewish samefaith couples' marital satisfaction is currently being conducted at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The study will compare samefaith and interfaith couples on a number of psychological dimensions related to marriage to discover how, if at all, the two types of marriages are different.

In addition to comparing samefaith and interfaith couples, the research project will also examine issues that are specific to the experience of being inter-

married, such as how interfaith couples choose a religion for their children. Data from the study will be used to develop a marital assessment questionnaire specifically for interfaith couples.

Because the study is also collecting data on samefaith couples, other questions pertaining to the relationship between Judaism and marriage may also be addressed. In particular, marriages between Jews from different backgrounds, such as a Reform Jew married to a Conservative Jew, will be investigated to determine if they are

more like interfaith than same-faith marriages.

The research is being conducted by Evan Nelson, who holds a master of arts in psychology from UNC-CH and is currently a doctoral candidate in their clinical psychology program. "This study is not about who intermarries or why Jews marry non-Jews," said Nelson, "it is about what it is like to BE intermarried — separate from whether or not intermarriage is right or wrong."

Married couples who wish to

volunteer for the study may do so by contacting Mr. Nelson, who will mail a set of questionnaires to volunteers' homes. The questionnaires take less than one hour and postage-paid envelopes for the return of completed forms are included. Volunteers may request a free short summary of the results of the study in exchange for their participation. All answers are anonymous, and volunteers may withdraw from the study at any time.

To be eligible to be in the study, a couple must (1) be in

a first-time marriage and (2) at least one spouse must be Jewish. Samefaith, interfaith, and conversionary couples of all ages, durations of marriage, and degrees of religious involvement are needed. Data collection will continue through August 1990.

To volunteer or for additional information please contact: Evan S. Nelson, M.A., Department of Psychology, CB#3270, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3270; Home: (919) 942-6454.

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