

Celebrating Your Marriage Throughout the Year!!! - Feb.2025

LWCC Marriage Ministries Email for February 2025

Greetings again from your Marriage Ministries team at LWCC.

Late last month I read, of all things in a book on prayer, the following: *"Delight without discipline eventually, inevitably dissipates. It runs out of steam. But when delight and discipline learn to dance, relationship thrives. It matures and endures.....An enduring marriage must be built upon consistent rhythms and routines."* (How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People, by Pete Grieg). While he was using the marriage analogy in relation to prayer, he really hit the realities of the marriage relationship on the head. Earlier in the chapter he talks about when he and his wife first fell in love, and how he and his wife *".....were embarrassingly obsessed with each other"*. Anyone remember that feeling!!! *"The mention of her name caused his heart to skip a beat..... and they never had to plan Date Nights because they were always together"*. He then talks about the fact that young couples might look at their relationship 25 years on and feel that they had *"become so boring and predictable that we have to resort to scheduling romance! But here's the thing:after 25 years we have a relationship that is more fulfilling than we could ever have understood back in those days of furious infatuation."* It's a relationship built on....*"the discipline of daily communication, of frequent date nights, of apologising regularly."*

It's a timely reminder for us all that we need to keep our focus on the fact that the gamete of life's experiences in our married life, and how we handle them day to day, are all contributing to the development of a "fulfilling" relationship. We say it often, but Marriage Is Hard Work. But the rewards of being intentional about the way we handle ourselves in the good times and the not so good, will ensure we too have *"a relationship that is more fulfilling than we could ever have understood back in those days of furious infatuation"*.

With all that said, ***and for some there's already some good food already for thought and contemplation***, I thought that maybe this month we could look at our relationship and it's achievements in a slightly different light.

Have you ever Thought of Celebrating your Marriage Throughout the Year?

Anniversaries are wonderful times to reflect on, and celebrate together. But we encourage you this month to consider celebrating each other all year round. These celebrations can look however you want them to, and give you something to look forward to in the midst of the mundane.

If you're ready to give it a go, and are wondering what it would look like to celebrate the life you've created together throughout the year, we've got you covered. In what follows we've got some great tips and ideas to help get you started. Your marriage Deserves to be Celebrated, so let's jump right in.

Don't Wait for Typical "Special Occasions":

You don't have to wait for designated "special occasions" to celebrate your marriage. Instead, you can make them up as you go. If you simply feel like planning an extra-special date night or weekend getaway, then start dreaming up your adventure.

Holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries are enjoyable, but other people are often competing for your attention around the same event, like family members and friends. Why not find times to celebrate

that aren't tied to a family gathering or annual event? Your marriage is worth celebrating every day, so think of something different that works for the two of you, and schedule that time together: like, your first date, when you got engaged, when you found out you were expecting for the first time. I'm sure you can come up with a few others.

Create New Traditions, Just Because:

Creating new traditions to celebrate your marriage can liven up the holidays – or any regular day, for that matter. You and your spouse can build your own traditions based on memories and activities that are important to you. Then, celebrate them at a time you choose. As mentioned, celebrate the memory of your first date or the day you got engaged; or how about your spouse's university graduation;the purchase of your first house together;the day you gave your lives to the Lord, or got Baptised.

The beautiful thing about creating your own traditions is that you can truly make them yours, and commemorate things that might only be significant to you and your relationship.

Review the Top 10 Highlights of Your Year:

One of the traditions we value and look forward to is reviewing our top 10 highlights of the year. A great time to do this is either, around the beginning of the year, or around the time of your wedding anniversary. Together, review your daily journals, or look at photos you've taken over the past year, and create a list of highlights worth remembering and celebrating.

These highlights can be special everyday moments that stand out to you, or they can be big, important events in your year. Maybe a simple walk around the lake turned into a defining conversation that propelled you toward a shared dream. Or perhaps you took a vacation that turned out to be really memorable.

It's easy to focus on disappointments and hurt, but, this year-in-review, gives you a chance to focus on laughing, sharing memories, and celebrating. You're making valuable time to explore where you've come from, what you've enjoyed together, and where you're headed.

Celebrate A Little Every Week:

There are small ways to celebrate, even when you're in the middle of a busy week. Take a few minutes each week to focus on one another, check your levels of empathy and affection, Celebrate the little things and in so doing, deepen your love.

[The pursuit, and yes it is just that, an ongoing pursuit, of "a relationship that is more fulfilling than we could ever have understood back in those days of furious infatuation",](#) is full of many many shared experiences. We trust our communication this month has given you a reminder of the diversity of things that go into a fulfilling relationship. Try, try try not to take it for granted. Determine this year to be more intentional, and maybe, just maybe, starting with celebrating on a more regular basis, may contribute something significant for you along the way.

Blessings again from your Marriage Ministries Team; Stan & Ronnie, John & Karen

(Content above sourced and adapted from Pete Greig's book 'How to Pray', and from an article by Dr's. Les & Lesley Perrott)