

"...I will make a way in the desert, and streams in the wasteland..." Isaiah 43:19

Another Wonderful Wives' Weekend

Our 2011 Winter Wives' Weekend is now history. We are so thankful that everyone got to and from the event with no weather problems. Eight couples attended, along with 2010 Teen Challenge graduate Bill Barnes and his wife Virginia who enjoy coming back to help us.

Friday evening consisted of prayer and share sessions, wonderful worship time led by Jake & Lacey Stielow, prayer ministry, and fun and fellowship. Saturday, our speakers Ray & Joyce Henderson, did a wonderful job of team teaching. One wife said the lesson on communication was the most helpful part of the weekend. She indicated that she and her husband had a "major breakthrough" in that area. Another wife summed up the Henderson's teaching; "Ray and Joyce were certainly instruments of God. Each session built on the previous one. The progression of God's message on trust, communication, forgiveness and fear laid the groundwork for the healing of the broken relationships – our personal relationship with God, and then, our relationship with our spouse. The journey was set before us. Hold the hand of Jesus and trust Him and His Love for us. He won't abandon us. He will love us no matter what! Wow – great image of a God who delights in us."

The highlight of the weekend was our special Saturday evening activities. After the last teaching session, TC graduate Dick Rarick and his wife Terri joined Bill and Virginia to decorate and prepare for the evening. With help from some of our students, they transformed the lecture room into a lovely dining room with a Valentine's Day theme. The couples were pleasantly surprised as they returned to the lecture room for dinner.

Executive Director Michael Hunsberger greeted the group and prayed before the delicious roast beef dinner. After a relaxing meal and great fellowship, the couples viewed the movie "A Vow to Cherish." This heartwarming film was the perfect prelude to Pastor Ed's annual Renewing of the Wedding Vow Ceremony. Four of our current couples chose to take part. It was a touching

time to see them re-commit themselves to each other. One wife stated: "Renewing our marriage vows was especially great – we both really enjoyed it!" She and another of the wives indicated it was "God's perfect timing" for them. Another couple chose the ceremony as the time to wear their wedding rings again.



Jill & Kurt at our Winter Wives Weekend

Other blessings of the weekend included new friendships, beautiful gift bags provided by the Women's Ministry at Point of Grace Church, a great service at Christian Life Assembly, and a pizza party served by Dixie Low and her granddaughter Danielle. The wives all expressed their appreciation for the weekend. One comment was especially encouraging, "I came home feeling strengthened in my marriage and in God...overflowing it seemed with new hope and encouragement for our future as a family." That is what Teen Challenge Wives Ministry is all about!

Our Spring Wives' Weekend will be April 29 – May 1. Our speakers are Jonathan and Tara Downs. They have been married for over 20 years and have four boys. Pastor Jon has been in ministry for 15 years and on staff at Heartland Assembly of God since 2001. Tara works with SHIKO, a ministry to single Moms. I know you will enjoy hearing of God's grace and restoration in the lives of Jonathan and Tara. Please RSVP by April 13 if you plan to attend. You may call me at (515) 988-2204 or email me at judyau-buchon@msn.com.

Rules for a Happy Marriage

December 9, 2010, was our daughter LaShawn and son-in-law Liam's third wedding anniversary. The evening of their anniversary, LaShawn called me and shared the following exchange:

"Mom, this morning I sauntered lazily out of our bedroom, and as usual, Liam was up before me. The aroma of coffee lured me into the living room and I continued to follow the teasing scent closer to the kitchen. Liam peaked around the corner. There he stood; with his brown eyes twinkling and a mischievous grin on his face, he chirped, 'Honey, do you know what day this is?' I instantly panicked, 'Oh no...it's garbage day! We have to get the garbage out!' He chuckled, 'No, honey, it's our third wedding anniversary.' Deflated and embarrassed more than I could or would ever confess, I apologized, 'Oh honey, I am so sorry. My mind just instantly turned to the garbage.'"

After sharing this, she made a very striking and thought-provoking statement, "Mom, that often seems to happen in our marriages. The daily demands and marital pressures build up, and garbage comes to our minds rather than sweet, pleasant words and/or acts of kindness." In marriage relationships, it is much too easy to pile up the garbage of hard feelings over petty things that cause stress, resentment and broken bridges. Under the pressure, we are tempted to spew out words that wound, accusations or ghosts of past mistakes.

Larry and I have now been married for 45½ years, and we have found that there are rules for marriage that help keep the garbage at bay if we diligently abide by them. Years ago, someone handed me a piece of paper with some "Rules for a Happy Married Life," that I have kept, utilized, and expanded. Here is the original listing, plus a few I have added:

- 1) Never both be angry at the same time.
- 2) Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire.
- 3) Yield to the wishes of the other as an exercise of self-discipline if you can't think of a better reason.
- 4) If you have a choice between making your-

self look good, or your mate...choose your mate.

5) If you have any criticism, make it lovingly. *This reminds me of the story of the wife who sighed one morning, "I'm convinced my mind is almost completely gone!" Her husband looked up from the newspaper and commented, "I'm not surprised; you've been giving me a piece of it every day for 20 years." (Enough said!)*

6) Never bring up a mistake of the past.

7) Neglect the whole world rather than each other.

8) Never let the day end without saying at least one complimentary thing to your life's partner.

9) Never meet without a sweet or affectionate welcome.

10) Never go to bed mad.

11) Laugh a lot – it is oil to the marriage.

12) When you have made a mistake, talk it out and ask for forgiveness.

13) Lastly, but most important...Make God the center of your lives. Strive to have daily devotions and pray together. I firmly believe that those who can pray together or hold hands while they pray and discuss problems, can also stay together weathering life's storms.

John 15:12, "...love one another as I have loved you" (NKJV).

I Corinthians 13:4-8, "*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.*"

Gloria

This article, written by Gloria, is from Larry and Gloria Lundstrom's 2011 February newsletter, and was used by permission.

Wives' Weekend Snapshots



Bill & Virginia Barnes



Wives Weekend 2011



Joyce & Ray Henderson



Bobbie & Lee



Pastor Ed



Jill & Kurt



Saturday Brunch



Mike & Ashley



Tommy & Barbara



David & Vickie



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Mark Your Calendars!

These are special events at Teen Challenge, and the wives of students are invited. Please call ahead for information and reservations. (515) 988-2204



Spiritual Emphasis Week --- April 20th - 22nd
Spring Wives' Weekend --- April 29th - May 1st
Celebration Weekend --- June 10th - 12th
Summer Wives' Weekend --- July 22nd - 24th
Fall Wives' Weekend --- October 21st - 23rd

