



10 Ways to Stay in Love

One of my blogging buddies, Trey Morgan, recently asked his wife to be a guest blogger on his site. She gladly accepted and wrote a blog entitled *10 Ways to Stay in Love for 20 Years*. I loved what she wrote and I thought it was worth sharing. Here is her list in no particular order:

- **WORSHIP & PRAY TOGETHER.** Statistics show that couples who attend worship services together are less likely to divorce than those who don't. Praying together builds intimacy and communication by sharing your innermost thoughts together before your Lord and creator.
- **READ THE BOOK *HIS NEEDS HER NEEDS*** by Dr. Williard Harley, or better yet, take the 8 week seminar. I believe it is the best thing we have done for our marriage.
- **DON'T SPEND MORE MONEY THAN YOU MAKE.** Financial problems are the #1 cause of divorce in America. Living within your means and striving to be "debt free" will greatly reduce stress in your marriage.
- **UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT YOUR DIFFERENCES.** Trey and I are polar opposites. Some of the very things that attracted me to him before we were married were the very things that drove me crazy after we were married. For the first few years of our marriage, I made us both miserable by trying to change him. It wasn't until I understood and accepted that he is exactly who God made him to be that I could overlook some minor things and truly love him for who he is.
- **KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN.** How can you remain "one" if you never share your thoughts, concerns, and plans with one another? We have found that going on walks together is one of our best times for communication away from interruptions. (The exercise is an added bonus).
- **BE LIKEABLE:** I think we all go through times in our marriages when we love each other, but we just really don't like each other. Things like grouchiness, moodiness, negativity and annoying behavior can cause us to become unlikeable. Nobody likes living with someone who is unlikeable. Proverbs 21:9 & 19 say that it's "better to live on the corner of a roof or in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife". Strive to be likeable.
- **FIGHT FAIR:** Disagreements are inevitable in marriage, but try to keep your attitude in check. Watch your words, tone of voice and body language. Don't hold grudges or keep bringing up each other's past mistakes.
- **DATE OFTEN:** It's very important to get away from the kids and just spend time focusing on each other. Be sure to include a weekend getaway occasionally!
- **SHARE MANY COMMON INTERESTS:** Play together and be best friends. It's okay to have separate interests, but be sure you have more common interests than separate ones. Whatever your spouse has an interest in, try to develop an interest in it as well.

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The Shack

You may have already heard about, or read *The Shack*, by William P. Young. It's about a man (Mack) who goes to meet God in the very same shack in which his daughter had been murdered 3 years prior. It is a narrative about God, God's relationship with humans, and the struggle with difficult questions that we have about God.

Many people wonder if the story is true, if the events contained within the narrative actually happened. In the foreword Young accurately states "It's a little, well... no, it is a *lot* on the fantastic side. Whether some parts of it are *actually* true or not, I won't be the judge. Suffice it to say that while some things may not be scientifically provable, they can still be true nonetheless." This concept of something being True, regardless of whether it is literal or provable, is important to remember whenever dealing in the spiritual realm. When reading this book please remember much of what happens may not be actual but true.

This narrative concerns itself with understanding some difficult questions about human existence, the problem of pain, and God's interaction with a broken world. While I cannot say that I necessarily agree with all of the theological points and assertions made by the author, I do recommend this book for you to read. ***The Shack*** is a powerful story that may challenge you, may encourage you, but will certainly enrich you if you allow it to. -Phil



Remember in Prayer

Cami & Travis Koebecke await results from **Kaden's** kidney biopsy last week...Kenny & Mandy Anderson's 6-year-old son, **Kaleb**, is having tests done to determine the cause of recent health problems.... **Bernie Follick** had a biopsy on the inside of his mouth on Friday. He hopes to have results this week....**Marcia Swails**, Beth Holt's sister, is in hospice care. Beth's stepfather, **Charlie Penn** is also in serious conditon. Pray for Beth and Marcia's mother, **Margie**, as well.... Sue McClain's father, Marty Mueller, had surgery Tuesday at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, to insert a shunt in his brain for NPH (Normal Pressure Hydrocephalous)....Continue praying for **Sara Postlethwait, Eugene Zinn, David Henke, Julie Lichtey, David Hughes, Joe Bailey, Mike Sutherlin, Henrietta Frampton, Charles Moore, Herb King, Eileen Richardson, Hattie Coffel, Marie DeWoody, Dottie Roberts, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Anna Dale, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Steve Brady, Mark Wilson, Ti Draughon** in Iraq.

High School Seniors Celebration

Sunday, 6:00 PM, May 4



High School Seniors Sunday is the evening of May 4th. We will be honoring nine seniors: Brighton Baker, Chris Crable, Sarah Han, Jeremy Heath, Krista Howe, Blaine Merriman, Mark Moore, Natasha Risley, and Patrick Ruhl. Please make your plans to attend this very special celebration and to offer your support to our seniors and their family at this event.

Good \$ense Budgeting Class

Do you ever wonder where the money goes? Most people do. We cannot ignore the reality of the importance of money. Some view it as the root of all evil, because it has led to crime, suicide, divorce, worry, scheming and many other nightmares. This crucial matter has no shortage of information in the Bible. Some two thousand Scripture passages touch on the theme of money.

A six week DVD series will be facilitated by Janet Boston beginning Wednesday, **April 23, 2008**, in the Conference/Media room. The program will begin at 5:50 PM each Wednesday evening until 6:50 PM. You will discover tools and develop skills to help you to manage and control your finances. **THIS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!**

Continued from Gilbert's article on front page

- **LOVE & RESPECT IS ESSENTIAL:** Ephesians 5:33 says, "Each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband!" This isn't a suggestion, it's God's command. The love spoken of here is agape, unconditional love. This kind of love is doing what is very best for the other. The passage also suggests the respect must be unconditional. If I respect Trey unconditionally, he will love me unconditionally. The more Trey loves me, the more I respect him and the happier we are.
-Gilbert Kerrigan



CSC Spring Banquet

Friday, April 25

The annual CSC Spring Banquet is **Friday, April 25, 7:00 PM**, at the **Outpost** located at 14 N. 2nd Street downtown (*note change of location*). Cost is \$16 per person for a great meal and entertainment! For your convenience a table is set up in the Farris foyer for you to make your reservations, or you can make them by email (ptravis@elmwood-church.org). Deadline for reservations is Sunday, April 20.

Volunteers Needed!

The Tippecanoe County Right to Life office is in need of volunteers. If you are willing to give some of your time to assist us, please contact Rachel Allen at 765-474-5753 or email your contact information to tippcortl@gmail.com.

Save the Date: CSC Alumni Reunion (1989-1995) July 25-27, 2008.

Contact **Donna (Burrell) Porter** at danddport@comcast.net for more information.

April 6, 2008
Class: 183 Worship: 293
Contribution: \$9,960
Budget: \$10,000/wk



Lord, Make Me a Barney!

No, I'm not talking about the purple dinosaur... I saw enough of him when my children were small. I want to be a "Barnabus": "Joseph, a Levite and a Cypriot by birth, whom the apostles named Barnabas, which is translated Son of Encouragement" (Acts 4:36). Evidently, because of Joseph's nature and his practice of encouragement, the apostles started calling him Barnabus – we would probably call him Barney today.

Over the past few weeks, I have been in several settings where I have been reminded of the need to be an encourager; quite honestly, I have been convicted that I have not been the encourager that I need to be and maybe even that I once was. How about you, do you find yourself being more critical than you intend to be? I know there is lots of logic as to why that happens with us. We live in a tough world! There is so much pressure to succeed that we compete at everything we do. We have to do the best, have the best, buy the best and the list goes on. Don't misunderstand me, I like sports and many of the aspects of competition, but there is the dark side, too. Competition is prone to make the other person the enemy. If we are not feeling good about ourselves or our performance, our possessions, or our position, it becomes "natural" to not be as nice to the other guy as we should. I really don't like it when other people do that to me...I wonder why I do it to other people.

I had the opportunity last month to go to the International Soul Winning Workshop in Tulsa, OK. The workshop has been going on for many years and it actually marks the anniversary of my ministry – I started my 30th year in ministry this month. While in Tulsa, I got to teach a few classes, man the booth for the National Conference on Youth Ministries and most importantly, I got to spend time with people. Many of the people were new acquaintances, but lots were old friends. One friend, a younger youth minister, shared with me his fond memories of "the good old days" when we did leadership camps together at Abilene Christian University. He talked of how our time together was on the top of his list of favorite memories. Then he began to talk about how others had believed in him when he didn't believe in himself. He wasn't sure he was cut out to be a youth minister; he was/is and was doing a wonderful job, but self-doubt is huge in this competitive world. As he talked about encouragers, he began to tear up...they had gotten him through some tough times.

In I Thessalonians 5:11 Paul says, "So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it." I'm thankful to be part of this church family. I love you and I'm proud of you...sorry I haven't told you more often – I want to be a Barney. – Lee

CSC Root Beer Kegger Food Donations

This year the CSC's annual Root Beer Kegger is **Friday, April 18**, and we could really use your help! We are in need of food donations in the form of side items (bags of chips, vegetable trays, etc.) or desserts (cookies, brownies, etc.). Our budget is limited so the more donations the better. We really appreciate your generosity! You may bring your **donations to the church building by Friday noon** and Phil Travis will pick them up to take to the campus house. This is a great opportunity to reach out to other students on the Purdue campus. If you need ideas or want a reminder closer to the event, contact Kelsey Sutherland.

Power Lab VBS, June 2-6 Workdays

We will be meeting on the following dates to work on props, class items, and decorations. The dates are **May 3, 10, 17 & 24. Hours: 1:00-4:00 PM.** Please let Michelle Robson know when you will be there to help. We are making many items, so a number of volunteers are needed. Thanks. –Dana Miller

Open House for Philip & Loretta Devine

Newlyweds Philip and Loretta Devine will be in town a few days before Philip will serve another tour of duty someplace overseas. Please join us for food and fellowship, and to offer your "Best Wishes" to the happy couple, on Sunday afternoon, April 20th, from 4:00 until 6:30 PM, at the home of Bill and Carol Bell, 216 Jennings St., West Lafayette. Everyone is invited. If you have any questions, call Carol.



April 9, 7 PM....Bible classes for everyone
April 13, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet
April 18....College Root Beer Kegger
Food donations at the building by noon that Friday
April 23, 5:50 PM....New Good \$ense class begins
April 25....College Spring Banquet at the **Outpost**
May 4, 6 PM....High School Seniors' Celebration
June 2-6, 6-8 PM.... Elmwood's Vacation Bible School

