

Inspire

Marriage & Ministry

Inside this issue:

Marriage & Ministry - Kevin Wilcock

A few thoughts on the Emergent & missional church

Latest Products

Philippines - Alvin & Lolit

Big Mission Opportunity - Paul Summerville

Where's Kev this Month...

OzReach Training Opportunity

Tracey and I are certainly not experts in this area, but we have been married at the time of this writing for 22 years. We have two great daughters who are 15 years old and 17 years old respectively, and have been pastoring for all of our married lives. For most of those years I have been the senior minister of both large and small churches, some while I was working at a full-time job. To add to all of this, Tracey has nearly always worked full time apart from for a few years after the kids were born. For probably half of those 20 years I have been travelling to other churches and ministering for approximately 100 days a year. In other words, our lives have been far from the norm. So let us share with you a few keys that have helped to strengthen us.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

1. Accept each other for who you are
We are the sum total of everyone we have been around. Hopefully we are able to say that we are richer because of our partner's influence. The sad thing is, so many people are tearing each other apart over their differences. We have to learn to accept our partner's differences, their strengths and weaknesses, their likes and dislikes. As in most partnerships, businesses or churches, our biggest challenges are over personalities, styles, and the way we do things.

We need to learn to appreciate one another for who we are, celebrating our differences and not just tolerating them. Understand that real unity is not conformity but diversity. It's working together. It makes a great partnership when work together to successfully handle finances, go on holidays, raise children, organise our social lives and all the other things that are a part of married life.

Tracey's perspective on Point 1 - Kevin is a strong leader

It is one of his strengths. He can always see the bigger picture. Take for instance his call into full-time ministry. We had briefly spoken about it and we decided that probably in a few months he would leave work for the ministry (to get me used to the idea). Kevin went to a conference in Melbourne and really felt God tell him to step out now!

He came home and immediately stepped into full-time ministry. Now I baulk at quick decisions because I like things to stay as they are, but I could see I needed to flow with Kev at this time, not attack him. I could see God operating in the situation and in our lives. Because he stepped out, we later took on a church and God placed a vision in our hearts of one church in three locations, which is what he left in Wollongong.

I'm still like that today. I like plenty of time to adjust and work things out. I have learned to trust Kevin's decisions on things. The other side of this situation is when Kevin felt called to move to Newcastle to be senior leader of Life Church. I told Kevin that I would need 12 months to process this decision and to get the girls used to the idea of moving. Kevin gave me 12 months, even though he was ready to move the

following day!

Kevin's perspective on point 1 - Tracey is a detailed person

She crosses the "T's" and dots the "I's". It sometimes frustrates the life out of me. I am into just getting it done - accomplishing the task! We can work out how we can pay for it later—let's just get it done! Accepting Tracey's ability to organise, plan and budget has been frustratingly helpful and I am richer and more effective for it.

2. Supporting one another where you are at

Ecclesiastes 9:10-11. We have had to support each other emotionally, physically and spiritually at various times in our lives and marriage. There have been times when we've been in difficulty either from mistakes we have made, or from outside pressures of others, or because of circumstances or insecurities within. It is in these times that devotional love and the commitment we made to each other kicks in.

In our early years we made a decision that divorce was not an option. (Murder was a consideration but not divorce!) I know it sounds a bit idealistic, but that decision prompted us to seek other options, such as marriage training, reading books on the subject and receiving advice from friends.

We communicated our way through a difficult time as hard as it was, and believe me, it was hard at times. But let me be honest: that is what real love is all about. As much as it is romantic, fun and full of friendship, it is also an act of your will. It is a decision to work things through for richer or for poorer, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health.



24HR EXPRESS @ LIFE
WILL BE ON THE 12TH & 13TH SEPTEMBER.
PLAYING AT SOAPBOX WILL BE RENEE GEYER.



Ministers' Getaway - 24hr express is a 24hr experience that will show you how a church can reach in to the higher levels of society and down to the lower levels. This program is simply to help ministers think outside the box, to do church differently, and to reach into the grassroots of society. For more information and accommodation suggestions, contact Life Church office on 4961 0211 or Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798.

Marriage & Ministry - Continued

Tracey's perspective on point 2 (I had past hurts)

The second key we found was supporting each other where we are at. As a child I had been sexually abused. This time of my life was seldom spoken of, and when I married Kevin he was unaware of this in my life. It was only after we had been married for about six years that I shared this with him as we had been hitting some ceilings in our marriage and this past abuse was the cause.

Kevin was very supportive as a husband and a friend while I dealt with this area of my life, both through counselling and self-journeing.

Kevin's perspective on point 2 (I burned out)

I was a bit of a workaholic, partly from ambition and the desire to achieve and be successful, and of course the calling and my love for God. I also didn't have strong work boundaries; I love to say yes and want to help everyone. So at 35 years of age I was pastoring a church of about 1000 people in three locations. I was travelling about 130 days a year and have done so for the last six

years. I was tired and burnt out—or can I say overworked and underpaid, overstressed and underlaid. On top of this I went through a few personal attacks and was really contemplating leaving the ministry. I'm normally the strong one but this time I was the flattest I had ever been.



This is where Tracey and a few good friends began to affirm me, reassuring me about who I was as a person and the call of God that was upon my life. Although I had made a few errors, these things had not disqualified me. I felt great strength to get back into it and began to serve in the calling on my life. Thank God for a great supporting partner, especially when you're feeling down.

The God Factor

(Kevin)

The invisible cord: "But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12 All the way through, this verse speaks of two cords. Then, right at the end, it mentions three cords. The third cord of course is God interwoven through your relationship.

(Tracey)

This cord that Kevin has spoken of is the one that strengthens us to face things, at times to endure things, and still come through to the other side. Kevin and I are not overly spiritual as a couple. We seek God on decisions we need to make and we often come together to pray as a couple about particular problems or decisions, knowing that God is in charge and guiding us in our lives.

This article is extracted from Kevin Wilcock's Leadership and Ministry Manual.

You can contact Kevin on 0407 467 798 or email him on info@lifechurch.org.au

A few thoughts on the emergent and missional church

I love all stuff coming out at the moment about the emerging missional church. It's brilliant! Some would even say this is it! But as much as I love it, it's not "it". It's simply a part of it. When Bill Hybels was promoting the seeker-friendly church model, some bought into it, believing that this was "it". I thought the whole thing was great and was going to make churches that were either traditionally boring or raving Pentecostal a little more seeker friendly. This would have to be a good thing, but I didn't buy into it, believing that it was "it".

I do that with everything that rises within the church, allowing it to shape, mould and develop our expression of church life. But I don't throw out everything that I used to do. As Proverbs warns us, do not move an ancient boundary stone, Proverbs 23:10. Within the missional and emergent message, all I want it to do is allow it to mould our church to be more missional in its approach

to reaching our community, not just in our programs and language but in our mindsets and our lifestyle expression. Let this message influence us and our churches.

Kevin Wilcock

There is a small group of leaders who are currently involved in or who are very much exploring the emerging church transition. There will be forums held where we can engage, discuss and enjoy what God is doing in our journey!

Newcastle (forum)

Monday 4th August from 10am - 12pm
15 Denison St, Newcastle West
Ph: Brent Leggett 0408 826 455

Helensburg (forum)

Wed 30th July @ 7pm
Contact Micheal McGarrity on 0419 277 916

Port Stephens

Friday 8th August from 12pm
Café Church 14 Port Stephens Rd, Anna Bay
Ph: Martin Webb Ph: 4981 9339
Speaker David Orton
Topic: Leading by example and handling change

Shellharbour

(Seminar on effective preaching)
12th of September
Contact Emil Varga on 0412440335

Brisbane

(Stories conference'08)
16th of August from 9am - 4pm
@ Church of Christ in Wynnum Manly
Contact Steve Turner on 0412 459 429
to register for this conference.

Latest Products - to order phone or email Life Church on (02) 4961 0211 or admin@lifechurch.org.au

This is a DVD about what Paul and Veronica are achieving in San Juan, Argentina, within all levels of society. It's a great promotional DVD for churches

and individuals that want to support them.

Cost is \$5.00



Getting Serious about Missions includes a DVD of Soul Café, the Philippines, Argentina and Cambodia missions, plus two 20 minute sermons on getting involved

with Missions. These packs sell for \$50, with all the sales going directly to these missions.



Spirit is a four-pack series on understanding the Holy Spirit within us.

CDs include: The Spirit's

Empowering, Casting out Demons, Healing, and Flowing with the Holy Spirit.

Cost is \$20



6-Pack No. 3 is pack with six 20 minute messages that are designed for you to pass on to your friends. They will help them overcome the arguments and preconceived ideas that

they might have about God and hopefully help them to believe or come a little closer. Cost is \$20.

Six Pack No.3



Kevin Wilcock

Philippines - Alvin & Lolit

Greetings in the name of Jesus the Lord and our Savior!

Hey guys, we just want to update you about the school building construction and about the new school opening here in Patulo!

Praise the Lord, the Graceville school's extension has been successfully built within two months through God's faithfulness and provision.

It now has a second floor that has six rooms, five classrooms and one computer room that are fully tiled and painted. It has three lavatories, one for the boys and one for the girls. It also has a veranda and roof top where pupils/persons can view the outside scenery and enjoy the breeze.



GlobeReach Philippines Trips

Philippines Feb 2009

Contact Ken Gibson

khgibson@idx.com.au or (02) 4951 7445

The old multipurpose room has been turned into one beautiful classroom, with tables and chairs. It's fully painted and has a red polished floor. Staff and parents decorated the classrooms.

Parents are very pleased with the beautiful, safe and spacious facilities of the school. The pupils are enjoying coming to school because of the attractive facilities, educational materials and toys, and the friendly and loving CFFA staff and teachers.

On June 16th we opened the classes at Patulo. It is so good to see the big smiles on the children's faces when they enter their classrooms!

The school in Patulo has been successfully renovated through God's faithfulness and

provision. We are so thankful to Him and to you guys who have made this school at Patulo possible.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. May God bless you abundantly!

To God be the Glory!

From hearts of overflowing gratitude,

Alvin and Lolit

Philippines 27th Oct to 5th Nov 2008

Youth Camp, Contact: Brendon Elliott

on Ph: 0422 463 488 or

Email: Brendan@sccc.com.au

Anyone wanting to go on a mission please contact the leader on the contact numbers provided.

Big Mission Opportunity - Paul Summerville

I am appealing to all churches, business and mission-hearted people that are wanting to be involved in a very genuine, social and spiritual overseas mission opportunity called:

Empower Asia

www.empowerasia.org

Paul is a very creditable person and one of the most integrated guys that I have met.

Please check out the present work for those already involved and the price increase for the new plan for Burma.

Kevin Wilcock

This is what we are battling with at the moment. Below please find:

1. An explanation of our current financial needs
2. Two opportunities for further ministry

As promised here are the costs/deficits that we are currently running. This is because of the increase in world rice and fuel price increases and because we are taking more

kids into our care. Note that we have cut the deficit above to \$14,700. So this is great but it is still pretty sizeable

CENTRAL BURMA

I had solid news from my wife in Yangon and from Pastor X (my good friend) that he has found a woman who is qualified to take care of 20 girls right away. She is a graduate of my Bible college.

What they need is just monthly support. They even informed me that they are looking for a suitably qualified man who could take care of boys in a separate home.

This is a unique ministry because some of the kids are Christian. In this area there are many children who are from very poor Christian families. Many of them could not continue on in their studies. So the military government is taking these children with the promise to their parents that their children will be provided with an education and nutritious food. Later on however, the parents came to realize that they have been cheated by the military government because in fact their children had been sent to rural Buddhist monasteries where they were forced to become Buddhists. Many of these kids have

run away but some of them were captured and then press ganged into training as child soldiers.

Because of this, many Christian leaders have been talking about taking poor children to live at churches in order to prevent our Christian children from becoming Buddhist. The soldiers are not happy that the Christians do this.

For this reason, may I humbly request you to include this ministry as part of Sure Destiny.

Pastor X is a man of God. He could supervise the two homes. He and his co-workers are all fully committed to the cause of the gospel. They are simple and lovely people.

Budget to Operate the Girls House:

For the house rent: USD60 per month

To care for 20 girls: USD400 per month

Salary of house mother: USD50 per month

Emergency fund: USD 50 per month

TOTAL: USD560 per month (NZ\$700/month)

Empower Asia Homes: Thailand, Nepal & Burma	Current Budget A\$	Budget for Next 12 Months A\$	Deficit. A\$
1. Pokhara Girls, Nepal	17,050	21,350	4,300
2. Kathmandu Boys, Nepal	23,540	29,440	5,900
3. Shan Girls, Burma	5,850	7,350	1,500
4. Yangon Boys Burma	8,350	10,450	2,100
5. Two Thai Homes	64,000	73,600	9,600
Total Cost			23,400

If you would like Paul to come and speak in your church about this mission you can contact him on empowerasia@gmail.com

Where's Kev this Month...

3rd August - Wollongong @ Central, 4pm & 6pm Service

9th & 10th - Melbourne (White Horse CCC), Saturday 5pm & Sunday 10am

12th - Thirroul (Leadership), Tuesday @ 7pm

14th - Miracle Haven (Chapel Service), Morisset, Thursday 7pm

16th - Brisbane (Stories Conference '08), Saturday 9am - 4pm

18th - 22nd - Will be ministering in Cambodia with Young Life and Sure Destiny at a Pastor's Seminar and visiting in Prisons.



OzReach Training Opportunities



LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY MANUAL

Kev's new 400-page manual which he has been writing for the last 20 years is finally available to purchase for \$30.00 Ph 4961 0211 or email info@lifechurch.org.au
Kev also has 20 cd packs available

Generations



*A fresh prophetic gathering confronting transitional challenges of the 21st-century culture.
Friday the 8th to Sunday the 10th of August 2008. Café Church Port Stephens.*



Building

a life of

FAITH

**Whatever the church emerges into,
one thing is for certain faith, will be required.**

Speakers:
Margaret Court
Col Stringer
Kevin Wilcock
Kim Hammond
2nd to 4th October 2008
@ Life Church



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Web: www.ozreach.org

OzReach - A Relationship of Churches, Ministries & Leaders

Purpose:

to build an Australian based relationship of churches and ministries that work together in reaching our nation and beyond.

Strategy: to plant, parent and partner with churches to see them impact their communities through,
Outreaching - the unchurched
Empowering - leadership and ministry by
Providing - relational & visionary oversight

Culture:

real, relational, releasing, restorative, relevant and radical with an expression of uncluttered Christianity.