

Inspire

Marriage

I love seeing people get married and even more staying married. This is no judgment to those that don't get married or stay married and as you get to know me you will realise that I am a man of grace. While being a man of grace does not stop me believing for and teaching God's best for our lives, to me grace and truth are friends and not opposites or enemies.

I love seeing people acknowledge God in their marriage ceremony which is a big thing today, because we live in a society that is always trying to push God out of the picture. They have Christmas without Christ and weddings and funerals without the mention of God. Even some church people believe in:

- 1 & 2 A Christianity without Christ;
- 2 A Forgiveness without repentance;
- 2 A Salvation without regeneration;
- 2 and a Heaven without Hell

It's like we want the form of Godliness without the power. That is how religion starts. People dress up making themselves sound good, look good, feel good but are unchanged on the inside.

The trouble is when we remove the knowledge of God from society, marriage, death and life we soon lose all source of hope and find ourselves in situations that are too overwhelming.

Life was never meant to be lived without God. Marriage was never created without Him. In fact it was created by Him in the Garden. It was instituted by the law of Moses. It was ordained through the teaching of Christ and confirmed by the miraculous blessing of Christ at the wedding at Cana in Galilee.

To be honest, it will never be fully understood and enjoyed without Him. I'm not just talking about inviting Him into your ceremony and waving Him off at the chapel steps but inviting Him into your marriage, your relationship – for

better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health until death separates us.

We need to realise He is the author of life and the pioneer and perfecter of the life He created (Hebrews 12:3). He knows the best way to live it.

What does it mean to invite Him into our marriage?

It is amazing how most people will study years for their career that might last 40 years. They will study and educate themselves for their car licence, hobbies they enjoy and so on but for marriage that is to last a lifetime we educate ourselves very little. So that is my first key to building a great marriage.

1. Learn more!

Tracey and I at the time of these writings have been married for 22 years. Most of those years we would have done something in the way of a course, study, camp and seminar on marriage to improve our relationship to give us the tools to work things out. Don't take marriage for granted and don't think you know it all. Marriage relationship does not come naturally to most. Our divorce statistics show us that. So grow in the knowledge of what makes a marriage work, what makes a relationship richer. Learn from others whether that be personally, publicly or through books, CD's or DVD's and remember, our marriages will be the sum total of all we have allowed to influence them.

I cannot encourage this point enough. There are so many books, CD's and seminars on marriage that will educate you. The life you learn will be the life you live. Learn more and live more.

2. Love more

There are actually four kinds of words for love in the Greek language. I reckon we need a combination of all these kinds of love operating in our relationships. Let's share on these kinds of love.

Eros = erotica – sexual love

Let me start on the one some people feel is the only one (especially males). Eros love speaks of the sexual love. It is a love that God created and not just for the reproduction of kids but the enjoyment of each another. God speaks of this in Proverbs 5:15-20 *"Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?"*

The Bible speaks of enjoying each another—in fact, being captivated with each other's love (erotic love). There is a whole book in the Bible on sexual love called the Song of Solomon that even mentions sexual positions. (Song of Solomon 2:6). I reckon you should read this book at the end of your bed and believe for signs and wonders to follow the preaching of the Word of God. We ought not to be retarded in this area or prudish, for the marriage bed is undefiled. What you and your partner do, provided you both enjoy it, is undefiled, holy and sacred between you both. We need to realise, men, that God gave us more than a penis to stimulate our wives. So enjoy one another and grow in sexual union together.

Agape = God kind of love

This is a love that speaks of the God kind of love that goes the extra mile, that forgives your enemies, that covers a multitude of sins. It is the most powerful kind of love that there is. Within this love there is no separation or divorce. It is not built on feelings. It is an act of your will. It is a decision that is formulated out of what you believe deep in your heart.

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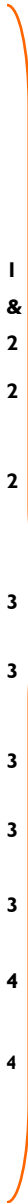
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Marriage - Continued

This kind of love is spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." When this kind of love is interwoven into any relationship it will be unbeatable. I've seen this in some of the most opposite of couples, in some of the most difficult of situations and problems. It is a love that keeps us together despite our differences. Mind you, we don't live permanently on these two kinds of love—eros and agape. The one kind of love that we live in a lot is :

Philo = the friendship kind of love

This is where we will live the most. This love is the one we need to work on, developing a friendship love. It is where all

relationships should start—becoming friends. Some people find it hard for various reasons. It takes time. Some people have too much clutter in their hearts and head that hinders friendship. If we haven't realised this yet, sometimes this is where eros love starts; friendship is often the foreplay of the sexual love. It starts with a look, a conversation, a touch, an act of kindness. It gets our greatest sexual organ



going—the mind!. You see all relationships start shallow with our five senses:

She smells good, She looks great, She feels lovely, She tastes nice, She sounds sweet.

But if we don't go beyond these senses, our relationship won't last because we all change over the years. We won't always look as good, we will lose hair where we want it, and gain it where we don't. So let's make a conscious decision that we are going to hang together, walk together, holiday together, lie in bed together and just talk about life together. We are going to commit to becoming great friends for the rest of our lives.

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

Leaders' Forums on the Emerging Church

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!

A few thoughts: Does the Church produce consumers? If someone said: "Your service this Sunday did more harm than good. You taught people that they need big sound and lights and great music in order to worship.

You trained them in cultural irrelevance—to like uncommon music, to understand and use uncommon language, to dance un-cool steps, and you catered for their need for slick Power Points and spoon-feeding in order to learn about Jesus. No wonder they are becoming 'Sunday-Christians!'"

Would you nod in agreement or would it really piss you off? Come and tell us why! Please contact the following people at varying locations to be participate in these forums.

Newcastle

Monday 7th July from 10am - 12pm
15 Denison St, Newcastle West
Ph: Brent Leggett 0408 826 455

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 handling change

Recommended reading by Fred David

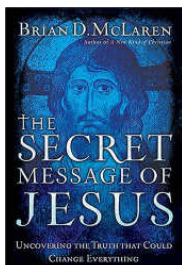
Secret message of Jesus - Brian McLaren

In *The Secret Message of Jesus*, you'll find what's at the center of Brian's critique of conventional Christianity, and what's at the heart of his expanding vision. In the process, you'll meet a Jesus who may be altogether new to you, a Jesus who is:

Not the crusading conqueror of religious broadcasting;

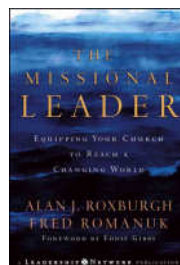
Not the religious mascot of partisan religion. Not heaven's ticket-checker, whose words have been commandeered by the church to include and exclude, judge and stigmatize, pacify and domesticate.

McLaren invites you to discover afresh the transforming message of Jesus—an open invitation to radical change, an enlightening revelation that exposes sham and ignites hope, an epic story that is good news for everyone, whatever their gender, race, class, politics, or religion.



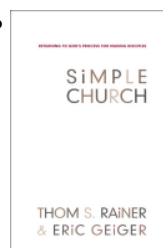
Missional leadership - Alan Roxburgh

In *The Missional Leader*, consultants Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk give church and denominational leaders, pastors, and clergy a clear model for leading the change necessary to create and foster a missional church focused outward to spread the message of the Gospel into the surrounding community. *The Missional Leader* emphasizes principles rather than institutional forms, shows readers how to move away from "church as usual," and demonstrates what capacities, environments, and mindsets are required to lead a missional church.



Simple Church - Tholm Rainer

The simple revolution has begun. From the design of the iPod to the uncluttered Google home page, simple ideas are changing the world. *Simple Church* clearly calls for Christians to return to the simple gospel-sharing methods of Jesus. No bells or whistles required, so to speak. Based on case studies of four hundred American churches, authors Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger prove that the process for making disciples has quite often become too complex. Simple churches are thriving, and they are doing so by taking these four ideas to heart: Clarity. Movement. Alignment. Focus. Each idea is examined here, simply showing why it is time to simplify.





GlobeReach Conference and Ministry Trips

Cambodia 21-25th July 2008

Contact Kevin Wilcock
info@lifechurch.org.au

India October 2008

Contact: Colin Hedges
Colinhedges@optusnet.com.au

Indonesia 13-18th October 2008

Contact Kevin Wilcock
info@lifechurch.org.au

Philippines Feb 2009

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

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.**

Indonesia - Solo

Pak Hadi, the former Jihad warrior now studying in our church planting institute, is likely to come to Australia with Colin in the second half of August 2008 and will be available for deputation in August/September. If your church or special meeting wants him, please get in touch with us at colin.crago@gmail.com.

Hadi has never written a book before but

Fiji

I know truth when I see it.

The more I work with prisoners, their families and their victims the more enthusiastic and excited I get about Jesus. He makes so much sense, what he came to do makes so much sense—that we need a saviour who is able to forgive, restore and heal. Ain't that the truth!

I say this because the last week has been intense as I've been asked to counsel the perpetrator of a most traumatic and disturbing homicide and the children and family of the victim. To see human nature

Cambodia

Since returning to Cambodia I have been encouraged to meet all of my friends and family here, especially the welcome home committee that received me at the airport. Many things have brought tears to my eyes, I've been encouraged to see how much our young men and women (the kids in JH and DH) have grown within all aspects of their life, to hear that all my friends in Myanmar have been kept safe through the devastation

Argentina

Greetings from San Juan Argentina.

We are still amazed that we have been here 4 years already. Ministry here is going great.

We are still blessed with so many visiting teams coming from Australia, USA and New Zealand. Praise God! It's all happening here and just sowing and reaping a great harvest.

Ministry among the extreme poor in the slums is going strong. We have been lent a soccer field and the premises to work with the children, prostitutes, drugos and criminals. This is the place where we just love them, have fun and teach them God's word. We continually care for them both spiritually and physically with food and clothing and other needs. Praise God we are seeing great results with many coming to Jesus.

we are hoping to have an English translation entitled; 'I Fought for the Jihad', available when he comes. Although Hadi is writing it in Indonesian, we do not intend publishing it in Indonesia. To do so could put Hadi's life in danger.

There is still so much red tape and many hurdles to overcome. Getting a visa to get him into Australia for a man who's been in

at its most damaged urges me deeper into the truths about who Jesus was and is.

We asked for more prayer support in our last newsletter and I've never been more thankful as I have in the past few days for that prayer support. Keep building the back of prayer for us.

We are in an incredibly busy time and the ministry opportunities flash by like the signs on a freeway.; I went into Medium prison last week and was stunned by the spiritual darkness that was apparent. Jesus,

of Cyclone Nargis and that the country is now somewhat open to receiving aid.

Tears have also been brought to my eyes as I am discouraged by the heartache and desolation that remains in Myanmar, in seeing the hungry and homeless walk the streets of Cambodia, that two of our boys choose to leave the Joshua House program, with the most difficult decision of having to

A few weeks ago we led to Christ a young, rich business man. Wow, what a conversion. The Lord has been doing amazing things just through one man. He is a well known influential man. He has called the local newspapers and TV channel, and has told them about his conversion and of the healing which he received while we prayed. He had a serious throat problem and the Lord instantly healed him. As a result he has been inviting all his friends throughout the city to meet us, so we can tell them about Jesus. During this time they have put newspaper articles of all our Christian work in San Juan and also on TV.

We just want to thank the Lord for all the open doors and the conversions. Please pray for this key person. his name is Pablo Meglioli.

jail for terrorism could be very difficult.

Apart from the obvious wonderful testimony of what God can do for an opponent of the Gospel, we are hoping to raise Rp 2,000,000,000.00 (about A\$225,000) to buy our current building and thereby register our main church and institute.

An extract from Colin & Kim's Newsletter 'from the heart... to the world'.

how do we reach into the need there? How do we light a fire in that present darkness?

We have something like 40 people coming in various ways over the next 2 months, some to support us; some to work with us; some to observe us; some to talk about joining us in the ministry here in Fiji.

Thank you so much for keeping a light burning for us.

Peter & Jill Shultz
peter.d.schultz@gmail.com

end our contract with the house parents of Deborah House.

In all the tears that I have shed I know that God has been there rejoicing and mourning with me.

Thank you for joining with us in prayer.

Donna
donnabyham@gmail.com

So much is happening that the blessings of the Lord has literally over taken us and we can't keep you updated with all the good news reports.

Thank you once again for your love and support towards us and the ministry.

Your financial help towards the ministry is bearing much fruit in this land where the harvest is so very ripe. John 4:35 & Luke 10:2 Thank you for being part of this exciting work.

Love in HIM

Paul & Veronica Harb

H.I.M Ministries Australia/Argentina
Him_ministries@yahoo.com.au

YouTube

I'm a big believer in connecting with people in as many different ways as possible. I think as churches we need to be doing things that reach all sorts of different communities, from the art world, to the business world, to the homeless and desperate. Another avenue for reaching different communities that I've explored recently is with the online/YouTube

community. Every Week, our church "news" for the week gets uploaded onto YouTube, and we've started working on other videos, like our vision, different missionary works overseas, as well as condensed relevant messages we can upload. It's actually really easy to do, once you have a free account on YouTube, uploading is actually quite simple. We've also started using Facebook

as a means to advertise and promote different events that we have happening. I think this is just another way of reaching a community of people that otherwise we might never connect with.

Rob Cartwright
Team leader @ Life

OzReach Training Opportunities

Only 4 Tickets Available

24HR EXPRESS @ LIFE

WILL BE ON THE 12TH & 13TH SEPTEMBER.
PLAYING AT SOAPBOX WILL BE RENEE GEYER.
THERE WILL ALSO BE A ART EXHIBITION ON THE 13TH TILL 4PM



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 of the box, to do church differently, and to reach into the grassroots of society. For more information and accommodation suggestions, please refer to the attached brochure or contact Life Church office on 4961 0211 or Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798.



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

OzReach
... friends in ministry

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 2021 Dangar
NSW 2309
Phone & Fax: 02) 4961 0211
Email: info@lifechurch.org.au
Web: www.ozreach.org