

# Greater Connections



March 2013

Greater Centennial Marriage Ministry  
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"Our God Is Awesome"



## Love Notes

### When The Sequel Is Better

By Kim & Tom Umstead

A recent scroll through the thousands of Netflix movie offerings revealed a lot of romantic films that chronicle the many ways people fall in love with one another. Almost all of these movies basically had the same premise: strangers or unlikely partners at the beginning of the movie end up together in heavenly bliss by the time the credits roll.

What would be interesting to see are sequels made for many of these romantic films. How are these seemingly inseparable couples doing five, 10, or 20 years later? Have the inevitable circumstances of life – kids, bills, weight gain, etc. – dampened the initial fire that made them fall madly in love with each other? What would a successful, mature marriage look like?

If the writers are smart they would make sure those couples put God first in their marriages. After that, they would realize that marriages evolve over time just as people do. While it's a bit unrealistic to have the characters hot and

giddy over each other all the time as they were during the first movie, that doesn't mean the marriage is boring or doomed to fail. A good writer would portray the serenity and peace that's achieved over time between two married people. It's a feeling deep within the soul – a place where words or kisses can't touch, but you know how it feels when you're truly loved.

That doesn't mean the characters don't still have the hots for one another. In fact, couples often report that sex gets better with age and longevity.

They would still do the little things like keep themselves well groomed and find alone time to spend with each other. They would never take each other for granted, but they also would never lose their own identities.

Include all that in the script and it's a good bet the sequel could end up better than the original. More importantly for the married couple, it would help insure that their movie never ends.

Every issue we'll spotlight lyrics from a classic R&B love song that captures the essence of marriage.

### Love Ballad (As sung by LTD)

I have never been so much  
In love before  
What a difference  
A true love made in my life,  
So nice, So right.

Loving you gave me something  
new, That I've never felt  
Never dreamed of.  
Something's changed  
No it's not the feeling I had before,  
Oh it's much much more

Love, I never knew that a touch  
Could mean So much  
What a difference  
And when we walk hand in  
hand,  
I feel so real.

Lovers come and then lovers go  
That's what folks say, don't they  
know  
They're not there when you love  
me, hold me and say you care

And what we have is much more  
than they can see  
What we have is much more  
than they can see.



Upcoming GCMM Events

April 20

"Dinner & A Movie"  
*In Sickness & In Health*  
 Fellowship Hall – 6 p.m.

May 18

Monthly Marriage  
 Enrichment Meeting  
 (Subject TBD)

June 15

GC Marriage Ministry/GC  
 Angels Bowling League's  
 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pre-Father's Day  
 Bowling Outing at Homefield  
 Lanes in Yonkers, N.Y.

GCMM To Continue Marriage-Themed Stage Plays In April

A special, romantic evening was enjoyed by couples attending the Marriage Ministry's Feb. 16 "Dinner and A Movie" Valentine celebration.

Couples were treated to a light dinner and dessert by candlelight while watching the GMC TV-produced gospel play/movie *For Richer Or For Poorer*. The movie, which starred Rockmond Dunbar and LeToya Luckett as a couple trying to deal with financial challenges, was the second of four GMC TV marriage-themed plays/films the Ministry has shown to its members. Afterwards, those attending engaged in a spirited discussion on the movie's themes of communications and financial planning.

The Ministry will offer the third movie in the series, *In Sickness and In Health*, during its April 20 enrichment meeting. The play stars Jennifer Freeman and *Chico Benymon* as a soon-to-be-married couple facing a potentially life-altering dilemma. The fourth movie in the series, *To Love and To Cherish*, will be seen in a future Marriage Ministry event.

GC Marriage Ministry  
 Mission Statement:

Our mission is to make disciples by: promoting God's plan for marriage through teaching married couples what the Scriptures teach concerning Christian marriage; encouraging couples and families to work toward the ideal in relationships set forth in the Holy Scripture; and providing tools to couples and families for improving their relationship with each other and with God in Christ Jesus.

Please consider joining the Marriage Ministry in making a donation to the Food Bank For New York City to benefit victims of Hurricane Sandy. We've raised nearly \$400 to help those still suffering through the aftermath of the storm. Please go to the Greater Centennial website to connect to the ministry's personal website. Our God is Awesome!

**FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY**  
 foodbanknyc.org

**VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE**  
 Your Dollar Does More Here!

Welcome to Our Virtual Food Drive Page

Your donation goes further on the Virtual Food Drive! Thanks to the Food Bank's wholesale purchasing power and efficient distribution process, a gift made here provides more food than through a traditional food drive — doubling or even tripling the amount of food your dollar can provide at the grocery store.

THANKS TO OUR CAMPAIGN

Please help the GC Marriage Ministry bring some relief to Hurricane Sandy victims by giving a love gift to the Food Bank for New York City. God Bless You. Our God is Awesome! Thomas & Kim

**\$365**  
 Raised So Far

**BROWSE OUR AISLES!**

HOME  
 PRODUCE  
 MEAT & FISH  
 GRAINS & BEANS  
 DAIRY & EGGS  
 BEYOND FOOD

**SHOPPING CART**

Milk 3 gallons \$10 (100%)	Red Peppers 20 pounds \$15 (100%)	Bananas 40 pounds \$21 (100%)	Meats for One Child for Two Months \$36 (100%)
Vine Rip Tomatoes 40 pounds \$54 (100%)	Whole Grain Corn 40 boxes \$45 (100%)	Chicken Legs 100 pounds \$91 (100%)	Meats for a Family of Four for Three Months \$216 (100%)

Total Donations: \$0 (0%)

CHECK OUT/DONATE!

CONGRATULATIONS! STOP & DONATE NOW!

*Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. (1 Corinthians 13:4-6 NLT)*