

Greater Connections



April 2013

Greater Centennial Marriage Ministry
312 So. 8th Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10550
gcmarragementistry@gmail.com



"Our God Is Awesome"



Love Notes

'In Sickness And In Health'

By Kim & Tom Umstead

Having to live with a spouse suffering from a chronic illness is something that most married couples don't want to think about.

Yet the odds are that it will affect all of us at some point: By 2020, about 157 million Americans will be afflicted by a chronic illness lasting three or more months, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

And if we as couples don't learn how to deal with the issue, it can have a devastating effect on our marriages. The divorce rate among marriages with at least one chronically ill spouse is a chilling 75%, according to a National Health Interview Survey.

It's a difficult situation to be in, but one that we can successfully face if approached with love, patience and faith.

First and foremost, we always have to keep God first in our lives. In the best and worst of times we have to continue to pray together and trust that He has his hand on our mar-

riage and will guide us through whatever trials and tribulations we face.

Second, we have to seek medical information and help for our ailments. Too many of us have a phobia about going to the doctor or about taking our medicines on a regular basis. A good start would be to take advantage of the services provided during the Health Ministry's June 1 *Interfaith Health and Wellness Street Fair*.

We also have to learn to discuss our fears and concerns about our health issues more openly with our spouses.

There's no doubt that dealing with chronic illnesses in a marriage is challenging and will at times test even the strongest of relationships.

But we all took a vow before God to love each other in sickness and in health. As Christian married couples we have to honor that commitment and always strive to love our spouses with grace and compassion at all times and under all circumstances.

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

Stone In Love With You (As sung by The Stylistics)

If I could I'd like to be
A great big movie star;
Overnight sensation
Drive a big expensive car.
I would buy you everything
Your little heart desires;
These things I do
'Cause I'm stone in love with you
(Stone in love with you.)

If I were a business man
I'd sit behind a desk;
I'd be so successful
I would scare Wall Street to death.
I would hold a meeting for
The press to let them know,
I did it all
'Cause I'm stone in love with you
(Stone in love with you.)

I'm just a man, an average man,
Doing everything the best I can;
But if I could, I'd give the world to
you.

I'd like to someday be the owner of
The first house on the moon;
There would be no neighbors,
And no population boom.
You might say that all I do
Is dream my life away;
I guess it's true,
'Cause I'm stone in love with you.
I guess it's true,
'Cause I'm stone in love with you.
I guess it's true,
'Cause I'm stone in love with you.



Walls: Vow To Keep The Music Playing With 'No Divorce Pledge'

The Marriage Ministry welcomed back Rev. Julius and Sis. Cheryl Walls during our March 16 Marriage Enrichment meeting to lead us in a discussion on the subject, *How Do You Keep The Music Playing In Our Marriages*.

Rev. Julius set the tone of the evening by playing the popular James Ingram song *How Do You Keep The Music Playing*. Using the lyrics from the song, the immediate past Marriage Ministry leaders emphasized that the vows we took were binding in the eyes of God and that couples should constantly communicate to each other their needs and concerns as both the marriage and each spouse inevitably change over the years.

Rev. Julius and Sis. Cheryl also encouraged the couples to recite a "No Divorce Pledge" to each other as a promise to remain faithfully together in our marriages. The Pledge can be found below and we encourage every married couple to read it aloud to each other as a reminder of the sanctity of marriage and the life-long commitment that we've made to our spouses in the presence of God.

No Divorce Pledge

I Make The Following Pledge To God, and to my wife/Husband (insert spouse's name here.)

I pledge not to seek a divorce.

I pledge to put forward the effort and energy to protect my marriage from divorce.

I pledge not to drop out of my marriage physically, emotionally, or spiritually .

These things I pledge because I love you.

Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. (Philippians 2:2 NLT)

Upcoming GCMM Events

May 4

Pre-Mother's Day Brunch
At Sweet Potatoes
Restaurant in New Rochelle,
N.Y.

11 a.m. To 1:30 p.m.
(Brunch Fee: \$25/person)

June 15

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

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.