

# Leading To Christ

A Publication of the International Church, Inc.

February, 2010

## Biblical Insight for your Marriage

All couples need to have a dream for their marriage. Where there is no vision, the people perish, Proverb 29: 18. First Corinthians chapter 13 is known as the love chapter in the Bible. Couples should live out God's instruction found in that chapter. To have a healthy marriage relationship, husband and wife should not display the following negative characteristics. Disrespect, selfishness, jealousy, and holding grudges. To have a healthy marriage relationship, husband and wife should display the following positive characteristics. Loyalty, forgiveness, patience, trust, and love.

If your marriage is troubled, consider this principle, you can't withdraw money from a bank account where you have not made a deposit. Love is often viewed the same way. People must give love in order to receive love. Deposit love and sacrifice into marriage then you have something to withdraw the days to come. A lot of marital conflict results when a spouse feels "used" while the other partner is only taking. Here are some of the scriptures that will help your marriage.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love 1 John 4:7-8 (NKJV). The love in our relationships reveals God in us. Not only our children see this but the world also see it. If a person loves God, he becomes a loving person; he takes on the very nature of God. If a person really loves God, then he does what God does He loves everyone.

(Love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV). The word bears in Greek is *stegēō*, means both to cover all things and to bear up under all things. Love does both, it stands up under the weight and it covers up the faults of others. It has no pleasure in exposing the wrong and weaknesses of others. Love bears up under any neglect, abuse, ridicule, anything that is thrown against it. Believes all things means that love looks forward with optimism, knowing that God works all things together for good. Endures all things means that love holds on. In the end love never fails and it never ends. In conclusion let me give you one more suggestion.

If your marriage is in trouble don't give up, the God Who joined you together is able to keep you together. Trust in Him.

—Alexander Thomas

## Percentages of marriages that last

5th anniversary: 82 percent

10th anniversary: 65 percent

15th anniversary: 52 percent

25th anniversary: 33 percent

35th anniversary: 20 percent

50th anniversary: 5 percent

The median age of first marriage is 26.9 in males and 25.3 in females

The median age at first divorce is 30.5 in males and 29 in females.

The median age of second marriage is 34 in males and 32 in females.

The median age at second divorce is 39.3 in males and 37 in females.

The average length of first marriages that end in divorce is 7 years.

US Census Bureau

## Prayer requests

- Please pray for God's guidance to Bro. Kalyan and family as they plan for his wedding.
- Please pray for good health for Bro. Harold and his mother—Sis. Sumathi.
- Please continue to pray Bro. Emmanuel Eadeh.
- Please pray for salvation to Bro. Prakash and family, Sis. Keertan and family, Sis. Sukhpal and family.
- Please pray for the Lord's favor and guidance to those with immigration issues and those looking for jobs.
- Please pray for all the ministries and ministry leaders of the Church.

## International Church Weekly Schedule

Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am  
 Sunday School 10:15 am  
 Bible Study Tuesday (Tucker) 7:30 pm  
 Bible Study Wednesday (Church) 7:30 pm  
 Bible Study Thursday (Dunwoody) 8:00 pm  
 Healing Service Friday 7:30 pm  
 Woman's ministry 7:30 pm, 2nd Friday of the Month  
 Youth Ministry 4:00 pm, last Saturday of the Month

## Recent Events / Reports

Due to bad weather conditions and especially due ice on the road, we have cancelled homeless ministry on the second Sunday of January. We praise God that our Lord has kept international church families safe in this severe weather. The third Saturday of the month of January, Brother Sanjeev and Sister Hepiciba hosted thanksgiving prayer and dinner at their home. Despite heavy rain, many attended the prayer meeting and were blessed. Sister Eden led the worship with sister Florence playing the keyboard and there was wonderful presence of God. Sister Hepiciba thanked God for so many ways God has blessed her home and family. She said that God had restored many things in her life. Pastor Thomas preached gave a message from Psalm 34, 1:10. He said that when we look at God's face for help, we will be radiant and our faces will never be ashamed and on the contrary when we look at people for help, we will be ashamed.

The last Saturday of the month of January, we had a Youth meeting. Brother Vincent organized youth meeting. Youth of the International church displayed their talents with singing, reading of bible stories, memory verses, bible quiz etc. Sister Eden led an interactive Bible based game for everybody. Brother Vineet gave a touching message for the youth with his testimony. Refreshments were served after the youth meeting.

January Birthday, Hannah's birthday is January 31

—Naveen Pavoov

Woman's Ministry: Friday February 12th, 7:30 PM

## Kids Corner

As a child, Valentine's Day is a fun holiday.. It usually involves passing out cards to your friends and getting a lot of chocolate in return. It is a time of giving love. We should always love the people around us, but don't forget that Jesus is worthy of our ultimate love. God gave us the greatest gift of all when he sent His son to die for our sins. God's love is worthy of more than just a Valentine's Day card and a box of chocolate. It's important that we have God's love in our lives, or else our soul will become dark, and whatever is in your soul will show in your daily interactions with people. If you are full of God's love, then that love will be evident to everyone around you, and that's the way that God intended for us to be.

—Eden Thomas

## My Testimony

Praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ who was and is and is to come!

It is with great pleasure that I am furnishing a recent testimony. This experience left me with an increased faith in the power of our Lord Jesus and a sustainable belief that no matter what, he will lift us up in due time. To get into my testimony, after working in Dubai for some years I decided to get a masters degree from the US in the hope of better prospects and a better life. I graduated in May 2009 and I still hadn't landed a job due to weak job market. Since I was an international student, I could only stay in the country for 4 months after which US immigration required me to leave the country. So my deadline was September 28, 2009. The thought as to what I would do if I left the country and my bleak prospects back in the Middle East was a constant test of faith. At the age of 27, with no bank balance and the only option being to borrow from my Dad for basic expenses, I decided to move in with my friend in Milwaukee, thanks to his love and generosity. I searched and the more I networked and applied, the more rejections I got. As days passed by, my faith began to falter and I slowly started accepting the idea that God maybe had a plan for me back in the Middle East.

It was September 23 and I still hadn't found a job. I had 5 more days to be in the country and I already informed my family that I should be returning soon. As I needed more strength, I decided to fast on Wednesday and started to ask the Lord for his strength. After my prayer, I got a message on my chat messenger from my old prayer mentor from Dubai. As I was explaining my situation, he felt the Holy spirit talk to him and ask him to tell me to confess out loud in faith that I will get a job in the US and I will not return back in the name of Jesus Christ. As weird as I thought this idea was, I was desperate and I decided to try it. Instead of my breakfast and lunch, I confessed out loud and declared that in the name of Jesus I would find a job and be in the US. As I was about to break my fast in the evening that day, I received a call from Clorox and they said they wanted me to offer me a position at their Alpharetta office. I enquired about the start date, not surprisingly; it was September 28, 2009.

One of the things I learnt from this experience was that during those 4 months, I needed great strength to keep going and keep trying as my spirit was weary. The pattern I noticed was that whenever I skipped my prayer time with the Lord, my day was depressing and my faith was weakened; but when I prayed, I received strength to keep going with a hope for the future. Our God is a great God who willingly pours his spirit out on us so we are strengthened by his grace and mercy. I also learnt the power of prayer and the power we have as Christian with the fruit of our lips. I learnt, anything is possible through faith. Our confession with lips, declared to the supernatural realm around us that we have faith in not what is seen but that what is unseen and in the power of the love of our Jesus. I pray this experience encourages you in your walk. So whenever my next trial is, I know what I need to do, believe in my heart and confess with my lips that Jesus can do anything! Scriptures for reference: Proverbs 18:2; Romans 9:9,10; Deut 33:15; 1 Peter 3:12.

—Vineeth Jacob

Youth Ministry: Saturday February 27th, 4:00 PM