

LOVE AND MARRIAGE by GLORIA ZINN

Enjoy the following stories in this Window's celebration of Valentine's Day:

Ephesians 4:2-3 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."



Bob and Jan Drake met in 2000 at a grief support meeting. They had both lost their spouses that year and God had a plan. Valentine's Day is very special to them, since they

became engaged on Valentine's Day, 2003. They were married on August 1, 2003, at Trinity Foursquare Gospel in North Omaha, and after almost seventeen years of marriage they both agree that "the love of a very special person" in their lives was a gift they have given each other. They share their love for the Lord and their joint interests in ministry in North Omaha, as well as other interests which have kept the couple mutually connected. Jan said that the gifts she admires most in Bob are "he's always ready for a new adventure," and has such an "easy going and fun personality." Bob shared that with Jan's warm and friendly personality, "she doesn't know any strangers," is a gift he admires in his wife. Their philosophy for a happy and successful marriage is to treat one another with love, respect and patience, because "you are each a gift from God." Their shared Bible verse is from Hebrews 11:1. With Bob's two sons and two grandchildren, and Jan's three daughters, one son, eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, the Drakes are very busy traveling and visiting family, especially with two more great-grandchildren on the way!

Our next couple, Karen and Alan Lofgren-Anderson, married at West Hills Church, nine years after meeting on

an internet dating site. They were both attracted to their many shared interests, as well as "God, family, music, dancing, the simple things in life." Al shared that



as a child he had asked for a magician's kit, but instead received a guitar "so that I could become a musician." He plays everything except rap, and is talented playing the lead guitar, banjo, bass, ukulele, mandolin, and "almost any instrument with strings." Karen's creativity is in sewing, something she started when she was a very young child. She was in 4-H from the time she was 8 to 18, and has taken numerous sewing classes, first learning from her mom and grandmother. When asked how they solve problems the couple shared that they have both had "enough life prior to meeting that we pretty much go with the flow through talking over any issues calmly and determine a plan of action." Karen and Alan said that together they have "a balance in life. We hold one another accountable to be the best person one can be, and are each other's sounding board/reality check." In order for a marriage to be successful, Karen and Al believe "you are each putting 100% into your marriage as each spouse has strengths the other does not have." A shared belief in God appears to be the rock that keeps this marriage strong. Their favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 6:10-20.

There are very few people who are reading this article that can say they met their "kindred spirit" at a clown convention! That is exactly

LOVE AND MARRIAGE continued



where Marti and Terry Bloes met! They were each competing in costume and make-up competition, and had known one another for thirteen years. They formed a business they called: Back 2 Back and were soon hired by clown groups throughout the United States to teach classes. They would also present stage shows. however the glitch was that Terry lived in Omaha and

Marti in Michigan. After Terri asked Marti "if we should start dating," it grew into a five-year longdistance relationship. Finally, in 2002, the couple married and Marti moved to Omaha. Marti listed Terri's gifts as the ability to make people feel good about themselves and making people smile, "He has the gift of hospitality," Marti shared. Terri said that it is Marti's caring heart and listening skills that makes her special, "along with her generosity and openness to share her testimony." The Bloeses both agreed that God is the foundation in their marriage "and all things are possible through unconditional love." The couple reported since they met and married, they have more "confidence, a loving partnership, joy and a shared love of Jesus that makes all of this possible." They are good at "talking things over and analyzing all options" as a couple. Marti's favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:5, while Terry's is Isaiah 41:10. Look them up and you'll understand how this couple makes marriage work!

Our final couple, Lisa and Lou Harrison, have been married for thirty-eight years this August. They met when Lou was attending barber college during the

day and working as a bartender at night. Lisa was also at the college, and Lou had given out free drink tickets to all the girls at the school. When Lisa asked Lou for her "free drink" she told him that she was the



only one who hadn't received a ticket. Lou, being the gentleman we all know and love, said he would "make it up to her by taking her on a date." That date was on Valentine's Day, 1982. Three weeks

later he asked her to marry him, and they were married six months later. Lou said he was attracted to Lisa by "her big green eyes, the sweetest laugh in the world, her high heels with no toes, even in the winter, her athletic legs, curly blonde hair, her heart for people, and a mind that processes so many thoughts I can't keep up." He also said her little scar on her bottom lip also attracted him, as well as the love Lisa has for her family, and "an energy and spirit that never guits, along with a softness in the way we fit together." According to Lisa, "God has blessed me with a perfect mate (most would say this is impossible)." Lisa shared that when they married she was very young, "and very immature. That took many years of love and patience on Lou's part to help me grow into the person God intended me to be." Lou said that Lisa loves people "like no one else, even when they think they are unlovable." Her energy and faith, Lou reported, are boundless and she "embraces adventure as if it was made just for her." Children, Lou stated, are a "magnet to her; they feel her young soul and see her carefree nature and know it is just like theirs." Lisa remarked that Lou has done more for her than anyone could imagine. "I have asked him to do things for me that no one would even consider, yet he follows through until the task is completed." Lou shared that Lisa prays with her heart and soul "and it is beautiful." The couple reported there have been few problems in their marriage, and that their marriage has provided them the strength and patience to help others. They forgive "quickly, knowing how good it is to be together and that makes it impossible to hold grudges or be upset for long." They both believe that God's love is the key for a successful marriage. They also believe they have to have fun together, and spend time doing things that both enjoy "is crucial." Lisa said, "I feel blessed beyond what I deserved, and I always thank God for the gift of Lou." Lou reported that Lisa has given him stability in his life as well as a sense of purpose and direction. "Lisa has shown me how to love someone without limits. She also taught me to let go and enjoy the adventure instead of fretting about what might be on the other side. She also brought me back to my faith and she shares His love with me every day." The favorite Bible verse Lou shared "came from Lisa's mom": Galatians 2:20-22. They are a very loving couple to one another, and to everyone they meet!

February & March at a Glance

At West Hills our mission statement: On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others and the world, provides us with the framework for how we live our lives. Here are some ways you can connect!

CONNECTING WITH GOD

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

Identical Worship Services @ 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Children's Crosswalk @ 8:45 a.m. for ages 4 years - 6th grade, lower level

Youth Sunday School @ 9 a.m. for 7th - 12th grade, lower level, #307

Adult Classes, chapel

Date	9 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 2	H2O - Rick Mason	Connecting the Dots: A Faith Dissertation - Julie Burgess
Feb. 9	H2O - Rick Mason	Connecting the Dots: A Faith Dissertation - Julie Burgess
Feb. 16	Parenting Discussion - Theresa Hamer	Sermon Text Discussion
Feb. 23	Parenting Discussion - Theresa Hamer	Sermon Text Discussion

Monday Co-ed Bible study @ 10:00 a.m., 3030 S 80 Street, 2nd flr.

The God You May Not Know by Dr. David Jeremiah. All are welcome to attend this study at Westgate Assisted Living

Tuesday Men's Bible Study @ 6:30 a.m., conference room

Study the sermon scripture for the following Sunday

Wednesday Women's Morning Bible Study @ 9:15 a.m., chapel Led by Tracy Enholm and Jane Loeck. Studying Psalm 23 by Jennifer Rothschild

Wednesday Night @ West Hills

Jan. 8 - March 18

Buffet dinner served 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Cost: \$3 for 6 yrs. and older, \$1.50 for 5 yrs. and under

Women's study @ 6 p.m. - Entrusted by Beth Moore

Co-ed study @ 6:30 p.m. - Everything You Need by Dr. David Jeremiah

406 Youth @ 6:30 p.m. - Identity: Who Does God Say I Am?

Kids Connect @ 6:30 p.m. - Kids and parents 1st-5th grade experience God's love through worship, stories, crafts and games.

Wednesday - The Confirmation Experience on Feb. 5, 19 @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursday Women's Morning Bible study @ 9:30 a.m., chapel The study of the book of **Genesis** continues. Every woman welcome to join us!

Feb. 7-9 - Women's Silent Retreat @ St. Benedict Retreat Center

Feb. 8 - Men's Game Day 8:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Guest speaker, John Parsons, will share how to listen and respond to God's call in our lives, as well as what it looks like to step out in faith when the future isn't clear.

Feb. 26 - Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 p.m. - Join us for this special service that marks the beginning of the season of Lent with our confirmation students assisting during it.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

Feb. 7 - West Hills Nerf Night @ 6:00 p.m. - Bring your people to battle for world domination (or maybe just some friendly fun for all ages!). Bring a nerf gun and we'll provide the ammo. Lower level check-in area.

Feb. 16 - Youth Ski Trip & Late Nighter @ 12:00 p.m. - We will start with lunch then head to Mt. Crescent in Honey Creek, IA for an afternoon of skiing. After skiing we will have dinner at the church, watch a movie, and play games until late in the evening.

Feb. 23 - American Red Cross Blood Drive from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Location to stop in and give blood is fellowship hall.

Feb. 26 - Fish Fry from 5:00 - 6:50 p.m. and Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 p.m.

March 6 - Tee Party - A Night of Mini Golf @ 6:00 p.m.

March 13 - Celebrations @ 11:30 a.m.

March 13 - Youth Neon Night from 6:30 - 11:30 p.m. Neon night starts with dinner at the church followed by a neon dance party at 7:00. Wear wild and bright colored clothes and bring anything that glows in the dark! The dance will go until 8:30. After the dance, we will go into the basement and play glow in the dark games until 11:30 pm.

CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD

Feb. 9 - Crossroads Connection @ 6:OO p.m. - Join us for worship as we welcome this program to West Hills that assists inmates in their transition back to life outside of prison.

March 19 - Christian Heritage Foster Care Group Training @ 6:OO p.m. - Come volunteer to play with kids or come to learn the whys and hows of connected communication strategies for kids and teens. RSVP to jessica@whcomaha.org



YOUTH COMMITMENT by Julie Zimmerman, Elder for Youth & Young Adults

What is youth commitment? I see it as an awesome opportunity to reach the youth of West Hills. Many youth drift away from the church during high school and college. How can we best avoid this? Help them get involved! Youth who have a strong relationship with an adult church member outside their family are most likely to remain engaged in church. "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6.

When young people serve, it prepares them to become future leaders. Relationships are key. West Hills is fortunate to have an amazing youth team, committed

to the spiritual growth of our young people. But we need you! How can you help? It's as simple as greeting the youth sitting near you during worship. Ask them questions, show an interest in their lives and get to know them. Each of us can find a place we fit in helping our youth feel more connected to West Hills.

On February 16, 2020, West Hills will have its annual Youth Commitment Sunday. This is an opportunity for our

members to support the youth financially. This financial support will help offset the cost of the summer mission trip, youth activities, the youth band and Sunday mornings. But beyond the financial support, we encourage you to connect with the youth of our church and help them understand how important they are to West Hills. Ultimately, helping youth grow during these formative years will equip them to make an impact for Christ both now and in their futures.

We are growing the future of West Hills! Attached are pictures from our Youth Group Christmas Party.







Book Review



Now available for checkout in the Soul Cafe: "Mountain Top" a novel by Robert Whitlow. This book highlights Numbers 12:6 (NIV)

When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.

According to WesBow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson, Inc.,: Supernatural visions filled with images of keys, hatchets, hammers, and fires. An eccentric old man in jail accused of robbing a church and knowing things he has no right to know. A lawyer turned pastor suddenly summoned to a stranger's cell by a dream.

How much will one man risk to defend another, when the truth lands him in prison...and the only evidence proving his innocence comes by a dream? Robert Whitlow is the best-selling author of legal novels set in the south and winner of the prestigious Christy Award for Contemporary Fiction. A Furman University graduate, Whitlow received his J.D. with honors from the University of Georgia School of Law where he served on the staff of the Georgia Law review.

SCIENCE & THE BIBLE

Swine



Not so long ago, science learned that eating undercoomked pork causes an infection of parasites called trichinosis. Now consider this: the Bible forbade the eating of swine more than 3,000 years before we learned to cook pork safely. Deuteronomy 14:8: "The pig is also unclean; although it has a divided hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses."

SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE by Jana Prescott

Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders...And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. This verse works so



well with Andy's Advent series about justice, mercy, grace, and peace. What people so long ago were looking for and what people now are still trying to find are summed up in what Isaiah wrote so long ago. How could we connect what Isaiah is telling us about our Creator with how we need to be living, each time we read His Word? How about if each of us can find ways which help us define the heart that Jesus gave us. Each of us has a means of justice we can use in our life; a means of mercy that fits for each of us; a means of grace we can pour out; and a measure of peace within us that we all long to constantly use. We just need to keep our hearts in tune with that life that Jesus is always ready to help us live.



BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ

How well do you know the Bible?

1. In Matt. 18:21, Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who had sinned against him. What was Jesus' answer? A. 120 B. 340 C. 490 D. 1000

2. How many concubines did King Solomon have? A. 55 B. 100 C. 300 D. 700

3. How many children did Adam and Eve have? A. Two B. Three C. Four D. An unknown number

4. How old was Abram when God made the covenant of circumcision and changed his name to Abraham? A. 90 B. 99 C. 100 D. The Bible doesn't say

5. Who accompanied Paul on several of his journeys? A. Thomas B. Timothy C. John D. Matthew

6. What do we call the prophets that make up the final twelve books in the Old Testament?A. Major Prophets B. Miracle Prophets C.Minor Prophets D. Miser Prophets

- 7. Who was Hannah's firstborn child?
- A. Samuel B. Joseph C. Joshua D. Miriam
- 8. Which woman gave birth to Moses?
- A. Sarah B. Hannah C. Leah D. Jochebed

9. Which disciple was asked to look after Mary, mother of Jesus, after Jesus' death?A. James B. John C. Peter D. Paul

10. What was Samson's mother instructed not to eat or drink during her pregnancy? A.Bread and wine B. Wine and cheeseC. Wine and unclean things D. Wine and meat

11. Ruth accompanied her mother-in-law Naomi from Moab to this town. A. Nazareth B. Joppa C. Beersheba D. Bethlehem

12. Who said "I will never leave you or forsake you."? A. Paul to the Gentile congregationB. Mary to Jesus C. Peter told this to Jesus after denying him three times D. Jesus

(answers on the back page)

VOLUNTEER OPPS!

There are several opportunities to serve at West Hills. This month, we are highlighting these ministry areas.

GREETERS: Greeting people is such an important ministry to make people feel welcome. At West Hills, we like to greet people as they enter our doors and give direction to those new to us. This is a wonderful and very easy way to serve the church. If you would like to be a part of this group, please contact Wendi Meyer at: wendimeyer52@gmail.com

WORSHIP ARTS: Would you like to share your gifts with a small group of children during Wednesday Night @ West Hills? We would like to offer worship arts opportunities - drama, music, games, crafts, story time, puppetry or something else you would like to teach to help elementary aged kids learn to explore and use their gifts. If so, contact jessica@whcomaha.org

SOUND/MEDIA: Run sound or media on Sunday mornings. Training available. Contact kevin@ whcomaha.org

JANUARY Session notes

• Motions to approve requests from members to have names removed and list of members to be removed from rolls.

- Reported West Hills Church ended the year with a surplus of over \$40,000.
- West Hills will host an event for Crossroads Connection with a worship event followed by a meal on February 9, 2020. Crossroads Connection is an organization that serves people who are transitioning to life outside of prison.
- Building and Grounds reported on the priority list of improvements and repairs.
- Reviewed best practices for Handling Session Business and Parliamentary Procedures.
- Approved the Manual of Operation.

• Continued the study of 'Fasting' from Richard Foster's book Celebration of Discipline and assigned the next chapter on 'Study'.

InterVarsity Progressive Dinner by Joanne Topolski

In December we welcomed around 15O guests for Intervarsity's progressive dinner. West Hills provided several homes for the students to visit, appetizers and desserts. Between those two courses we enjoyed the main course here in our beautifully decorated fellowship hall. The food was great and the fellowship and friendly conversation were even greater! Intervarsity is now serving over forty campuses in Nebraska - reaching out to college age seekers with the truth of the gospel through Bible studies. Most of the guests that evening were believers, but some were specifically invited as a way to expose unbelievers to the love of Christ and the fellowship of believers. In that one evening we hosted cultures from all around the world and we had the amazing opportunity to celebrate Christ's birth and witness along with our Intervarsity brothers and sisters to those who are still seeking Christ's presence in their lives. Thanks West Hills!





TEN YEAR COMPARISON by Luke Burns

Recently, people on Facebook were posting pictures of themselves ten years apart, comparing themselves to how they looked then to how they look now. For some it's not only skin deep. Our Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, Luke Burns, took this challenge and we thought you would want to hear about it.

It's about time I posted my decade comparison photos! The "me" from ten years ago wouldn't recognize the "me" of today (and it's not just my change of hairstyle).

Ten years ago I was a 17-year old guy in my junior year of high school. I liked rock music, hanging out with my friends, and girls...and that's about it. My dream was to be in a successful rock band and the only focus in my life was playing guitar and gigging with my band.

If someone asked me back then where I'd be in ten years, I would have said something like "I want to be the next Jimi Hendrix, and go on world tours with a successful band."

Ten years ago I lived what I thought was a "rock 'n roll" lifestyle. I drank and smoked, and got myself hooked on some bad habits. Not only that, but I also battled a crippling season of depression. My friends at the time didn't know I struggled with depression. As a matter of fact, they probably thought I was the happiest guy in the world because I was so good at hiding it. But the truth is, a decade ago, I was miserable. And I thought I'd never find a way out. Thought I'd be "stuck like this forever."

The drinking, smoking, and getting into bad relationships were ways I tried to "fill the void." But in reality all it did was mask the pain. So after struggling with this depression for almost two years of my life I decided to do something I've never done before: pray to God.

I wasn't religious in the slightest, and actually, I thought religious people were weird, weak, boring, stubborn, brainwashed, and had awful taste in music. So when I tell you I prayed, I did so out of desperation. Not because someone told me to, or because I actually believed it would work. I prayed because I felt like I ran out of options.

To make a long story short, that tear filled prayer would change everything for me and set the trajectory for the next decade of my life. If you would have told me ten years ago when I was drunk on New Year's Eve that in one decade I'd be depression free for nine years, free from addiction, a devout Christian, a college graduate with a degree in religion, a husband, a dad, and have a career working with youth at a church, I wouldn't have believed you. As a matter of fact, I probably would have spit in your face.

Jesus changed everything. Jesus became my identity. People stopped thinking of me as the guitar guy and starting thinking of me as that Jesus loving guy. And I'm proud of it! I haven't always followed Jesus perfectly, but I do know I love Him and that I wouldn't be who I am today without Him!

If you are struggling with depression, anxiety, self-doubt, alcohol abuse, or anything of the sort... just know that things do change. Even when it seems like you will be stuck like this forever, you won't be. I found freedom in Jesus and if you ever want to chat about Him, I'd love to! Even if you want to tell me all the things about religion/Jesus/ the Bible that you hate. I'll listen.

God bless you! I love you, and happy 2020! Luke Burns



Luke in 2009

Luke with his wife Nicole, and son Theo in 2019

Cameroon Christmas Celebration by Peg Shirley

West Hills provided support to Dorothy Tanwani and ChrisWOV (Christian Women of Vision), so they could hold their annual Christmas celebration. Listed below is Dorothy's report. I thought you would like to see what she wrote.

"Everything being equal, the Christmas party at ChrisWOV is usually an event of celebration and reunion among some identified destitute widows and orphans in and around Bamenda. But almost four years into the current political unrest crisis, things have not been the same. This year, the women and children came around again for their Christmas fellowship, but the atmosphere was not quite as homey. The celebration was low-keyed, no music, no Christmas lights, no decorations, no dancing, and no playing games. The fear of attracting the unknown due to the prevalence of insecurity in



the Northwestern part of the country made the occasion more subdued.

Nevertheless, the joy of having been remembered once again by West Hills church could not be stolen from the women, not even by insecurity.

The Christmas party was hosted on three different sites and different dates. The sites were Bamenda, Bafut and Mbengwi. Combined attendance was 210 women and 39 children.

All three parties began with prayer. The women and children sang a few Christmas carols, and then shared in delicious food and drinks. Then parcels were prepared for everyone, containing cooking oil, rice and laundry soap. A variety of clothes were also available for the women to



select what each of them preferred. Some toys were available to the younger children. A few blankets were distributed to those who were deemed most needy among the women.

It was an event to remember with a smile, despite the atmosphere of fear and uncertainty caused by the crisis. The women and children were visibly happy to receive their gifts and didn't fail to extend gratitude to their donors. We love you so much. God bless you all abundantly."



Thank you West Hills for making this a special Christmas for our brothers and sisters in Cameroon who are living in the midst of a crisis that has been going on for four years now. They continue to worship and show joy in all situations. They have taught me so much about what it means to truly trust God when the times are difficult. Please pray for them and for peace. --Peg Shirley



Dorothy Tanwani

MOVIE REVIEW



"A Letter to Dad"

Based on a true story, this 90-minute DVD is the story of faith and love combining to redirect a lifetime of anger and pain.

When Dan Donohue (Thom Matthews) is on the verge of his "happily ever after" he is pulled back into his own world of intense anger attributed to being abandoned by his father as a child.

Dan decides to confront his rage by sending a letter to his father confronting him with all the pain he has caused in Dan's life.

As Dan throws his feelings into the letter he reviews his life in full, leaving his boyhood behind and stepping into his new role as a strong confident and spiritual man.

Dan's father, played by actor John Aston (Beverly Hills Cop) must now deal, for the first time, with his own life failures, foremost that of his failure as a father.

This video received the Dove "family approved" seal. According to this organization, "it is nice to see such a powerful drama with no crude language or profanities."



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

How about a nice hot bowl of soup in this winter weather.

CHEESY TACO SOUP

- 2 pounds hamburger
- brown and drain
- Mix in big pot with:
- 1 can black beans, drained
- 1 can chili or kidney beans, drained
- 2 cans no-bean chili
- 24 ounce Picante Sauce (Medium)
- 1 can diced green chilies

Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and add:

2 cups milk ½ pound Velveeta cheese Stir until cheese melts



Register at whcomaha.org or in Geneva Lounge Childcare Available Upon Request





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WHATEVER Happens...

The sermon series, **Whatever Happens...** continues in February:

2/2/20 Philippians 2:1-16 Shining Like Stars

2/9/20 Philippians 3:3-11 Know What's Worthy

2/16/20 Philippians 3:12-4:1 Let Your Light Ring True

2/23/20 Philippians 4:4-13 Look Beyond the Circumstances



FEBRUARY

1-Linda Lavely Kayla Wohlgemuth 2-Sheryl Overby 3-Daryl Greger 4-Suzanne Kuhn 5-Katie Northouse 6-Brett Curran Steve Dostal 7-Becky Anders **Dee Buckley** Calvin O'Hare 8-Ray Huck Grace Nodes **11-Terry Bloes Ranee Yetts Ryan Yetts**

12-Duane Eckhoff 13-Mary Jane Hendricks 14-Eden Anderson 16-Carol Isaac 17-Bridget Backer Scott Degand 18-Wilma Hoeven 19-Gage Voshell 20-Jerry Allen Susan Bailey Dallas Grafton 21-Angie Arner 22-Ben Nodes Jordan Parker 23-Kora Kopperud Marcia O'Donovan 23-Cathy Voshell

25-Bob Drake Jackie Harned 27-Dick Frandeen Ruby Sauer 28-Carl Brady

MARCH

1-Dwight Rickard 4-Jamie Carlson 5-Chelsea Grossoehme Jan Richardson 6-Cammy Bridgman (the remaining March birthdays to be published in the March newsletter)