



The G.E.M.



Edition 2

The Grace Electronic Magazine

February 2007



FOCUS ON THE HEART



Welcome to this our second edition of *The G.E.M.* Thanks to all of you who responded positively to our first edition last month. Your comments and encouragement are greatly appreciated. Through this newsletter we aim to provide insight into Grace Media and to offer encouragement in matters relating to our Christian walk.

Traditionally February is the month that everyone focuses on matters of the heart and love. With World Cancer Day and Valentines Day falling in February, it seems appropriate that we do the same with this month's edition of *The G.E.M.*

In this edition we have focussed on marriage and have provided some basic tips on how to build a marriage to last in this world where so many marriages are ending in divorce.

We would also like to introduce you to Focus on the Family Southern Africa who are doing a great job with families, marriages and children in Southern Africa, featuring some of their books that are available through Grace Media.

For those of you who have access to the Internet, Grace Media is now online. Check out our website at www.gracemedia.co.za.

We trust that you all have a good Valentines Day and a blessed February, and remember, Jesus was the biggest and best valentine of all times; he loved us enough to sacrifice his own life.

Glyn and Linda Williams

In This Issue

Pg 1: *Be Loving*

Pg 2: *Focus on the Family South Africa*

Pg 3: *Build a Marriage that Lasts*

Pg 4: *On Promotion*

Be Loving ... (Matt. 22:34-40)

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40 NIV)

In His response to the question, Jesus supplies another summary of the message of the law of God: be loving. "Love the Lord your God...love your neighbor." Jesus then revealed that "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Every command in the law of God is related to one of these two commandments.

"Love the Lord your God." The primary demand of the law is an all-out love relationship with the Lord God Almighty Himself. God is to be loved "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." From the depths of our being, love is to be flowing out towards the Lord. In every expression of our personality, love is to be poured out towards God. In every thought that occurs in our minds, love for God is to be the motivation and the content. Any aspect of life that does not indicate a comprehensive, unrestricted love towards God is in violation of His law.

"Love your neighbor." The secondary demand of God's law is an unselfish love towards every other person. We are to love others as ourselves. Some have wrongly used this phrase to urge people to obey an imaginary third commandment: "We need to learn to love ourselves"?! No, Jesus said there are only two commandments here. This second one is a call to give others the consideration and care that we all have given to ourselves all of our lives. Jesus later intensified this second command by saying, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34).

The message of God's law is: be loving. Love God fully. Love others sacrificially.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY S.A.

Focus on the Family Southern Africa is a non-profit, non-denominational organisation, founded by Durban businessman, Danie van den Heever in 1992. It has no political or denominational affiliations. However, its programmes and services are motivated and based on Christian ethics.

Their mission: **Strengthen Southern African families through outreach and trustworthy resources.**

Their desire is to be sensitive to the needs of families and, most importantly, meet those needs with strong, biblically based advice and resources. They consider this their prime directive and a call they are deeply committed to answer.

Focus on the Family broadcasts can be heard on over 35 radio stations in Southern Africa, while newsletters, magazines and other resources are sent to over 40 000 people on their mailing list. Staff respond to telephone calls and letters that include counselling and referral services to families in need. Their outreach programmes offer a variety of biblically based solutions to world problems including HIV/AIDS, drugs and even how to pass on your spiritual heritage to your children. Today, Focus on the Family Southern Africa is one of 15 countries that are part of the worldwide Focus on the Family network.

Some of the Focus on the Family titles currently available at Grace Media.

God Uses Cracked Pots

by Patsy Clairmont

ISBN: 1-56179584-4

Picture an empty flower pot with a crack down the middle. Now, imagine that pot filled with light and covered. Where does the light shine through? The crack. That's how it works with God.

In each of these 61 delightful and downright hilarious snippets of real life, Patsy Clairmont shows how God transforms the silliest of events into incredible examples of his character that emphasize an amazing truth: *God Uses Cracked Pots* – ourselves, our remnants, even our mishaps – for his glory.

R109.00

Healing the Hurt in Your Marriage

by Dr Gary & Barbara Rosberg

ISBN: 1-58997-104-3

Healing the Hurt in Your Marriage will help you and your spouse, from a Biblical perspective:

- Understand how to react to hurt
- Recognise how unresolved hurt leads to anger and distance
- Understand your different conflict-resolution styles
- Face the hurt and move toward forgiveness and healing
- Close the loop in conflict
- Rebuild trust

R69.00

Parenting with Assurance

ISBN: 0-6203-6518-8

compiled from well-tested resources and personal experiences, this book provides the reader with practical techniques and guidelines on how to offer good parenting that is based on Biblical values and principles of life. Its uniqueness is that it brings the child into the centre of discussion, providing the reader with clear stages of child development processes.

R49.00

Creative Correction

by Lisa Welchel

ISBN: 1-58997-128-0

You've tried timeout, grounding, and spanking. But still Junior won't change. Maybe it's time for a new strategy. When correction is done creatively, it's more rewarding – both for the child and for the parents – and it can be more effective at producing long-term results! This fun, easy-to-use book has sold over 150,000 copies. It includes a new chapter specifically on toddlers and small group study questions. It is laid out in a use-friendly manner with toolbox sections full of creative, practical ideas and a topical index.

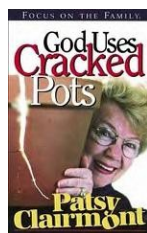
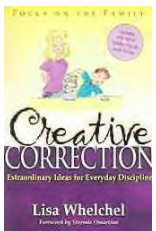
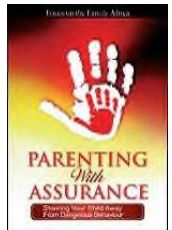
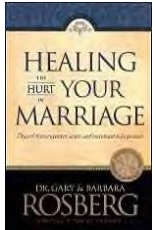
R89.00

Complete Guide to Caring for Aging Loved Ones

ISBN: 0-8423-3588-9

This guide is an indispensable resource filled with practical information on such difficult topics as: choosing the best long-term care facility for your loved one, dealing with the often-complicated family dynamics of caregiving, coping with memory loss and dementia, and making wise decisions regarding end-of-life care. You will also find real-life stories from other caregivers, and information on caring for common health problems. A must-have for today's caregiver, this guide will enlighten you, inspire you, encourage you, and help you to care for your elder with confidence and compassion.

R139.00



BUILD A MARRIAGE THAT LASTS



After the husband and wife say, “I do,” they go off into the sunset assuming that their marriage will remain as it feels at the moment. But when the honeymoon wears off, they may begin thinking, “Maybe I don't.”

It is a rare marriage that does not have some rough spots that could use a little work. Here are some practical tips that can help you to strengthen your bonds of love, no matter what stage you are at in your relationship.

Remember: There are a number of things in the history of your relationship that are special to you. Think about the first time you were drawn to your partner. What was it that first attracted you to them and made you want to make the relationship work? Life has probably become more stressful since then. Issues like children, work, social life and other family matters involved in your marriage, make the days when it was just the two of you seem like a century ago. Think about the times when it was just the two of you with no other worries. Remember the special times you had together and what they meant to you. Remember also the birth of your children and the joy that they brought into your life when they were born. If your children have already moved out of home, think about all the good times you as a family had with them.

And throughout this remembering process, thank God for each aspect and miracle along the way.

Communicate: Communication is a two-way street. It does not mean that only the one talks and the other listens, and it certainly does not mean that you are to impose your perspectives onto your partner. The key word is sharing. Listen to each other in all that they say and seek to understand their viewpoint, even if you do not agree with it. Both husband and wife should realise the great potential of good communication – there are great blessings in both speaking and listening.

This is especially important when there are major disagreements between the two of you. No marriage can benefit from fighting, especially when the fighting focuses on each other's personality and character. Nagging, belittling and bullying do not belong in a good marriage. If you disagree on an issue, be sure to focus on the issue and not your perception of your partner's personality or character. How many times have you felt that your partner did not perceive you correctly? Think about that the next time you disagree on an issue of importance.

After any fight; say “I'm sorry.” No disagreement or miscommunication can be settled or forgiven if there is not a sincere apology. It does not matter who was right or wrong, say sorry anyway and mean it. And accept your partner's apology in a sincere manner too. Do not just brush it off and in your mind think something else about you being right. Forgive them.

The final aspect of communication is to show appreciation for the things your partner does for you or your family. Anything that they do, whether in or out of the home, that is seen to improve the family situation, is a reason to say “Thank you.” Sincere appreciation towards your partner will do wonders in strengthening your relationship, especially when times are hard and the relationship is strained.

Sacrifice and service: Many a relationship is ruined by one partner's need for instant or selfish gratification. A truly happy marriage is based on giving, not receiving. When both of you sacrifice for and serve each other, the relationship can improve so much quicker than with any other aspect. If you or your partner have gifts or strengths that can help build up the marriage, use them, and again, show appreciation to your partner for them.

You can also find a need within your relationship that you can help to fill. No matter how small, all marriages have some or other need that needs to be filled. By you taking the initiative to fulfill that need, and not expecting anything in return, you are strengthening your marriage a hundred-fold. More often than not, it is the little things that we do for each other that count the most in our lives.

Communication also fits in here. If you are needing your partner to do things for you (or not to do like walk muddy footprints onto you just cleaned carpet) tell them. On the other hand, if they do not come to you, go to them and ask them what they would like you to do. Every little thing you do helps to strengthen your relationship.

Devotion: One of the key aspects to a healthy marriage is having devotions together. Dedicate time together to study the many passages found in scripture dealing with marriage and family life, and to pray. By dedicating your marriage and time to God in this manner, you will not only grow closer together as a couple, but more importantly, closer to God. You will also improve as people and in your love towards each other.

We trust that these few tips about marriage will help you to strengthen your relationships.





ON PROMOTION

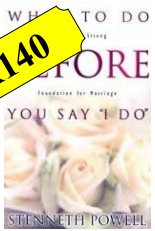


VALENTINE'S BOOK IDEAS



R99

The 10 Commandments of Dating
by Ben Young & Sam Adams



R140

What to do Before You Say "I Do"
by Stenneth Powell



R120

The 7 Love Agreements
by Douglass Weiss



R110

The Marriage Book
by Nicky & Sila Lee



R89

The Love List
by Drs Les & Leslie Parrott

VALENTINE'S BOOK IDEAS



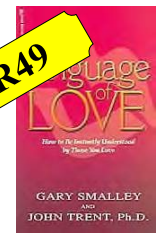
R100

Love Never Ends
by Robert & Jeanette Lauer



R83

Love Lasts
by Daniel Louw
(Ook beskikbaar in Afrikaans)



R49

The Language of Love
by Gary Smalley & John Trent



R70

How to Pray for Your Wife
by Mark A. Weathers



R70

60 Things God Said About Sex
by Lester Sumrall

VALENTINE'S BOOK IDEAS



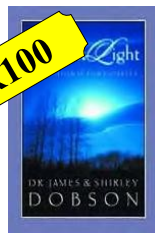
R99

Life Wide Open
by David Jeremiah



R240

NIV® Couples Devotional Bible



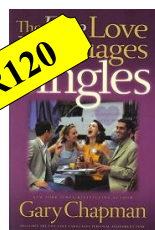
R100

Night Light
by Dr James & Shirley Dobson



R89

Love for a Lifetime
by Dr James Dobson



R120

The Five Love Languages for Singles
by Gary Chapman

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER VALENTINE'S GIFT IDEAS



ALPHA MARRIAGE

Grace Media supplies all you need to run the Alpha Marriage course.



Contact us for more details.

TRADING HOURS:

Monday – Friday:

9am – 5pm

Saturday:

9am – 2pm

Closed Sundays and Public Holidays

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From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd offramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side. Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.

