



Ron and Beth Wells on a drive through Emory, Texas

## Keys to a Great Marriage

**A**t a marriage retreat in Oklahoma, the leaders gave us a beautiful plaque that now hangs in our bedroom. It reads, “. . .and they lived happily ever after.”

We laugh, of course, because in 47 years of marriage we have not always been happy with each other, and we have faced many tough challenges in our life’s journey together. That’s why we often tell couples facing issues that threaten to divide them, “It is God’s will that you not break your vows to each other. He wants you to find ways to face those challenges so that He can use them to shape your lives.”

A Harvard-trained social researcher, Shaunti Feldhahn’s writes in her book, *The Good News About Marriage*: “Marriage may require hard work, but that doesn’t mean that most marriages are hard. For most couples, marriage is the most delightful earthly relationship they will ever know...The vast majority of marriages are happy (around 80 percent)! Most people are glad they married their spouse and, given a chance, would do it all over again.”

For our 47th anniversary this year, Beth wrote me a list of Keys to a Great Marriage. She was inspired at a wedding where both parents gave similar personal lists to the young couple. We encourage you to write a list of your own.

### Keys to a Great Marriage:

- A vibrant, passionate love for God.
- Commitment to each other, to marriage and family.
- Plan ways to disciple and serve others as Christ followers.
- Desire to please each other sexually and physically.
- Have fun, be playful and enjoy games together. Winning is ok!
- Study your spouse. Know what he or she likes and doesn’t like.
- Be kind to each other, as you would be to friends.
- Plan specific times to talk each day. Listen carefully and don’t nag.
- Laugh often...even belly laugh. Read funny stories to each other.
- Listen to music and the “oldies” that you enjoy. Remember sweet times.
- Take walks, bike rides and car rides with the windows down. Enjoy God’s nature.

- Every night, hold each other in bed and pray before sleeping.
- Give back rubs and foot rubs. Touch non-sexually.
- Ask permission when using each other’s things.
- Respect privacy and each other’s personal space. Allow alone time.
- Have good manners. Hold doors open for your loved one.

### What It Means to Be Married

*“To be married means to have our privacy invaded, to live dangerously close to another sinner, to be interfered with by someone who claims to love us but does not always know how. Yet to be married also means to celebrate a sacrament every day, all day, through everything we share, even when we are not together. Marriage is a risky business, but one that is fraught with the deepest kind of joy.”*

—Paul Stevens, *Couples Devotional Bible*

- When angry, give each other time to reset; be the first to apologize.
- Look for the good in each other; speak of these qualities to one another.
- Enjoy the differences between you and celebrate them!
- Be spontaneous. Take time to slip away with each other and try new things.
- Read a devotional together at a meal time. Share where you are with God; pray often for each other and with each other.
- Learn to dance together.
- Encourage hobbies and time away from each other.
- Have other friends. Enjoy sports/shopping with others.
- Keep strong boundaries between others of the opposite sex.

- Remember 4 A’s – No Arguing, no Anger, no Anxiety and no Advice.
- Don’t disrespect your spouse with looks, words or actions (even in teasing).
- Worship together; find a place you can both grow and serve.
- Forgive often and regularly. Hold no grudges.
- Talk. Be a safe place for each other. Trust takes time.
- Discuss financial needs. Work together on issues.
- Give each other the freedom to become what God leads you to be.
- TALK: Time – Affirmation – Listen - Kindness. Keep on trying.
- Be kind to each other; be respectful of each other’s families.
- Keep on learning and developing as individuals mentally, spiritually and physically.
- Seek God’s will for you and your spouse in prayer; be specific!
- Know what pleases him or her. Understand your spouse’s love language.
- A marriage relationship is hard work; determine to do it!

*Continued on back...*



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*Helping Families Grow Healthy*  
[www.centrepoinc.cc](http://www.centrepoinc.cc)  
*On the web and accessible to you!*

## Calendar of EVENTS

### 2015 Dates

- Oct 3 Peace of Mind Conference  
Green Acres Baptist, Tyler, TX
- Oct 4 First Baptist Quitman, TX
- Oct 11 First Baptist Alba, TX
- Nov 12 Timberline Annual Meeting  
Lindale, TX
- Nov 15 Woods Baptist, Tyler, TX
- Dec 1 **\*15th Anniversary of Centrepoinc  
Christmas Celebration Dinner, 6:00pm**  
South Campus First Baptist  
17002 Hwy 69 S, Tyler, TX  
*\* New location! Hope to see you there!*

### 2016 Dates

- Jan 6–11 Pastors' Leadership Conference  
Punta Gorda, Belize
- Mar 9–15 Leadership and Family Conference  
San Jose, Costa Rica
- Mar 18–19 "Call to Active Duty" Men's Conference,  
Westwood Baptist, Tyler, TX
- May 18–29 Conference Speaker - Youth for Christ  
Ministries, India
- June East Asia ministry
- Jul 6–17 Alaska "Salmon Frenzy" Ministry  
Kenai Peninsula

### Your financial support makes our ministry possible.

Will you consider making a special end-of-year gift to support families in East Texas and beyond through Centrepoinc?

Contact us about your giving options, or send a check to the address on this newsletter.  
We appreciate your loving support.

*Continued...*

- Don't neglect each other; make time to connect daily!
- Work to be healthy, attractive, clean and smell good. Get exercise, rest and eat healthy.
- When one of you is down, be patient, kind and wait for him or her. Don't be pushy and demanding.
- Be who God wants YOU to be. Be all there! Seek His approval first, and then enjoy life with the one you chose to love and live with.
- For the rest of your days, live as: "If I could choose again, I would choose you!"
- Life is always tough, so celebrate the good moments. Savor little things like a cup of coffee together, a juicy strawberry, a hot piece of bread and butter, a walk through the pasture or woods, a beautiful sunrise or sunset and a loving, tender moment when you look into each other's eyes and are glad you have each other.
- Growing older together creates either tender patience or bitter contempt and disrespect. Choose to forgive and be kind and patient. Live with hope!

After all, that is the Point ...

Ron and Beth Wells

— YOU'RE INVITED —

*Celebrating the 15th Anniversary  
of Centrepoinc*

— CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION DINNER —



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST  
6:00PM

NEW LOCATION!  
SOUTH CAMPUS  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
ON HIGHWAY 69 SOUTH  
IN TYLER, TEXAS

Please RSVP by November 27th, 2015  
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