

Issacharian Daughters

Fellowship • Encouragement • Exhortation

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Monday, 1 September 2008

Dear Girls,

SEVEN DAYS OF DANCING AND FEASTING

I have often expressed the idea that a 30 minute wedding ceremony just doesn't seem to adequately encapsulate all the joy that ought to go into such an event. For years before my own marriage I was fascinated by the idea of seven days of dancing and feasting—now that ought to just be able to encapsulate all the joy!

From a practical point of view, the idea of seven days of dancing and feasting had its pros and cons. A big pro in my mind was that friends coming from afar would have something more than a short event to attend. And it would give more time for mingling between the guests and bride and groom. On the other hand, I figured that after just one and a half days I'd be exhausted! The logistics would be terrifying. How would one live through seven days?

One day in 2006, I was sitting in the Sydney International Airport. I was in transit waiting for my flight to Los Angeles. My father was sending me to attend a conference in the USA for him. I was to join various households while in the USA and do interviews with all the speakers for my dad's magazine. Sitting in the transit lounge, I noticed a large family of Jews come into the area. Evidently they were flying to Los Angeles too. "Please Lord," I prayed, "can I sit right in the middle of this family?" Guess where my seat on the aircraft was? I was seated right next to the eldest daughter who was about my age. As the journey across the Pacific began, I enquired what was bringing her and her family to the USA. Her sister, she told me, was getting married. "Was it an arranged marriage," I enquired. It was. "Would they be having seven days of dancing and feasting," I asked. Yes they would. I was very excited and put many questions to her.

It turned out that on the first day the couple would be married and given seven blessings. Each of the events on the coming days would be in honour of one of those blessings. It would be organised by a different person who would invite the bridal party and families and then whomever else they wanted. That certainly solved the difficulty with logistics and getting exhausted if other people would do the organizing!

When Pete and I began planning our wedding, we agreed with our families that seven days of dancing and feasting was certainly do-able. We didn't do it the traditional Jewish way, but here is what it looked like:

Wednesday, 13 February 2008: Titus 2 Evening

Thursday: Family day

Friday: Setting up the reception, big family dinner and rehearsal

Saturday: Wedding ceremony and reception
Sunday: Our normal two church services with a big lunch in between
Monday: New Zealand National Premier of the film documentary, *The Return of the Daughters*
Tuesday: English Country Dance
Wednesday: BBQ



English Country Dance: Ladies in period costume and feminine attire lining up for the Virginian Reel.

I have been asked to share about Pete's and my wedding through the *Issacharian Daughters* newsletter. Thank you for your request. Lord willing, in the next few newsletters, I'll focus on some of the different events surrounding the wedding and also include some photos. Thanks

go to the official wedding photographer, Phil Meaney, for some fabulous photos and also to my Auntie Pam, Brett and Bec Cummins, Ty Bollinger and Marcelle van Leeuwen for sharing their photos with me (some of theirs will appear in the following newsletters).

For the Greater Glory of God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

Genevieve de Deugd
Issacharian Wife

Notes:

I have sent this email to girls who have embraced a vision of victorious daughterhood as well as those who may be thinking about doing so (and even to some girls who may just like some encouragement regarding different areas of home life). Some of the girls are in the USA, UK, Australia and other parts of the world. Most are in New Zealand. You are welcome to forward this email on to others so long as you do so in its entirety. If you do not want to receive these emails please just send a return email to me stating that fact. If you know of other girls who would be encouraged by receiving these emails, feel free to forward the email to them or send me their email address.

The name Issacharian in *Issacharian Daughters* derives from Issachar, the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. In the Old Testament the men of Issachar were commended for understanding the times. Because they understood the times, they knew what they should do. One of my aims with the *Issacharian Daughters* newsletter is to equip girls to understand the times we live in so that they will know what to do.