

Issacharian Daughters

Fellowship • Encouragement • Exhortation

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Monday, 8 September 2008

Dear Girls,

EXHORTED INTO MARRIAGE

Titus 2 Evening

An evening of exhortation and prayer to bless Genevieve as she enters into the covenant of marriage

Who: All women and older girls

What to bring: Snack or drink contribution to supper

When: Wednesday, 13 February 2008 at 7:30pm

Where: Reformed Church, 541 Ruahine St., Palm. Nth.

Married ladies! Please come prepared to share some advice with Genevieve. As Titus 2 says, you could teach her something about loving her husband and children, being discreet, chaste, good, keeping her home or submission.

RSVP: Barbara on 06 357 4399 or barbara@hef.org.nz

On the Wednesday prior to the wedding, we organised a Titus 2 Evening. Printed above is the invitation. At the same venue at the same time, we also organised a Titus 2 Evening for Pete, asking the older men he knew in New Zealand to exhort him into marriage. His was held in a separate room at the church, and then all the men and women got together for supper.

My mother was the Matron of Ceremonies (MC) and did a wonderful job. She opened the evening for us in prayer and then gave me her exhortation. Afterwards she asked all the married women to share with me the advice, message, Scriptures or prayers they had for me. Finally there was a time of prayer when we ladies all bowed our heads and various ones prayed for my future marriage and committed it to the Lord.

Pete and I spent a long time discussing this event afterwards. We both felt it set just the right tone for us and was the biggest blessing. It reinforced the solemnity of what we were about to do—covenant together in holy matrimony. And it was a dedication of sorts of our marriage to the Lord.

Following are some of the things the married ladies shared with me:



Mum MCing the Titus 2 Evening.

“[My husband] and I have been reading a book recently titled *Love and Respect* written by Dr Emerson Eggerichs. The basis for his message is Ephesians 5:33. However, each one of you also must love his wife, as he loves himself and the wife must respect her husband. What a wife most desires is love, but what a husband most desires is respect. Showing respect to your husband is how you show him that you love and honour him. We can all understand the concept of unconditional love, but few of us have ever thought of the idea of unconditional respect. The author describes how couples can get into a crazy cycle where a wife might be disrespectful to her husband, so he reacts without love, which causes her to react without respect, and round and round it goes. Instead, if we show respect to our husbands, he reacts with love, which causes us to react with respect. The book then has several chapters that show ways a wife can show respect to her husband, such as appreciating his desire to work, protect, provide, serve and lead, as well as appreciating his desire for friendship and intimacy. I highly recommend this book. I know it has helped me better understand the need to respect my husband. May God richly bless your marriage.”

“*May joy be in your marriage*, ‘for the joy of the Lord is your strength.’ (Nehemiah 8) There is much joy to be found in life. *Joy in our great God*: ‘Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.’ (Psalms 37v4) *Joy in your husband*: ‘As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight.’ (Song of Solomon 2v3) *Joy in your children*: ‘Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is His reward.’ (Psalms 127v3) Our prayer for you both is that you always have joy. *Joy is a gift from Jehovah*.”

“Congratulations on your faithfulness to your parents and family. You have been a blessing to them. Soon it will be your wedding day and the faithfulness, love, devotion and loyalty that you give Pete will be a blessing to you both. Your future can be a fantastic adventure or drudgery. It’s your choice. ‘The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.’ (Proverbs 14v1) Marriage is NOT a 50/50 partnership. Marriage is all of you; your total commitment. No matter how busy you both are, you must always reserve some time alone with your husband each day. Your marriage comes BEFORE your ministry to others.”

“This may be an obvious one...but pray for your husband. It doesn’t always have to be a long prayer. Every day as [my husband] leaves for work it’s a kiss at the door, a wave at the window and a prayer for him as he drives down the driveway and down the road. Your husband needs prayer. It is also very humbling for yourself as you are daily reminded of God’s wonderful goodness in blessing you with a husband.”

“Guard against self-pity in your submission. [We wives are] required to submit even when our husband may be in the wrong. Do not let self-pitying thoughts breed resentment and bitterness. Remember Proverbs 15v15 and Colossians 3v15. Show honour [to your husband] by positive thoughts and actions in every circumstance.”

“May you accept and rejoice over the position our Lord is about to bestow upon you, the wife and helpmeet of Pete. What joy it is for me to share that the training of a wife and helpmeet is never mastered. No wife is perfect but if she is teachable what a treasure she will be to her husband and our Lord. Never disregard words spoken by Pete, as just ideas, rather [hear then as] directives he fully intended to convey. Never underestimate Pete’s ability to communicate just how easily, yet selflessly you can help him by noting and instituting the little things. Be eager to help him in the work God has given him. Do not do

Pete's work, anticipate ways you can add joy to his day and share his yoke. Please be humble enough to never think that you have Pete figured out, that you know exactly what he needs. Pray to remain humble, selfless and willing. You will be thrilled to continue to discover things that God has chosen to slowly reveal to you about your husband, your servant leader. May you recognise that fearing, respecting and serving Pete is a joy that lasts and that in serving and respecting Pete you are serving, honouring and respecting our Lord. What disciplined believer would not fail to rejoice at such an opportunity. And finally do not be nervous about the responsibility you are about to take on. Our Lord says He will never leave you nor forsake you and He does not lie! Blessing, prayers and love. P.S. Please be eager to stop whatever you are doing when Pete needs your listening ear."

"Keep the Lord in the centre of your lives."

"Tell God about Pete's faults first. Then leave a bit of time for God to change *you*."

"Keep reading. Keep growing."

"Our circumstances change. We change. Our husbands change. God doesn't change. During times of trial remember, 'this too shall pass.' At those times remember to pick up the broom and do the next thing."

"Even if you fail, start again."

"Say encouraging things to Pete as you think of them. Verbalize encouraging thoughts. Begin the practice of asking at the end of each day, 'Have I done anything today which has offended you?' Keep the slate clean."

"Remember to tell Pete, 'I love you.'"

"Keep your relationship with God strong."

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.