

Uniquely Joined Magazine

Summer 2020



Life is a Journey.....

This issue:

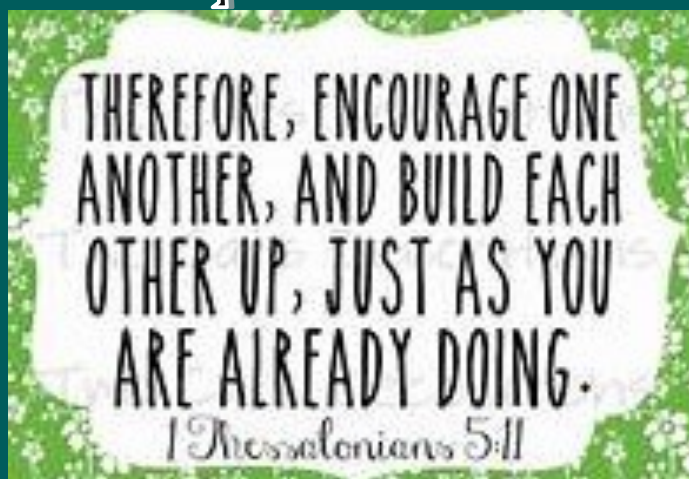
Monthly Scripture, quote & laughter P.2
What's happening? P.3
Family ties P.4
Girl Talk — Guy Talk P.5
Q & A P.6



Pastor Ken and Susan Lashbrook
Editors

Marriage and family are the two areas that the enemy (the devil) is fighting so hard. If he can take down a marriage or a family, then he has got us where he wants us. But God.....that's right but God has ordained marriage as a sacred union and has added family in the mix. Uniquely Joined is a magazine designed to go thru things that happen or may happen in your marriage and family during your walk, and to give insight and encouragement not only from the word of God, but from others. I hope this magazine gives you that insight and encouragement to keep on going. This magazine is filled with items related to your marriage and other areas of life that we go through as a family. Personal testimonies, stories, and insight from those who have walked where your walking. Let's go through it together, God's way.

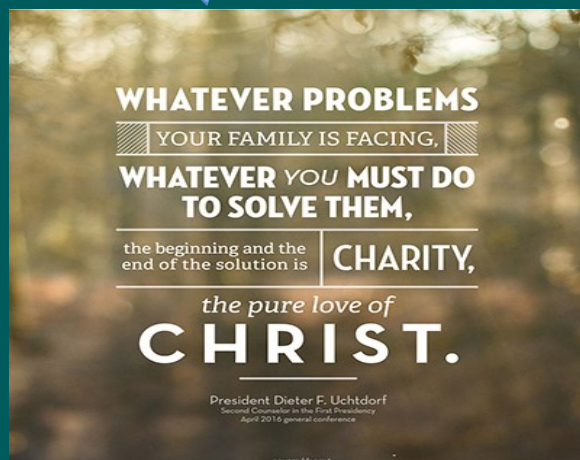
Scripture



Laughter is the best medicine



Quote



What's happening ?.....

Right now there is a lot of what ifs and what's going on, and what do I do? Uncertainty is the norm right now. In my life time, I haven't experienced such a thing as a pandemic or even stay at home order. But, what I can tell you is to try to take the good from the bad. Focus on those things you can do and those things you can accomplish through this time. Let it be a time of God things, God thinking and God moments. Here's some suggestions on handling and coping through this time.

CHILDREN:

I see all over Facebook "oh no I'm going nuts, what am I going to do". Ask God to show you what to do and how to handle this time. Breath life into your kids, pray for them, encourage them, lift them up. If you have a problem teenager, God has given you the time to reach out and get into his/her world and make a change. If it's one of your younger age children having issues, help them by giving them your focus to help conquer that issue. If you have 1, 2, 4 or maybe half a dozen (I bless you mama if you have 12, lol), take each day to focus your attention to one child at a time. Give them the undivided attention that they need thru this trying time of enclosure. Let God use it as a time of change and miracles in your life and your children. Wake up to "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad". Make every day count!

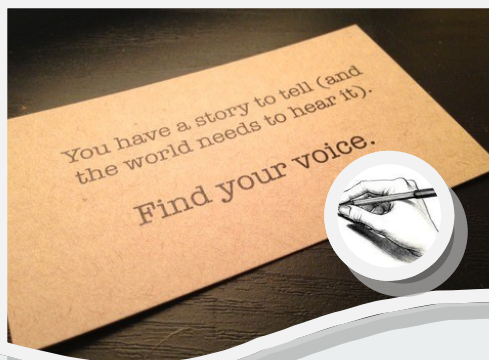
MARRIAGE:

How about your marriage? Have you been having problems or maybe you've kind of grown apart. Take this time to reconnect. If one spouse is home, or both spouses are home, take time for each other. After the kids are in bed, take time to talk, or enjoy time together reminiscing or quality time. Do an in-home date night. Watch a movie together, play a game together. Do something together that you've been putting off. Going through boxes, organizing, or even putting photo albums together. The list is endless. Be creative! Read a book together regarding marriage. Just enjoy each others company, most of all pray and read God's word together. Let this time bring you closer together, but be willing to be open and honest with one another, and let God do the rest!

FAMILY:

How long has it been since you have had family dinner together? Re-invent family dinner. It's important. It's a time to pray together over the meal. A time of talking and enjoy each others company. A time of possible laughter, and time to communicate to your children and a time for you children to communicate to you. Take this time to get to know your family again. If both spouse are home, plan to do something together as a family. Movie night, game night, or go through old pictures together. If both parents aren't home, you can still plan those things together in the evening. Whatever ideas you come up with, enjoy each other and reconnect. Read God's word together and allow your children to comment and ask questions. You'll be surprised at the things they come up with or it may open up areas that you can talk about. Remember, your children small and older, they are little humans, and they are having feelings with what is going on as well as you are. Let them express themselves and ask questions (thru respect of course) and don't reprimand them for being insecure or concerned as well as you are. The most important thing is allow openness in your family, reconnect and become stronger God's way!

Family Ties...



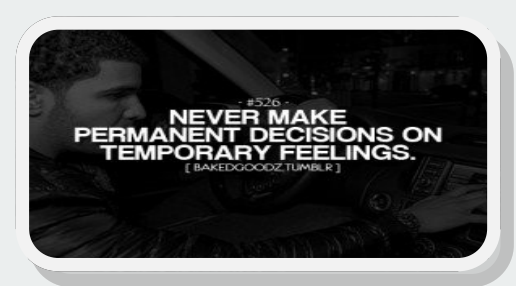
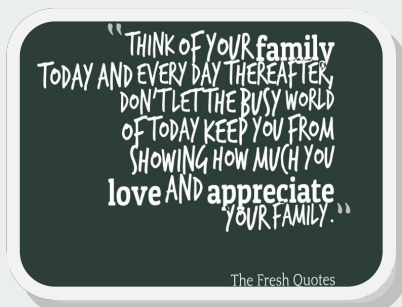
Hold onto your family!

Don't take them for granted.

Recently, last August, I lost my mother. It was very sudden. I always thought mom would be there anytime I needed her. Well, that is not the case. I miss her. Sometimes I want to pick up the phone and call her or expect her to walk through the door. That day I didn't get to tell her I love her or how much I appreciated her. She was gone

that fast! That's what happened to me, what happened to my mom. One minute she woke up from sleep, the next minute she was in heaven. It was a celebration for her, but mourning for me! I am the only child, so except my immediate family, and my dad being there, everything was on my shoulders. I had to make the decision to pull her off life support or let her continue lifeless with no brain activity. I have to tell you, it was only the strength of God that day that helped me through it. Today it still seems surreal and that day is like a fog. I'm not telling you this for you to feel sorry for me, I'm telling you this to show you how precious life is. It can be there one minute and gone the next. My mom was only 9 days from being 69. She was young. She had dreams of seeing her granddaughter get married someday or the birth of her first great grandson that following February. But she wasn't there. There will always be an empty chair at the table, at holidays and everyday.

During this time of seclusion from the pandemic happening, take another look at your life. How you treat your spouse, your kids, your parents, your siblings. Maybe there's a relationship that is broken or a relationship you have taken for granted? Ask God to help you to fix it (if you can) or how you can make it better. Maybe it's just a hug, or saying I love you or making a phone call more often. During this time we can't see others, if we are not in the same household (social distancing), there's other ways: calling, email, social media, even video calling. So many choices that we can choose from. Take advantage of what's available to you. Instead of this time being bad, let's do things to remember this time as a God intervention in our lives and in our family.



Girl Talk

Hey Girls,

Spending time together is good, but too much time like 24/7 can be a death warrant for your marriage. Have you heard the saying "Absence makes the heart grow fonder"? It's a true fact. When you spend a little time away from your man, you miss him. I've had to take several ladies retreats and went away on a job obligation. Boy when I get back, I can't wait to see my honey because I've missed him.

So remember there's always an extreme on each side of the scale. Not taking enough time for each other and being together too much.

Use it to spice up the romance. When you come back together, make it worth the wait!

Pastor Susan



I will wait for
you because
honestly I don't
want anyone
else

Guy Talk

Hey Guys,

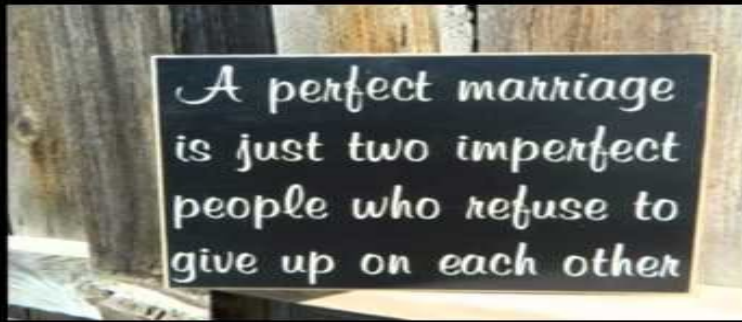
The Proverbs 31 is not a checklist for women to live by or try to obtain. It's a song/poem that should be prayed over them by the important men in their lives. This gives them the blessings and strength to be and have those attributes in their life. You are praying blessings over them.

Bible says, "He who findeth a wife, findeth a good thing."

Is your wife not being the woman you think she should be? Are you fussing and fighting a lot? Are you disconnected from one another?

Pray Proverbs 31 over her and you will see God move in her life and yours.

Pastor Susan



Marriage and family, Q & A

Q: Should I have to ask my spouse permission anytime I want to do something?

A: When you get married, you have to try hard not to lose who you are. Remember you are two different people coming together. The longer you are married the more you conform to each other. That being said your marriage is a partnership, not a government. Your marriage should be strong enough that you can talk about one another doing something and plan accordingly. If it's by yourself or with your spouse. We have different dreams and perspectives. The saying is, The woman wasn't taken from his head for her to govern him, nor taken from his feet so he can walk all over her, But taken from his side to walk side by side, heart to heart through this journey called marriage.

If you have a question regarding marriage and family, we would love to give you an answer. Submit your question online at covenant4life.com.

Your feed back....

We value your feedback and opinions. If you have feedback, would like to see something in an upcoming issue, or maybe you have a question(s) that you would like answered. Email us at:

covenant4lifeaz@gmail.com



If you'd like to make a donation, you can send by mail to:

CFLM

2637 Cherry Hills Rd

Burleson, TX 76028

Or you can donate via PayPal at:

slashbrookac@yahoo.com

Note: CFLM donation

Covenant For Life Ministries International

7301 Moon Ridge Ct.

Fort Worth, Texas 76133

www.Covenant4life.com

Covenant4lifeaz@gmail.com

If you have a question about marriage or family, send your questions to us at covenant4lifeaz@gmail.com and we will be sure to share our suggestions and advice. All done anonymously.