

THE TIE THAT BINDS

Issue 1 Volume 5 May, 1991

COURTSHIP OF DAVE & LAURIE TITUS

by Laurie

Dave and I met in Minneapolis at Park Ave. United Methodist Church. My folks were visiting me for Christmas of 1982 and when we went to church, the pastor told everyone to shake hands with someone nearby. Dave was sitting right in front of us, so he turned and we met and he met my folks. Actually, he told me about this later, I hadn't remembered!

In January of 1983, a mutual friend introduced us after church and I recall thinking how handsome he was. I thought he was much older than I and was attracted to his mild manner and by the fact that he showed no false macho front.

He seemed very mature. However, I figured he was way out of my league and never imagined he'd ever ask me out. A week later, I saw him at church and boldly approached him, wondering if he'd even remember he'd met me. To my surprise he did, he even remembered my name! That night after evening service, some of our friends were going out for something to eat and I invited Dave to come along. He came and we had a great time together, though I wouldn't say Dave and I had a real quality sharing opportunity!

There was a Singles Winter Retreat coming up. I wasn't sure I wanted to go, but when speaking with Dave the Wednesday before the retreat I discovered he was going and decided I would go too. When I showed up to get on the bus for the retreat Dave was helping to load everything onto the bus. I went in and sat down, but I really wanted him to sit with me so I sat up on my foot so he'd be able to see me! When he got on the bus, we made eye contact, but he sat a couple of seats ahead of me — playing hard to get I guess! Well, I didn't have time to get too disappointed because soon he got up and came back to sit with me. Our departure was delayed for about 45 minutes, then we began the 3 hour ride to the retreat center. Dave and I had a great time; we talked nonstop! We talked about our families, our childhoods, our goals, our hob-

bies, you name it! I discovered Dave had a wonderful sense of humor, sensitivity, and depth, placing his values and beliefs in line with God's will and desiring to serve Him. At the halfway point, everyone got off the bus. We went into the store and both Dave and I bought cans of pop. Dave got back on the bus but I thought maybe I should use the restroom. However, when I saw the huge line, I decided I didn't want to risk losing my seat next to Dave — I could hold it! After all, how much farther could it be? Well, Dave apparently did the same thing because about a half hour down the road our conversation became a little more distracted and we both admitted to having to use a restroom in a BIG way! To make matters worse, we had an hour to go, the roads were extremely bumpy (literally bouncing us out of our seats), and we were seated right over the heater! Fortunately we had gotten to know each other well enough to be able to laugh about it, but we both made a bee line to the restrooms when we arrived! There's something about a common experience of this sort that removes all pretense!

At the retreat, we spent a lot of time together, but he also spent some time with another girl who was there. I decided not to push him and trusted God to handle it. When it came time for the ride home, Dave sat with this other girl. I was heart-broken. At the church, Dave just walked home and I figured it was all over.

But the Lord didn't figure that way and thankfully the next Wednesday night at Bible Study we sat together and talked. Afterwards, our pastor greeted us at the door and walked the two of us down the hall together trying to get the scoop on us! I later asked Dave if he wanted a ride home (I think the pastor had something to do with this, I can't remember) and he accepted. On the way he mentioned that we should get together sometime during the week, I said, "When?" and he said, "How about now?" So we went out to a local restaurant. There we layed our cards out on the table. I can still remember Dave, in his usual subtle way asking, "So, what do you want?" — and he wasn't refer-

ring to menu items...or was he? I didn't quite know how to respond to this, so he offered his response first and we determined that we both wanted more than just a casual friendship. I also addressed the issue of "the other woman" from the retreat. He explained that he and she had been friends and he'd felt obligated to let her know where he stood with her and with me and he chose the bus ride home in which to do this.

Thus began our courtship. We had lots of picnics and very simple fun times (usually centering around food!)- walks around the lakes, kite flying, etc. We also took a trip to Hayward where I met his folks, his grandmothers, Rich, Elaine, Patty, Brian, and of course, Baron! After meeting his folks I knew where he got his gentle strength. I was impressed with the respect he showed them and they showed him.

The next week, Dave left with "the men" for Florida (Dave was working at the time as a live-in counsellor at a drug rehabilitation home - he tells everyone that's where he met me, but it's not true!) They were gone for two weeks. We wrote several letters back and forth, I've saved them all, not just because they're so special, but just to prove to him and to anyone else who doubts it that he can write! One of these letters stated his intention of someday making me his wife if I would have him. I was thrilled! When he came home, and 8 weeks after we'd met, he proposed to me while we sat on the couch watching Hill Street Blues! I accepted, of course and 6 months later we were married at Northwestern College in St. Paul.

We've had a pretty good 7 1/2 years together. Sometimes it's been hard, as all marriages are at times, adjusting to each others' immaturities, but the Lord has graciously held us in the palm of His hand and given us the strength and the humor to go on together, loving each other even when we don't always feel like it, laughing together, working together, crying together, learning and growing together. As I sit here thinking back on our courtship I recall that special joy of falling in love with David and I wonder how I possibly manage to forget at times just how blest I've been to have him with me.

Where Would I Like To Travel? By Ellnor Woolhoff

When I saw the title of this suggested article I had to laugh. Since I have gotten older I find it harder to want to travel. If I was a person who loved this kind of adventure I could find somewhere to go.

We have some friends in Brazil who are missionaries. I would like to go there to see and hear of their accomplishments. Our mission people help to support them.

I would like to go to each of my brothers and sisters homes for a few days. I'm not crazy about the mountains, but I would like to go to the state of Washington to see the Mattson family.

All of the years we have been in Kansas I haven't traveled around Kansas to see what it is like. This is something I want to do.

NEWS FLASHES

Missy Manion has just completed an exciting time being part of her high school musical play "South Pacific". On May 4th Missy was part of Solo Ensemble at the state level. She sang "O Bid Your Faithful Ariel Fly" as a solo. She qualified for this by getting a starred first rating at district contest. Also in May Missy's high school choir will be flying to N.Y. City to sing at Carnegie Hall. She will be gone 5 days.

In July, Josh Manion will be in N. Y. City too, for an eight day American School of Chess held at the Marshall Chess Club. He will have classes from 10:00 - 6:00 each day taught by International Chess Grandmaster, Edmar Mednis. The top 40 young chess players in the U.S. were invited to apply and he was one of the fortunate ten chosen. He will stay with a chess family. L.A. California is Josh's next big chess event. He is representing Wisconsin at a national high school chess tour. He will also be able to play in the U.S. Open Chess tour. Dale and Ruth get to go along on this trip. Hopefully it will be a quiet and relaxing 2 week vacation for them.

Dale Manion is working hard to train for his May, 20 mile run from Madison to Stoughton. He runs about 40+ miles per week as he gets in shape.

Ruth Manion is looking forward to a 2 day workshop in Madison given by the famous John Bradshaw. His topic is shame and how it impacts our lives. Ruth is also planning a graduation party for Missy since she will graduate from high school in June. "Wish you all could come."

On March 9th Elinor Woellhof had a fall when she missed her footing on a few steps in a store. She fell on her right foot and sprained her ankle. She is hobbling around the best she can on a pair of "homemade crutches" Paul made for her.

The Mattsons now have their own business - E and C Aircraft. "We have our own airplanes that we rent out. Our services include flight instructions, aircraft rental, scenic flights, and aerial photography. We have 2 instructors that work with us. Both of us have some flight hours." Eddy took a job which starts July 9th as a full time aircraft mechanic at a community college. Charlotte keeps busy with family needs, church and other activities that she chooses to be a part of - like giving a lady voice lessons - which she finds to be quite fun. Rachal is growing. She is 5 now and will be going to a Christian school in the fall. The bus goes right by their house every day.

Cara Woellhof was one of seven Jr. High youth from the West Park Church of the Nazarene in Fort Scott, KS who attended the Quiz Meet in Webb City, MO on Feb. 9th. This meet test the Bible knowledge of Nazarene youth. Cara placed 4th out of 40 quizzers. She is a 5th grader in school. When she reaches college age Cara thinks she might want to attend the Nazarene College in Olatha, KS which would be close to her home.

The Wesley Woellhof farm of 3 1/2 acres has several chickens, some caged rabbits, 1 horse, 8 pigs, 2 dogs and 1 cat. They also have a bird bath and a pan of bird seed right outside their glass kitchen door. In the spring and summer a hanging bird feeder attracts humming birds. The family enjoys watching the many birds that come to eat seeds.

Rita Woellhof told her grandma W. that she wanted to be a nurse when she grew up.

The following are excerpts from the Titus circle letters. We hope more are sent in soon!

From Jane Titus: "After 3 months of overtime (tax season) I look forward to a less hectic schedule and time and energy to do some things around my house. God is so good! He has helped me to have a good attitude about my job and to trust Him and not worry so much about my family, the church, my future, etc.

Steve Fletcher is seeking the Lords will for the coming year. This is the time of year for pastors to make decisions. Nancy and Harold are seeing a gradual increase in attendance and a good Spirit in their services.

From Lola Gregory: "On January 5th we went to Gina's wedding at a Shell Lake church where John and his folks attend. There were between 160 - 200 in attendance. Mary and Carol (Bob and Pearl Thrasher's daughters and Olive Titus's nieces) played the organ and piano and John Boone and his daughter Vicki sang several songs. Gina and John lived in an apartment in Spooner for a while. Then they moved to the upstairs of John's parents home which they fixed up."

"Edgar took a week off of work so that they could go to Indiana for Scott and Patty's wedding on April 6. (same day as Kevin and Rachel's wedding) Bob and Christopher went to be a part of the wedding party. I would have liked to go, but it's a long trip and someone needed to stay to check on things. Kathy and Gina gave up going since they are both preoccupied with a "bundle" and Gina is having problems. She'd appreciate our prayers."

"Paul and Wanda stopped here on their way to Ohio and Kentucky in April. They visited their son, Jon in Ohio and saw their new granddaughter, Sienna Elizabeth-Lee who was born Oct. 16, 1990."

Lola says, "Last fall we finally got rid of our old back porch and started building a new solar type porch. The framework is done, the roof is on and the one end closed in. When the weather permits again, we can start putting the windows in. To say the least, I'll be glad when it's done. To the rest of you it might not seem like much, but around here, any minor project can become a major operation."

From Paul Titus: "Betty and I have become grandparents for the first time. Jason Matthew Overcash was born Nov. 28th about 4:15 AM. Denise got along remarkably well. She went back to work Feb. 1st."

"Bryan is still at Mars Hill. He will have one more semester next fall."

"Kevin and Rachel got married April 6th. They went to Hawaii for their honeymoon. Kevin went to Italy for two weeks in March in connection with his job. In January and February he met his sales quota for the entire year."

From Dorothy Underwood: "Cindy and Darrell got their family room done. It gives the children a nice play area on one end. (The area where we served food at the reunion.) And it's nice to have a door way! We are trying to get lined up in Darrell's studio to make a new recording. Usually this time of year he shouldn't be busy, but he is and so is Marcia. God is good!"

"Frank has only a few weeks of school and then it will be all over. "(I assume he is retiring?)

From Jean Titus: In April Walt and Jean camped at Oscar Scherer State Park about 125 miles south of Spring Hill. It is a wilderness camp. They slept most of the time and went on one of the Nature Trails.

"On Easter Sunday, Art, Angie, Jim, Patti and the girls all came to church and dinner. Shirley and Glen came down for a week in April."

From Elinor: "Paul is aiming for another year of working away from home and then he plans to quit. I plan to keep my job for another three years until I'm 65."

"Paul J. has been going to school in Canada to a seminary. He will transfer his credits to Wesley Biblical Seminary in Jackson, Miss. where he went to school before going to New York."

"Wesley W. hasn't been in the hospital since way last fall. We praise the Lord for that! They dropped their country paper route and are only doing the city route."

In February Rich and Elaine Titus vacationed in Anchorage for two weeks. They saw several moose, watched the Fur Rendezvous Champi-

onship Sled Dog Races, and traveled to Homer, AK. They also assisted with the cooking and child care responsibilities in the Chronister household.

Dave, Laurie, Landry, and Kendrick Titus were also visiting in Alaska the same two weeks. Dave arranged 10 interviews in advance of their trip so that he could look for a job while showing his family Alaska. He was hired as an engineer by Enstar, the natural gas company. They returned home to finish their house, pack their belongs, and say good bye to their friends.

A month later they were back in Anchorage. They have already had an offer on their house in Indiana. Brian and Happy Chronister's 800 sq. ft. basement has been "almost finished" for months and with Dave and Laurie's help it has been finished. This way they can have their own living quarters and still be near family. Floyd and Olive enjoy having them so close. With 10 in the house it can be a wild time - but it works out very well because everyone has their own living areas. The cousins especially like being together. The adults take turns watching the kids, cooking, shopping, and napping. Mostly they fight over whose turn it is to nap.

Olive Titus earned a blue ribbon in the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous Scrabble Tournament at the Senior Center. Winning was not very difficult for her. The best thing about the tournament was that she met someone who likes to come out to her house every week or so to play Scrabble. For her birthday Brian and Happy bought her a Mac computer so that she can play computer Scrabble all day and night if she wants. Playing a human is still more fun though.

Brian and Happy's church continues to attract many people who have not ever gone to church or who are looking for fundamental teaching in a contemporary style. At the end of February they started a 3rd service on Saturday nights which averages about 125 people. This made more room in the Sunday services. One of the Home Groups gave Brian and Happy a gift certificate for 2 nights at a fancy hotel downtown. (That is where I am right now and I have been able to type without phone or children interruptions most of the evening!) Dave and Laurie gave them a hard time for taking their VCR and computer with them on their romantic get away.

Letter From Lola

While reading our last news letter, I was seized by a strange feeling. Why, I hadn't realized until I started reading the article, "Letter from Lola Titus," a second time that I hadn't used that name for almost 50 years. It's still a good name and I'm still glad to be a part of the Titus family.

Nov. 29th through Jan. 4th I spent 5 long weeks with my foot in a cast that I couldn't step on and then 3 more weeks pushing a walker while I tried to get my foot and ankle into action again. So, I'm happy to report that my foot and ankle are finally performing quite well and I can get out of my size 6 boy's sneaker and back into my regular dress shoes.

A special thanks to each of you who found the time and effort to write in our Uncle Phil and Aunt Lola booklets. Thank you for your kind expressions of love and appreciation. It was a real blessing to me while I was confined to the house during all the activities of the Christmas season. Thanks to all who wrote at Christmas time. I thought the card and letter from Jane and family especially clever and well planned.

PHOTOS OF OUR CHILDREN

It has been suggested that we try copying photos of the kids so that we can all see how cute they are. If you wish to show off your little darlings send Ruth a photo (large faces please - not people off in the distance) and a self addressed stamped envelope if you wish her to return it to you.

What do you call a racoon that has his own yacht?

(A tycoon.)

REQUESTS FOR ARTICLES from Happy Chronister

We would like to remind each of you that we enjoy a variety of articles in our newsletter. Please take a few moments and let us hear from you with a brief News Flash or a short article. We would like to publish more stories about how you chose your spouse, or your engagement stories. If Laurie can make time to get her story written, anyone can. She has a baby and she was moving into her new home. We always enjoy hearing about the lives of our diverse and interesting relatives. The next deadline is Sept. for our October newsletter.

In the next issue we would love to hear from each branch of the family. How about a pre-Thanksgiving article listing the many things we are thankful for. Send in photos if you wish. We appreciate your contributions. Send them to: **Ruth Manion,**

**1403 N. Lexington,
Janesville, WI 53545**

DEVOTIONAL CORNER : THE BIBLE

By Elinor Woellhof

As pointed out by a recent Gallup Poll on the subject of Bible reading among Christian adults in the United States, only:

11 percent read the Bible daily

10 percent weekly, and a mere

7 percent monthly.

The same poll also reveals that over 37 million adults never read the Bible. Why?

I personally try to read the Bible through in one years time, but sometimes it takes me a little longer than one year. I have read the Bible through many times. I used to wonder, when at home years ago how my Dad knew so much about the Bible and where the different scriptures were.

After becoming a Christian at age 14, and when I began to read my Bible I could understand how Dad knew so much. I have learned to let God - through the Holy Spirit reveal the truths of His Word to my own heart.

It is through reading the Bible that I made up my mind to be obedient before God in every area of my life. I see what happens to God's people when they become rebellious in their heart life. Many times God tests us to see how obedient we really are. Has God asked you to do something, or give up doing something to prove how much you love God by being obedient to Him?

The Bible is like a mirror. It shows us what we really are in our heart life. Are we really honest about what we see, or do we rationalize things and try to make excuses?

Reading the Bible and obeying God's Holy words brings true happiness, a deep settled peace, a full satisfaction, and a clear conscience that the world and worldly things can not give.

NEW Addresses

Steven & Patsy Fletcher
17505 Shady Hills Rd. (house # has changed)
Spring Hill, FL 34610

Paul Woellhof
Rt. #2, Box 145 (only change)
Miltonvale, KS 67466

Dave and Laurie Titus
4805 Manytell Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99516

Phone # for Eddy and Charlotte Mattson
(509) 787-3924

QUOTABLE QUOTES

by Happy Chronister

I don't mind doing routine things as long as I
only have to do them once. Laurie Titus

Charity: Daddy, where do babies come from?
Brian: Under specific ovulatory circumstances
a male/female interface may generate an incipi-
ent life form, and over a 9 month period...

I think, therefore I am. I think... Dave Titus

The only thing predictable about children is that
they are unpredictable. Olive Titus

If you get burned, you have to sit on the blister.
Walter H. Titus

All generalizations are false, including this one.
Dave Titus

*The following quotes were compiled many
years ago and are all from Lola Gregory.*

It is better to be an unclaimed blessing than a
victim of circumstances.

The joys I have missed are swallowed up in the
miseries I have escaped.

Do you remember when you were a wee little
tot
How your mama sat you on a wee little pot
And made you wee wee whether you wanted to
or not?

The barn swallows on our porch must own it by
now after all the deposits they have made.

You can never spend too much time building
farms before you pour concrete - otherwise you
have a monument to your stupidity.

*The following stories and sayings are from
Floyd Titus, but it is likely that others of the
original 7 may have been known for a few of
these as well, having all grown up together.*

If you are going to preach: Stand up so they
can see you, speak up so they can hear you,
and shut up so they will like you.

What bothers me is not what people don't know,
but what they know and don't do.

There was a woman who had something posi-
tive to say about everyone. Someone bet her
that she couldn't say something good about the
devil, to which she responded, "At least he
tends to his business."

Anyone can be an expert at something if he
studies it an hour a day.

Time and Titus wait on no man. (pre - heart at-
tack Floyd Titus)

I'm still smart enough to know when I'm
muddled up. (post - heart attack Floyd Titus)

If I'm going to die, I'm going to die movin'.

There are old pilots and bold pilots, but there
aren't any old, bold pilots.

You learn more by listening than talking.

When I trust a fellow - I'd trust him with my wife,
reputation, and my pocketbook.

The milk of human kindness has soured.

We raised our kids to be independent, and suc-
ceeded beyond our wildest dreams.

That's a 16 cylinder word!

Definition of an expert: an ex under pressure

It's not what you can't remember that does you
any good, it's what you can't forget.

I don't care what people call me, it's how they
say it that counts.

The speaker announced, "There are no absolutes!" A student in the crowd questioned, "Are you sure about that?" "Absolutely!" answered the speaker.

When any of our kids complained that they didn't ask to be born, I always said, "We didn't really plan on having you either."

Lord give me the serenity to accept the things I
can't change,

The courage to change the things I can,
And sense to know the difference.

St. Francis of Assisi

From the day that you're born
Till you ride in the hearse,
It's never so bad
But what it could have been worse.

I love humanity - it's just people I can't stand

Learn from experience - other people's!

The mind can not absorb more than the seat
can endure.

Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.

It is better to be thought of as intelligent than to
open your mouth and remove all doubt.

I don't feel bad when people insult me or say
unkind things to me because I know it is just a
reflection of what they feel about themselves in-
side.

You shouldn't worry about what could happen,
because most of it never happens anyway.

You tend to marry the people you associate with.

We really ought to go to bed so these folks can
go home.

Three men were standing on a wall, Feeling,
Faith, and Fact. Feeling took an awful fall and
Faith was taken aback, but Fact remained and
brought back Faith, which brought back Feeling
too.

FAVORITE RECIPES

This issue we bring you 3 favorite recipes from the kitchen of Laurie Tikus. Try them together for a super meal. The peanut dip will surprise you. Try it. It's great!

PEANUT DIP

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

8 oz. vanilla yogurt

1/3 c. brown sugar

1/2 t. vanilla

1 c. peanuts

Mix together. Sprinkle a few additional peanuts on top of the dip. Serve with green apple slices.

POTATO CHEESE SOUP

2 lbs. potatoes (8)

4 c. water

1 c. grated carrots

1 c. chopped celery

1 c. chopped onions

4 t. chicken bouillon granules

1/4 t. pepper

8 oz. sharp cheddar cheese

parsley

(Serves 6) Mix potatoes, water, carrots, celery, bouillon granules, and pepper together and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 25 min. until tender. Place half at a time in a blender. Blend till smooth. Return to sauce pan. Add cheese. Cook and stir over medium heat till cheese melts.

Variation: Add a bunch of cut up broccoli with the veggies. A little more water may then be required.

OATMEAL BREAD

1 pkj. or 1T. yeast

1/2 c. molasses

1/4 c. warm water

1 T. salt

4 c. skim milk, boiling

5 c. unbleached flour

2 c. rolled oats

7 c. whole wheat flour

1/2 c. oil

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add milk to oats and oil. Let stand 30 min. Add molasses, salt and dissolved yeast. Add enough of the flour to make a soft dough. Put dough into a buttered bowl, cover, and let rise until double. Turn out on a board and knead until elastic, 10 min., adding enough flour to keep it from sticking.

Divide into 3 loaves and place into greased 9" loaf pans, let rise again. Place a cookie sheet under metal bread pans. Bake at 400°. Check at 25 minutes. If it is getting too dark put foil over loaves for an additional 5-10 minutes.

Variation: Add 1/2 c. honey, 1 c. raisins and 1 c. chopped nuts before adding flour.

Variation: Add 2/3 cup sunflower seeds.

Dale & Ruth Manion
1403 N. Lexington Dr
Janesville, WI 53545

