

THE TIE THAT BINDS

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COURTSHIP OF DOROTHY TITUS AND FRANK UNDERWOOD

by Dorothy Underwood

I heard of Frank Underwood for the first time back in Iowa when Janet and Lois Soultz came to Iowa with Floyd and Olive. (Janet's brother J. married Frank's sister Wilma Jean.) They had been to Gwen Boone's wedding in Wisconsin in the spring of 1950. Later that fall I came to Indiana and started working at R.C.A (October 20, 1950)

Janet became my best friend. In January Janet and I went to the County Basketball Tournament. Janet introduced Frank and me. I didn't get any ideas, because I knew he had a girl friend.

Frank went to the Army that January of 1951. By that time Frank and his girlfriend had broken their engagement.

In March Janet and I moved to an apartment in South Marion. In July Frank came home on furlough and Janet and I double dated one night with Frank and another service man whom I worked with at R.C.A. He happened to be from Fairmount so Frank made all the arrangements. Frank was with Janet and I was with Scott.

Then another evening our S.S. class had a party at our S.S. teacher's home. This was about two blocks from our apartment. Frank was invited to the party. I don't remember much about the party, but before it was over Janet and I went back to our apartment for some reason. While we were there Janet said, "If you stay here, Frank might bring me home." So like a big dummy I stayed home. He did bring Janet back, but I stayed in the bedroom and never showed my face. I listened to them talk. When Frank left I remember saying to Janet, "I don't know why you didn't like Frank. He seems like a real nice guy." That was the impression that stayed with me. From then on I never forgot him.

When Frank's furlough was over he was sent to Korea. He wrote a few letters to Janet. He would tell her to tell me Hi, but she didn't. Frank said that he hoped all of his old girlfriends would be married when he got back home, and they were!

Janet got married in October of 1952. I moved into a cheaper apartment in the same house. All this time I kept him in my thoughts.

In Jan. 1953 Frank came home for good. By that time I was acquainted with Frank's sister Wilma Jean and J. - Janet's brother. We were in the same S.S. class at the Jonesboro Church. Frank was the song leader at the Back Creek Wesleyan Church every Sun-

day.

I remember a S.S. rally one Sunday afternoon. Frank was there and he sat on one side of the church and I was on the other side. He would look at me, and I would then turn my head. Then I would glance at him and he would turn his head. Never spoke to each other, just looked at each other.

One Sunday morning at S.S. Wilma Jean asked me (as a request of Frank) if I would come to their house after church on Sunday night. She was so afraid I would say no, but to her surprise, I said yes without batting an eye! So we met that Sunday night at Wilma Jean's.

Our first actual date was March 1 of 1953. I carried a little song book in my purse. So the first thing we tried to do was sing together. We said if we couldn't sing together we wouldn't go together. He used to sing with Wilma Jean when they were young and I had sung with Elinor and Paul. So we missed that. I could sing when I couldn't say anything!!

I was working second shift at R.C.A. so Frank would come and pick me up after work, and we'd go out to eat at 11 o'clock at night. It wasn't too long until I switched to first shift so we could see each other at a decent time.

It wasn't very long until he was talking about getting married and building a house. That sounded good, but was he talking about me? He never told me he loved me. I had to find out so I said, "Do you love me?" and he said, "yes". He just figured I would know he loved me! Then I knew he was talking about our house! One day he said to me, "If you don't want to marry a farmer, you better decide, because I may be". Although Frank felt a call into Christian work somehow, he was making plans to go to Marion College that fall. Deep inside I knew he wouldn't be a farmer. Then he asked me what my call was and I said special music (whatever that meant) and he felt the same.

Although he never really proposed to me, we were married Sept. 4, 1953 at his parent's home. Walt performed the ceremony, Jean played the piano, and Walt sang "Seal us a Holy Spirit" Wilma Jean and Harry, Frank's oldest brother stood up with us. No honeymoon - Frank started to Marion College the 7th of September.

We started on our house in August, but it took us one year to build it. I learned how to paint and hammer nails. We moved to the farm with his folks. Our new house was between his folks house and the Back Creek Wesleyan Church.

We started singing for revivals that winter. I also

did chalk drawings. So I drew chalk pictures and sang the hymns that went with the pictures. My chalk easel had 11 different color combinations on it. That was the beginning of our special music calling.

I quit working at R.C.A. in July of '57. Frank graduated in Aug. of '57 and Cindy was born October 29 of 1957. Kent was born 17 months later on March 22, 1959.. Linda was born at Baraboo, Wi. Sept. 27, 1963 where we pastored for three years. Just after we moved back to Indiana in 1965, Marcia was born - on August 4.

UPDATE ON THE WUNDERWOOD CHILDREN

Cindy graduated from Marion College with a major in psychology. When we made our last record she met Darrell Powell who was the recording engineer for our project. They were married that year, August 6, 1984. Now Darrell and Cindy have their own recording studio. They have one son, Jared, age 2, born Jan. 31, 1987.

Kent graduated from Marion College with a major in music. His career experiences are in teaching school and being a minister of music in a church. He married Ellenruth Lynch from Ohio. They moved to Ohio over a year ago. They have two girls Kendra, 5, and Katie, 2.

Linda graduated from Marion College and has taught school (first grade) for three years. She almost has her masters completed.

Marcia works at Modern Fidelity where they make cassette tapes after the recording. Marcia's hobbies are painting pictures on saws, doing country crafts, and making flower arrangements for weddings with live or silk flowers.

(a poem - by Paul Titus - as a young boy)
On Mother's Day

On Mother's Day,
We should not play.
But help our mother all the day.
On Mother's Day we should pay our
respect for Mother.
We should be glad
To have a mother
To love on Mother's Day.

GREATES PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Lola Gregory - With the Lord's help, keeping my salvation and my sanity on the same farm, with the same family relationships and the same church affiliations for forty-seven years. Plus, providing a home and loving care for my own dear Mother the last 2 1/2 years of her life.

Phillip Gregory - My greatest personal achievement was building a 60 ft., two story addition to our barn. Bob Thrasher, Edgar and I laid the cement blocks for the lower part. From truck frames we

welded 6 steel trusses for the sides and roof outline - sometimes working in 20 below zero weather. Tractor power helped us raise them into place. We also cut the logs that make up the oak hay mow joists and the pine girts and perlines for the steel roof which we also put on. Now I get tired just thinking about it!

Paul Titus - having a church over 100 people and an assistant pastor.

Betty Titus - physically, eyesight restored; spiritually, complete surrender to God; family, raising three children who are respectable citizens.

Brynn Titus - physical and mental restoration after my accident. Learning to ride my bicycle again for long distance riding.

Patsy Fletcher - having 2 children; home-schooling Dallas for 4 years; and speaking and singing for a ladies luncheon in January.

Steve Fletcher - Being Alive!!!

Dallas Fletcher - putting up with a 2 year old brother; getting mom to play a game with me!

Jane Titus - The only achievement I can think of that has not been "ours" (Clarence and I together) is the development of job skills. Without any bookkeeping or accounting courses in high school or college, by on-the-job training, experience and home study, I am making a living doing a variety of bookkeeping functions and tax work in an accountants office. To God be the glory for His direction, strength and wisdom.

Paul Woellhof - letting the Lord get me out of formal legalistic religion to a genuine holy heart experience; dealing with people in the ministry and in business; and learning to become financially independent.

Carol Woellhof - raising three kids to this point, learning computer, and becoming a book keeper for a cooperative extension in the county.

Becky Woellhof - 13 years old - learning to play the piano and learning to sing harmony.

Christy Woellhof - 12 years old - getting good grades in school which came through home schooling.

Sharon Woellhof - 8 years old - learning to jump rope and to play piano by ear.

Charlotte Mattson - what I want them to be:
1) I want to be the wife and mother that I should be, to be an encouragement to my husband and daughter and to help them make it to heaven. 2) I want to make it to the mission field in God's timing. 3) I want my life to be guided step by step by God. I want all that I do, say, and think to be pleasing to Him.

UPDATE ON STEVE FLETCHER

Steve has made a speedy recovery from surgery in July, and tests show that the cancer is in total remission. He has regained his strength and can do and eat pretty much whatever he wants to. (No basketball, however!) He has regained his appetite (which he lost during radiation treatment) and is beginning to gain back some of the weight he lost. (110 pounds!) People who haven't seen him for awhile don't even recognize him! But he takes it all in good humor - he al-

ways wanted to lose weight, although his particular method is not recommended! Since January 1989, he has started singing again (special music in church) and taking walks outside and playing ball outside with the boys. He is preaching well and the church is growing. We praise the Lord for his miraculous recovery and for the spiritual growth we have experienced through the last year.

Tidwell: Did you know that there are 14, soon to be 15, of the Titus clan living in Florida? During the month of January, 1989, the average temperature was in the high 70's and there was little rain. No snow, either! If you get cold, come and see us.

This was found in Grandpa Titus's autograph book:

*Dear Brother:
Of all the boys both East and West
I love my brother Walter best.
Your sister, Miss Cora Titus (age 14)
March 14, 1903*

Typer's Trauma - a note from Happy Chromister

Next you will find the Titus Reunion Cash Fund Report. The last time we tried to print one of these it took about 2 hours to get the numbers to tab correctly and line up straight. After a great deal of frustration and constantly bugging my husband who already spends way too many hours helping me get this newsletter to print right, I am going to give you a new and unique report. How about if we try it in paragraph form?

TITUS REUNION CASH FUND REPORT

Our balance on hand as of 11-30-87 was \$1,560.58. The interest received from 12/87 - 12/88 was \$84.87. We received a loan payment from C.C.C. (Hargis) in 11/88 of \$2500.00 Newsletter expenses for printing and mailing were as follows: \$5.50 for additional expenses on the 7/87 issue, \$48.93 on the 2/88 issue, and \$61.19 for the 9/88 issue. Total expenditures were \$115.62, leaving a balance of \$4,029.83 as of 12 - 31 - 88. Jane Titus

MEET THE BABIES

Andrew Lee Gregory (8 months) is getting old enough to interact with his big brother Christopher. They are really beginning to enjoy each other, reports Great-grandma Lola.

In September, Judy Gregory spent 3 weeks in Spooner Hospital because of back problems. On Nov. 4 she went to Eau Claire Hospital and had a 9 hour operation on her back. The doctors said she could soon have been paralyzed from a fragment of a disk which was pressing on her spinal cord. They replaced 3 disks with a piece of bone from her right hip and reinforced it with a steel rod and wires, then fused the bone in place. That will cause some stiffness, but it has relieved the intense pain and her blood pressure

has gone back to normal. After 2 weeks at home she can stay by herself since she is now able to wear her body brace all day and she can get in and out of bed by herself. She carries a portable phone with her around the house. Judy said the morphine they gave her sent her on a 3 day trip with a lot of hallucinations- even to thinking the nurses were holding seances in her room.

Wanda Gregory and Diana bought out a floral shop in Butte where Wanda had worked for several years. They are very busy and were doing especially well at the Christmas season.

Lois and Phillip Gregory sang in the Cranberry Festival Choir Sept. 30th at Stone Lake, WI.

Kevin Titus recently received a promotion in his company and he is now selling textile chemicals in the Southeast. He had to move to Greensboro so he bought a house near High Point. He is hoping this is his last move for awhile. His job requires a lot of travel but he likes it.

Denise and Mike Overcash are still in Mooresville. Denise is personal manager, etc. for the Belk department store there. Mike plays golf in the summer and works on cars during the winter, that is, when he is not working his regular job. No children yet, just three dogs.

Bryan Titus still continues to improve. After having reached a plateau for several months, he is making more progress. He is driving the car, going to school and riding his bicycle (longest trip was 50 miles in one day).

Betty and Paul Titus are doing quite well considering what they have been through. Betty quit her job in Oct. and has been helping with church work. Even with an assistant pastor, there seems to be plenty to do.

All Eddy Mattson has to do is take his test and he will have his private airplane license. Besides working at Coast-to-Coast (his regular job), he works part-time at 2 airports and a community college as an airplane mechanic.

Charlotte Mattson has now upgraded her ham license from Novice to Technician. Her call sign is still KB7EEP.

Rachael Mattson celebrated her 3rd birthday on Dec. 27th by having two of her little friends over, their mommies and daddies, her Grandpa and Grandma Mattson and her Great-Grandma Mattson.

Congratulations Pat Titus for passing your National Registry for Histotechnology exam. Pat also moved into her own apartment in November.

Art and Angie Titus are still working in retail in Florida.

Jim and Patti Titus are living in Port Richey, FL. Jim is now working for Walgreen's. He is closer to home and not working as many hours which is a good thing. Patti needs as much help as he can give her with their new twin daughters, Cassandra Pa-treeese (5 lbs. 13 oz., 19 1/2") and Courtnae Aleese (4 lbs. 7 oz., 18") who were born January 16th.

Jean Titus is working as church secretary and Walt is counseling at their church. Jean had cataract surgery in mid February. She went in and out of the hospital on the same day and then returned the next day for a check-up.

Brian Titus started a new job in Dec. with Trus Joist International in Naperville, IL.

Darrell Powell has been very busy working with the Bill Gaither Trio. A highlight for Darrell was traveling to Omaha, NE to run the sound for the Vice-Presidential Debate. Frank Underwood and Darrell have built a 16-track recording studio on the Powell property.

For Cindy Powell motherhood is keeping her on her toes. The studio keeps her busy also. She is in charge of the business end, tape duplication and singing background along with her sisters on some of the projects they do. She still occasionally works for Gaithers when they need some extra help. Cindy is also directing the church choir along with being church pianist and Jr. High S.S. class teacher.

Jared Powell is now 2 years old and loves tractors. He also likes to sing, among his favorites are Jesus Loves Me, the Jeopardy Theme Song, Away in a Manger and Triumphant The Church Will Rise.

Rick and Elaine Titus recently traveled to Austin, TX to visit Mar and Ron Bateman. They reviewed the architectural plan for their lodge at Hoinville which Ron is working on for his thesis. Marlene will be giving an hour recital on May 2 of arts songs, mostly in foreign languages, as her thesis.

In September Brian Chronister will be planting a new church in the Anchorage area. He will be thrilled to no longer be the Pastor of Finance and Administration, worrying about paying the bills and meeting the payrolls for a \$1.5 million church/school ministry. Instead he can focus on teaching and preaching and working with people. About 40 adults and 25 children from the "mother church" have already indicated that they hope to join in the new work.

Happy is happy that her parents, Floyd and Olive Titus, plan to live in again for another year. It enables her to be involved in ministry and mother to children with less stress.

Charity Chronister and two friends had a joint birthday party February 17. It was a wild time, with three clowns and more than 50 moms and kids attending. Everyone brought a new or a used toy which will be used in the nursery of the new church. Everyone got to open a present and then the birthday girls divided them up.

Dan, Jody, and Jade Titus have moved from Sun Prairie, WI to Minneapolis. Dan got a promotion. Congratulations!

Joey Titus is going to Ireland as a reward for getting the most new subscriptions for the newspaper he delivers.

Orval Butcher, Alumnus of the Year from Barnesville Wesleyan College, credited Floyd Titus' self-

less generosity with getting him to Miltonvale Wesleyan College by "stepping down from the college quartet so I could have my way paid as a member of that quartet."

Floyd and Olive Titus have found some advantages to living in Alaska besides getting to see two of their grandchildren every day. After 6 months they qualify for the permanent fund dividend which was \$800 in 1988. On Aug. 5th they will qualify for the longevity bonus which provides retired residents of Alaska with \$250 per month, each. They also qualify for cheap airfares from Delta, so that they can take several trips out of Alaska for nominal cost. Their first trip will be to Indiana for the months of May and June and then they will spend part of July in WI and then take a trip to CA for a Pomeroy Reunion.

Paul and Carol Woeilhof are living in Lyons Falls, N.Y. where they have been pastoring the Grace Christian Fellowship Church (similar to Wesleyan Armenian) since May of '87. Paul says the Lord is blessing their ministry. They have about 45 in attendance. They are involved in several other ministries: an "over 50" luncheon and Holiday tapes - where they share the gospel through the theme of the holiday. They also had a Sweetheart Banquet for Valentine's Day. Paul works part-time as an Electrolux salesman. If anyone needs a vacuum, let Paul know! They have been home schooling their three girls for two years. They use the Alpha Omega curriculum.

The Manion family is making plans to fly to Alaska for the first week of June. Missy will get to stay for the whole month and help entertain David and Charity while their grandparents are on vacation. In preparation for the trip, the Chronisters and the Manions are each listing their expectations for the week together to better insure that everyone has a wonderful time. So far it looks like there will be a lot of eating, reading, and mountain climbing, with computer games and video games entertaining the night owls.

A special announcement comes from Nancy Titus. She will be marrying Harold Fisher, a Free Methodist minister, on May 5th. She met him one weekend while she was in Orlando for a Beauty For All Seasons seminar. Her pastor gave her the name of a woman she could stay with from a Free Methodist church in Largo. Nancy sang in the Largo church while in town that Sunday evening and met the single pastor. He is 16 years older than Nancy, kind, considerate, and understanding - the kind of man she always hoped to find. Congratulations!

1990 REUNION

Please now to attend the next Titus Reunion. It will be held in Indiana on a week-end in early August. Following are lists of committees with which you have offered to help. *Chairperson

FOOD COMMITTEE - *Barbara Swanson, Walt Titus, Elaine Titus, Rose Titus, Olive Titus, Paul Titus, Betty Titus, Missy Manion.

HOUSING - *Underwoods.

PROGRAM - *Happy Chronister, Rose Titus, Barb Swanson, Ruth Manion.

RECREATION - Underwoods, Missy Manion.

RECORDS - Financial - Jean Titus, Jane Titus, Wes Woellhof.

RECORDS - Correspondence - Olive Titus, Shirley Ruschill.

These are the foods that have been requested for the next reunion: pizza, pancakes, salads, fresh fruit, ice cream, chocolate chip cookies, lasagna, spaghetti, banana cake, chocolate cake, omelets, baked potatoes.

These are the Program ideas that have been suggested: A group musical number by all of the kids, talent night, family feud game, baby picture identification game, showing of John Titus' home video of the last reunion, family treasure hunt on paper as a get acquainted activity the first evening, family interviews on video, a family fun run - 2K and 10K.

OUR FIVE SENSES A poem by Dallas Fletcher

We have five senses,
Don't ask me why,
But if we didn't,
We couldn't taste rye.

We couldn't smell cookies.
We couldn't feel snow,
We couldn't see when the light
Changes from stop to go.

We couldn't hear the cars go by,
We couldn't feel if it's hot or cold,
We couldn't see what's going on,
We couldn't hear what's being told.

Our five senses,
Makethingsbetter,
If we couldn't see,
You couldn't read this letter!

MANIONS PUBLISHED

In the fall 1988 issue of the Christian magazine, Marriage Partnership, two letters from Dale and Ruth Manion were printed. They described the beauty and blessing of sex in marriage and ways they have reached a deeper understanding and appreciation for sex with each other. This is what they wrote:

Four guidelines for lovemaking

It's no simple matter to determine who will initiate lovemaking and when that person should do it. Because my wife and I have always talked openly about our feelings - and especially about sex - we each feel free to say when we want to have sex. Several things have created this openness:

1. Total commitment to each other.
2. Acceptance of ourselves.
3. Acceptance of each other.
4. A commitment to not have sex unless both of us are interested.

This last one has taken away the fear of rejection, which has given us both the freedom to initiate sex while still keeping a servant attitude toward each other.

An intimate lifestyle

There are many ways a couple can put excitement into their sex life without compromising their values. Many are as simple as a wife wearing sexy lingerie; spouses doing special things for each other - things you know turn the other person on; or going out to a special restaurant.

All of these are necessary, but they provide only temporary boosts to our sex life. My wife and I have found during our 25 years of marriage that an exciting sex life is a result of an overall intimate lifestyle. One of the things that has helped us develop that intimacy is our shared time together. At least three times per week, we spend two hours sharing emotionally, spiritually and physically. Many times this is hard work, but it's always well worth the time. The intimacy created during these times has led to our accepting each other in whatever stage we happen to be. The closeness has led to an exciting and giving atmosphere in our sex life.

Marriage is a favorite topic for Dale and Ruth. Any one care to respond to a question on marriage? What is one of the high points in your marriage - why was this experience so meaningful to you?

QUESTIONS TO RESPOND TO

Mail your answers to Ruth Manion, 1403 N. Lexington Dr. Janesville, WI 53545

Is your favorite food on our food list? Write and have it considered for our Reunion Menu.

Do you have a program idea? Send it in.

Does anyone have a favorite song for all of the kids to be learning so that they could sing together? Can anyone make copies of it to send to all of the kids?

Is anyone interested in designing a family T-shirt? Is anyone interested in owning one?

What is your favorite memory from the reunion of 1986?

Is anyone interested in a video tape of the 1990 Reunion which would have each family taped as a family group, saying their names, ages, occupations, and interests? Is there a volunteer to do the taping and interviewing?

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Brian & Harper Christensen
4805 Mangfall Ave
Anchorage, AK 99516