



# Living Well

## Energize2



Ed Edwards  
President

Donna Edwards  
Executive Director

March 2011

## Marriage Glue

Check out these websites for more information:

For more detailed information about the ministry - [www.livingwellok.org](http://www.livingwellok.org)  
Photos and writings about the ministry - [www.livingwellok.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwellok.blogspot.com)  
Encouragement/culture on marriage - [www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com)  
Marriage events in the state, resources for marriage - [www.marriagenetworkok.net](http://www.marriagenetworkok.net)  
Making Marriage Memorable blog - [www.marriagenetworkok.blogspot.com](http://www.marriagenetworkok.blogspot.com)

**Instead of letting money become a wedge that divides a marriage, God intends for it to be one of the glues that brings about true oneness.**

God puts us together to complete one another, to use our different gifts and abilities to enhance the marriage; it takes two people working together as one to succeed. God wants to use conflict to bond couples together as they work through issues, including financial issues. **Money challenges can bring the two closer together.**

We all enter into marriage with strengths and weaknesses. The differences between spouses concerning financial matters can stem from our gender, backgrounds, personalities, and even our relationship with

God. If we fail to understand those differences, deep hurt can result. But working together as a team, letting those differences actually fill "gaps" in each other lives, can result in a marriage where finances are a strength not a difficulty.

Whenever financial matters start getting out of hand in a marriage, **the first thing to do is to pray**; it's best if husbands and wives pray together (if you're not there yet, pray individually). There is absolutely no substitute for God's answer. Ask the Lord for His direction and for wisdom regarding your finances.

**We simply ask God what He wants us to do with the money entrusted to us by Him.** He owns it all, but has made us managers (stewards) over some of it for a purpose.

**Good communication and planning are essential for success.** We determine where we are financially, have

a mutually agreed upon, fair plan, and talk about it (calmly and regularly). *"With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love."* (Ephesians 4:2)

**Agreeing as a couple about financial decisions and goals requires loving consideration, usually some compromise, and may involve sacrifice from both partners.**

If the financial problems and/or communication issues are intense, most couples need to seek outside help to get on track. **Seeking counsel for marriage or financial problems should be as normal as seeking medical advice when something is wrong physically.** *Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.* (Proverbs 15:22)

Don't forget – **difficulties are opportunities to grow into the couple God wants you to be!**

## Good advice .....

*In marriage do thou be wise: prefer the person before money, virtue before beauty, the mind before the body; then thou hast a wife, a friend, a companion, a second self.*

William Penn

*No gift is more precious than good advice.*

Erasmus

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*

James 1:5

*I can tell you without any fear of contradiction or oversimplification that the root cause of all marriage conflicts is selfishness.*

*I can say that because there's probably no better practical synonym for the concept of sin than selfishness. Sin (i.e., selfishness) is at the heart of all marriage problems.*

*To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are His.*

Job 12:13

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.*

Psalm 32:8

*The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.*

Proverbs 12:15

*Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

Proverbs 15:22

*Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.*

Proverbs 19:20

On the reverse side:

**High Voltage Marriage2**

**Recharged2**

## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.livingwellokc.org  
www.livingwellokc.blogspot.com  
www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com



Read an expanded version of these articles on our blogs.

## High Voltage Marriage, part 2 .....

In our previous letter, we covered three ways to add energy to your marriage.

**1) Take the dare – stare at your own life,** look in the mirror at your own life instead of blaming your spouse.

**2) Cut up the list - the list we keep in our heads of past offenses and future expectations.**

**3) Start talking!** Not talking to my partner or talking to myself but **talking to God. Pray for the other person**

**Part 2, three more ways:**

 **4) Assume Nothing - No mind reading!** Mind reading is when you decide on your own what the other person is thinking or what their motivation is.

Assumptions are dangerous. They drain a marriage and can be very destructive to a relationship of any kind. If there is a misunderstanding or if you have been offended, ask the other person to explain what they mean.

**Rather than getting defensive or attacking, assume good will by the other.** Then ask for clarification, in a genuine, sincere tone of voice. For example, "I was wondering if you could clarify what you are saying. I am not questioning you, just asking a question."

 **5) Be in the Know - Know what means love and respect to your spouse.**

**Don't give in the way you want to receive, give in**

**the way your spouse wants to receive.**

**Being a student of your mate is a study that we never finish.** You never graduate from that school.

The principle applies to other areas besides just love.

How do we show respect in a way the other can recognize and receive it? How do we apologize or show forgiveness in a way our spouse can receive it?

 **6) Expect frayed wiring!** The energy in our marriages sometimes short circuits.

**Conflict isn't bad.** It only means that you are part of the human race.

**Working through a conflict can actually bring you to a much closer place in your relationship. Avoiding conflict is deadly.**

Not that we have to talk through every single thing. There are some things that you just agree to disagree.

But on vital issues, avoiding the conflict means that you push it under and it erupts later and worse.

So, do not avoid it, just because it makes you uncomfortable.

**Conflict doesn't mean you have a bad marriage or that you need to leave your job or friendship.** It means you are human like the rest of us.

## Recharged, part 2 .....

### We must RECHARGE.

Just as a rechargeable battery takes time to recharge, recharging our marriage takes time - nothing takes the place of time together!

• **Intimacy in a relationship takes time!**

• Establish regular times for connecting — at least 15 minutes **per day**, a date **once a week** (by yourselves to have fun), and a **yearly get-away** by yourself.

• **A key to intimacy is spending time sharing your desires, dreams, deepest thoughts and emotions.**

*You might have loved me, if you had known me. If you had ever known my mind. If you would have walked through my dreams and memories. Who knows what treasures you might have found. Yes, you might have loved me. If you had only taken the time.*

Anonymous