



# BILL PRANKARD EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage! Bill & Gwen Answer Your Questions



August, 1964



August, 2014

## Q. How did you meet?

**Gwen:** My Pentecostal Church youth group had a weekly radio program on a Brampton, ON radio station called *Brampton Youthtime*. I was the “poet” on the *Poet’s Corner* segment, and read an inspirational poem on air. (it was ‘cool’ back then!). They also had a testimony segment in which they interviewed young people from other churches in the city. Bill was invited to represent his Baptist church and share how he met Christ. As soon as he walked in the studio I was smitten! I didn’t know at the time that he really didn’t have much of a testimony, but the Lord took care of that in short order!

**Bill:** I was raised in a nominally Christian family and church, so I’d never really heard of the ‘born again’ experience. When I was invited to represent my church and share my testimony on *Brampton Youthtime*, I didn’t really have one, but I remembered an

instance when I’d answered an altar call at a children’s outreach at another church, (although I hadn’t understood what it meant at the time). When I met Gwen I was struck by the fact that she and her friends really “knew” Jesus. She was beautiful inside and out, and I determined to get to know her and the faith she talked about so freely. Fifty years later, here we are.

## Q. What are the 3 greatest values that have made your relationship continue through the years?

**Bill:** #1 - Our love for God and making Him central to our marriage. Everything we do revolves around that.

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PO BOX 7007 STN V | OTTAWA, ON | K1L 8E2  
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#2 - Our love for one another. We took our vows seriously, and that helped us work through the tough times when feelings alone couldn't sustain us. We still look for ways to renew our vows every day – usually by doing little things for one another, but they are tangible expressions of our commitment to love one another.

**Gwen:** # 1 – Our shared faith. It has sustained us through every storm, and continues to be the motivation for everything we undertake together.

# 2 - Our committed love for one another. Attraction and infatuation might get a relationship started but true love gives 100% over the long haul.

#3 - 'Big picture' perspective. In other words, don't sweat the small stuff. Some issues might seem overwhelming when you're in the midst of them but the Lord has shown us time and time again that He really does work all things together for our good. Our best lessons were learned through pressing through the big challenges.



**Q.** I noticed that Gwen has the same last name as you. Has this been a contributing factor in the awesome longevity of your marriage?

**Bill:** Gwen had a much simpler last name to spell than me (Rowe), so maybe it would have been easier for me to take her name! But seriously, for us, sharing the same name demonstrates that we are one. Gwen was brave to become a Prankard. Our family is an interesting bunch!



**Gwen:** Even though I'm sure the question was asked in jest, there's an important observation I'd like to make. 50 years ago nobody questioned the idea that the woman would take the man's name, but today some women maintain their maiden name. I assume it's because they want to assert their individuality. For me it was a purposeful recognition of our unity, and of Bill's role as the head (or covering) for me and our family unit. He has never abused that role but has kept his commitment to love me as Christ loved the Church, him and be fully involved in all aspects of the ministry.





**Q. Did you ever encounter a time in your marriage when you thought your marriage wouldn't survive, and if so what significant changes did you put in place to reinforce your union with each other and with Christ?**

**Bill:** Yes, in the first couple of years of our healing ministry, I put ministry ahead of our marriage and family. It caused real tension between us until I had a dramatic encounter with God, when He showed me I was full of pride and I repented. I committed everything to the Lord and He showed me how to change things so that I could fulfill His mandate on my life and still give Gwen and the kids the attention and family time they needed and deserved. Our kids and their spouses are all serving God today, which is a testimony of God's faithfulness.

**Gwen:** During that crisis period in our marriage, I was torn between thankfulness to God for the revival that was taking place, and my frustration over Bill being away so much, then not engaged with me and the children when he returned. My response was to withdraw emotionally, which of course, reinforced Bill's determination to get fulfillment from immersing himself in ministry. The Lord gave us a clear strategy for arranging his schedule so that he'd be home a portion of every week, and we ensured that those days were quality times together. Once the children were grown, I was able to travel with him and be fully involved in all aspects of the ministry.

**Q. How do you deal with disagreements, and how do you find a compromise?**

**Gwen:** We are very different. Bill is a visionary and spontaneous, and tends to respond from his emotions. I am more practical and often over-think things. In the early years of our marriage that was a problem, but as we matured, we came to realize that, what we saw as 'weakness' in each other became real strength when we committed those traits to God and learned to draw from one another. Bill is still a big visionary, but we now process it, pray it through and work together to see it fulfilled.

**Bill:** We stopped having disagreements when I finally realized that Gwen is always right! Seriously, as Gwen says, we've learned to listen and appreciate each other's

strengths. We've also learned the secret of giving. It's more than just giving "to" one another. It also involves giving *in* (to acknowledge the validity of your spouse's opinion), giving *over* (to submit your frustrations or stress to to Lord), and giving *up* (to be willing to surrender your selfish desires for the sake of what God wants and what's best for your spouse and family). Over the years we've both mellowed a lot, and know each other so well that we seldom disagree.

**Q. How do you balance 'togetherness' with the occasional need for solitude?**

**Bill:** We have always spent the majority of our time together, working traveling and ministering – and we love that. The only time we are apart is when our schedule makes it necessary. I'm sure Gwen appreciates the occasional break! I don't need solitude as much as she does, but I do value having alone time now and then.

**Gwen:** We both really like being together, and the fact that I don't accompany Bill on every trip gives me more than enough times of solitude.

**Q. How important is atmosphere in your home and why?**

**Bill:** When I'm on the road I'm giving out most of the time, so I appreciate that Gwen has worked hard to make our home a haven of peace and tranquility. We practice the same values and live our faith the same as when we're in the public eye.

**Gwen:** As an evangelist's wife, I think it is especially important for me to create an atmosphere in our home that Bill would want to come home to. After being on the road and giving out night after night, he needs to know that he will be returning to a place of peace, where he can rejuvenate his spirit and have fun. We laugh a lot and that keeps us both fresh.

**Bill:** The bottom line is, ever since we said 'I do' fifty years ago, we have endeavoured to fulfill God's purpose and destiny for our lives. He has been so faithful, and whatever the future holds, we believe it will just keep getting better!



## **‘DOUBLE THE BLESSING’ UPDATE**

### **For Repulse Bay, NU**

During this Summer of Miracles, we received a wonderful commitment from Crossroads Christian Communication. They offered to match every dollar given to BPEA for the Repulse Bay project from mid-June until August 31<sup>st</sup>, to a maximum of \$30,000.00. This means that, if partners give a total of \$30,000.00, it will become \$60,000.00, and will cover almost all of the funds still needed to complete the building.

The facility will serve not only as the local church, but will become a healing and training centre where we will minister to and train up a new generation of spiritual leaders from across the Arctic, and send them back to impact their communities for Christ. Should the Lord bless and supply more than is needed for the physical building,

any remaining partnership gifts will be used to cover the cost of launching and sustaining this vital ministry program. We believe that the curse of suicide in the north must be stopped, and we are using the greatest weapon of all to fight it – the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit!

Throughout the summer, our resident workers, Michael & Darlene Clark, have been overseeing the work and coordinating the building program. The exterior portion of the building is in progress, and we expect to have all the outside work accomplished before the snow begins in the fall. The interior work will then be accomplished during the winter months.

Let's pray, believe and GIVE to make this the greatest Summer of Miracles ever for Repulse Bay!

Yours in Christ,



Bill Prankard



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tel Aviv, Israel  
Aug 16  
Adonai Roi Congregation

Edmonton, AB  
Sept 19-21, 2014  
The Peace Place | 4900 93rd Ave NW

Kitchener, ON  
Sept 28-29, 2014  
The Christian Link | 100 Fergus Ave.

Port Perry, ON  
October 2-4, 2014  
Canadian Prophetic Council National  
Conference|

Canadian Arctic Trip  
October 17-24  
Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour & Rankin  
Inlet

Bill Prankard Evangelistic Association  
PO Box 7007 Stn V  
Ottawa, ON K1L 8E2

Tel: 613-749-5050 | Fax: 613-747-5685  
Toll Free: 1-888-344-6333  
[info@bpea.com](mailto:info@bpea.com)