



New Beginnings Marriage Ministry

Living Joyfully and United as One

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one." Matthew 19:5-6a

**Peter and Anita Higman
Married July 21, 1979
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

New Beginnings: How did you first meet?

Anita: I think this is a wonderful story, since a simple thing like showing up early for a family reunion led to a string of events that led me to my future husband. I had graduated from college, but was miserable with my first job. When I showed up really early for a family reunion held at my uncle's house, I began to talk about my unhappiness at work. Then the most amazing thing happened. My uncle offered me a job. I didn't think I would take a job as a computer operator because it wasn't anything I was interested in and I hadn't taken any college computer courses. But one of my aunts encouraged me to take the job, so I did. And then while I was working for my uncle, a man named Peter Higman showed up at the office. I remember turning to my coworker and saying, "Whooo is that?" She explained, and then right away I marched out of the computer room and introduced myself to him. Then I set about trying to find clever ways to get to know him better. We took a train ride to Ardmore Oklahoma and spent the day there milling around the town and talking. That is when I fell in love.

Peter: I came south from northern New York to get a job in the oil business since I wanted to use my geology degree wisely. I got a job in Dallas, but shortly there after got another job in Oklahoma City. Anita and I worked together, and we got to know each other. I came to appreciate and love Anita's unique qualities.

New Beginnings: What did you love about the other when you first met?

Anita: I know this sounds rather silly, but I loved the way he talked. He was very intelligent—he still is—and I was impressed by that. He would start talking about clouds, and I was swoon 😊

Peter : I was impressed with her commitment to her belief in God and her desire to always do what was right. This is important in marriage because I believe that you have to have confidence that your partner's beliefs will remain strong and consistent. You can't plan a life together if you see your spouse constantly changing what they believe in and how they see the world.



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New Beginnings: What do you love about the other today?

Anita: I like Peter's stability. Even though we've experienced some hard times in our marriage, we stick with it. No matter what. And I think a lot of couples are missing that. We went into marriage knowing we would never divorce, that it would never be an option. I can't speak for the rest of America, nor can I judge since there are many who had no choice about the breakup, but with one out of two marriages ending in divorce, I think too many couples are thinking somewhere deep inside that there is always a way out if anything goes wrong. Well, I can tell you a lot can go wrong. Married couples are people, and humans make mistakes. So, there has to be good communication, forgiveness, and that sense of we're in this together no matter the weather.

Peter: The fact that I can depend upon Anita to be my partner in life. If she or I are troubled by the events of the day we can help each other regain the proper perspective by discussing the problem in the light of the Bible and our Christian beliefs. I have confidence that she will tell me how she feels and why.

New Beginnings: What strength does your spouse bring to the marriage?

Anita: As I mentioned, Peter's stability. Also, I love the way he loves the Lord. Watching him mature over the years as a Christian has been a joy.

Peter: I think Anita's strength is the same as it was when I met her. She has a desire to please God in all she does, and this is a constant in her personality that I can depend on.

New Beginnings: What strength do you bring to the marriage?

Anita: Peter says that my strength is my desire to please the Lord. I don't always accomplish that daily, but it's my heart's desire to do so.

Peter: I don't know if this is a strength but I try to do my part which generally means trying to steward our financial resources and by trying to be involved with the everyday duties and upkeep of our home. Anita should not have to perform all the housework.



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New Beginnings: How would you describe your marriage today?

Anita: Solid, but needing improvements. We have one area in particular that has always been a problem for us, and so we are believing God will help us not only strengthen that part, but make it glow with His grace.

Peter: Entering a new phase after the children have left. We have to get to know each other again as individuals since children always change the relationship. You can sometimes be so concerned with their needs you forget about your spouse. I think this is an exciting time, and I am looking forward to it.

New Beginnings: What role does God play in your marriage?

Anita: Peter and I used to pray and read the Bible separately, but a few weeks ago, we decided to do our devotions together. This practice is transforming our relationship. We've also seen some powerful answers to prayer. So, where two or more are gathered...

Peter: We have learned that we need God more than ever now that our children are grown and making decisions that will last a lifetime. We also see the inevitability of the aging process and need God to help us in our daily walk.

New Beginnings: What Scripture verse best describes your marriage?

Anita: God works all things for good for those who love Him. Our Lord really can turn trouble into triumph. His goodness and mercy and His never-ending care for His children is awesome.

Peter – I agree

New Beginnings: What tips do you have for other couples striving for a lasting and loving marriage?

Anita: Know that marriage is a lifetime commitment. If you find yourself in an awful rut or there are misunderstandings and poor communication, know that God wants to heal whatever is wrong with your relationship and make it the best it can be. Counseling can be helpful. Peter and I have had counseling over the years. If you can't afford it, there are churches that have free counseling programs. Check them out. To have someone talk you through some of your marital problems can be a wonderful blessing.



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Peter: Do not take marriage lightly. It is more than just the emotions you feel when you first meet. You should try to learn about how your spouse feels about the major things of life: God, money, child rearing, employment, where to live, etc. Major disagreements in these areas make building a live together difficult. Looking at marriage as a lifetime commitment is important since that is what you are promising to do in your wedding vows.