



## GROWING YOUR MARRIAGE

THE MARRIAGE ALMANAC  
JANUARY 2022



### *I was almost on the local news.....by Toni Rose*

After the harvest and before the spring sowing each year, Joe and I try to sneak away from the farm for a short post-holiday break. This year we drove to Bonita Springs in southwest Florida. The first few days were cool and cloudy, but the last few days were perfect, sunny and 80 degrees. We spent our final vacation hours at the beach.

My goal for the day was simply to soak up the sun and to finish my latest Christian fiction book – check and check. As the sun began to lower on our final day, we started to make our way back to the condo. I suggested we stop at Doc’s Beach House for a cool beverage. Doc’s has been around nearly 35 years. You can eat indoors with full service or order at the counter and grab an outdoor seat. Joe and I located a prime outdoor spot, overlooking the ocean. At the adjacent table, a sole diner finished his burger and walked away. Following his departure, an elderly woman appeared and asked if we were using the extra table. We were not and I agreed to hold it for her while she grabbed food and her disabled husband.

I proceeded to sit my beach bag on the table. Five minutes later, a woman walked up to the table and sat down with her husband and teenage daughter. I explained that someone was sitting at the table. She replied, “I don’t see anyone sitting here and that’s not how it works.”  
**WOW! OKAY!**

I weighed my options:

- Push her and tell her she was a very mean and nasty person.
- Move over to the adjacent table and explain that I’m sitting there, daring her to remove me by force.
- Restate the situation and request that she respond with compassion and sympathy.
- Use explicit language and punch her in the face.

I’ll leave you to guess which option I was leaning towards. Admittedly, I was channeling my inner Beth Dutton. With so many iPhone cameras in sight, I can say with certainty that I was almost on the local news. But before that could happen, my husband rose to his feet and responded with Christlike grace, “that’s okay, we will give up our table.” I was proud of him and clearly convicted. In marriage we have the opportunity to challenge and encourage each other to love and do good deeds. That happens best through our actions, not our words.

Are you encouraging your spouse through your own actions?

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron,  
so one person sharpens  
another.



## FARM TO TABLE MARRIAGE EXPERIENCE

Growing Your Marriage Leaders will facilitate you and your spouse through a unique and fun experiential "date night" that culminates at the table with delicious food and rich conversation.

The Farm to Table Marriage Experience will provide an opportunity for connection, reflection, and growth.

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**WE ARE ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS FOR  
HUSBAND/WIFE  
WEEKEND JOURNEYS  
@ HARVEST HEIGHTS!**

## OUR UPCOMING 2022 DATES

May 13th-15th

October 14th-16th

[Register Here](#)