



Growing —Your— Marriage

THE MARRIAGE ALMANAC - AUGUST 2022



Summertime Sweet Corn - Kelly Keehner

“One of the many things to look forward to in the middle of a hot, humid Indiana summer is the arrival of the sweet corn! When it is picked at just the right time, nothing beats its flavor! Don and I enjoy picking up fresh sweet corn from a local nearby family farm. I recently learned something new about corn crops that fascinated me.

Did you know that a stalk of corn not only has roots down in the ground, but the stalk also produces roots above the ground called “brace roots”? These brace roots form on the lower part of the stalk and angle down into the ground to support the plant. In a large field of corn, the corn stalks on the edge of the field will produce more brace roots to anchor and support the plant from the force of the wind. The stalks on the inside of the field will have smaller brace roots, and may not produce any at all, because those stalks are protected from the stress of the wind by the plants on the outside edge of the field.



Thinking about these “brace roots” made me think about marriage. Brace roots form when the corn plant is stressed by high winds. Sometimes in our marriages, we go through hard and “windy” seasons. Maybe it’s the loss of a child, the pain of unresolved differences, the stress of economic uncertainty or any number of things. Each of us face unique challenges in our marriages. My encouragement is that during these stressful times God can help us grow “brace roots” to anchor our marriage in Him. We can grow our “brace roots” by meditating on God’s Word, talking and listening to God, praying for our spouse, taking time to emotionally and physically connect with our loved one, being vulnerable and honest with one another and asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us during the stormy times. When we are nourished by these “brace roots” we can better protect our marriages. And if we are blessed with children, we can protect them from the impact of high winds by surrounding them as we stand strong with our “brace roots”.

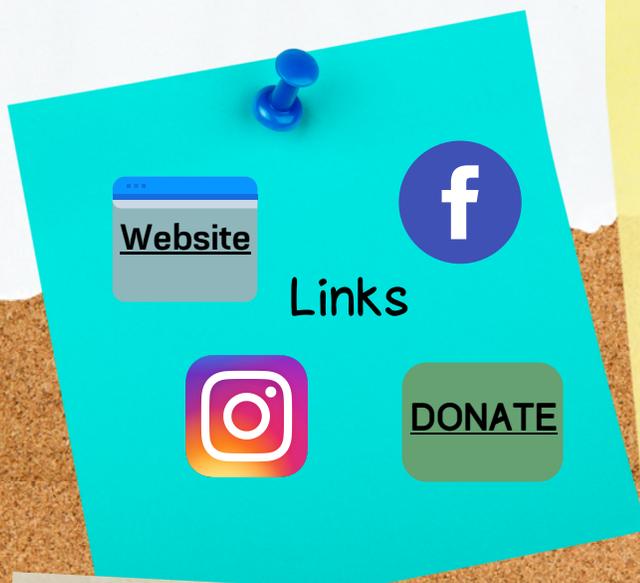
Spend some time talking with your spouse about specific ways you can create “brace roots” to build up your marriage. Better yet, go out and buy some fresh sweet corn that you can enjoy while you are having your intentional discussion!

**"SO THEN, JUST AS YOU
RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS
LORD, CONTINUE TO LIVE IN HIM,
ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM,
STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH AS
YOU WERE TAUGHT, AND
OVERFLOWING WITH
THANKFULNESS."
COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**



**** **Announcement** ****

"We are seeking volunteers (individuals or couples) who are willing to review and provide input for new video content that offers tools for common marriage struggles. If you have interest, please email info@growingyourmarriage.org."



Sign up for Marriage Coaching

Our experienced coaches offer in-person and video session for married and engaged couples. Marriages can grow and thrive when there is understanding. Our coaching sessions provide you with assessments, tools and trainings to elevate your marriage to a new level of spiritual, emotional and physical intimacy.

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