

Fifty Years of Marriage and Ministry: Life Lessons and Passions

Marriage and ministry came concurrently for the Streeters in 1964 when Tom was ordained, accepted a church position and then married Judy. Side by side through the years in several different churches, the Streeters have seen their calling as a high privilege as they have worked together as a team. Marriage and family have been an integral aspect of their ministry, interwoven with the body life of the church. Life lessons have become passions in areas of meaningful relationships, worship, disciple-making, the life of the mind, the beauty of God's created order, consistent study, reading, and authentic living. In this workshop, the Streeters will summarize the important lessons they have learned and the passions that guide and motivate them.

Judy Streeter and her husband Tom have worked to develop churches that emphasise worship, community, small groups, sound teaching, discipleship, and meaningful engagement with culture. Believing that evangelism and the strength of the church are only as effective as the disciple-making process, she has developed materials to facilitate women in properly nurturing growth in others. Her book, *Disciplemaking: Doing What Christ Commanded*, summarises her understanding and passion in this area. Music occupies a high place in Judy's life in the church and as a teacher and performer. Always ready to travel, she and Tom have led Reformation tours in Europe.

Tom Streeter served for 33 years as the teaching elder of the church he planted in Zionsville, Indiana, and now serves as the fulltime director of *The Institute for Christian Thought*, an organization he founded in 1997 with the aim of calling followers of Christ to a full-orbed life of thinking and living Christianly. With over 50 years experience in pastoral ministry, and having planted churches in Illinois and Indiana, his work has been characterized by a devotion to worship, community, developing disciples within the context of the local church and a focus upon believers discerningly engaging the world in their various callings. His lifelong studies in theology, the church, and history have included tours focused upon the Reformation in Europe and the First Great Awakening in upper New England.

I. BACKGROUND AND UPBRINGING

A. Similarities

B. Differences

II. RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO INFLUENCED US

Teachers --- Authors --- Friends

III. OVERALL SUMMARY OF 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY

IV. EARLY LESSONS LEARNED

1. The Home as a Place of Ministry

2. The Church is People
 - People have great value

 - Beauty in simplicity

 - Reliance on the Holy Spirit

 - The Priesthood of the Believer

3. God's Unconditional Love and Forgiveness

4. The Life of the Mind

5. Discipleship is the Overarching Ministry of the Church

~ Lessons Became Passions ~

V. LATER LESSONS LEARNED

1. Two Great Mandates in Scripture
 - A. Creational Mandate
 - Original righteousness
 - Made in the image of God
 - Creation ordinances
 - God's creation and common grace are to be enjoyed

 - B. Salvational Mandate

VI. CHALLENGES NOT ALWAYS HANDLED WELL

1. Time

(Gordon McDonald's book: *Restoring Your Spiritual Passion*)

- VRP's – Very Resourceful People
- VIP's – Very Important People
- VTP's – Very Trainable People
- VNP's – Very Nice People
- VDP's – Very Draining People

2. Nurturing Relationships with Church Leaders

3. Conflicts

VII. CONCLUSION

Suggested Readings:

Echoes of Eden by Jerram Barrs

Splendor in the Ordinary by Thomas Howard

Your Mind Matters by John Stott

Making Room by Christine Pohl

Worldly Saints by Leland Ryken

Mark of the Christian by Francis Schaeffer

Hidden Art by Edith Schaeffer

What is a Family? by Edith Schaeffer

The Church at the End of the 20th Century by Francis Schaeffer