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Wedding

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First time marriage after 35



C By Fran Farrer Nash
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Can you imagine meeting your life time partner in Subway? Most likely your answer is no. Well, Connie Williams did. And it has been blissful ever since.

Connie was at a point in her life where she was, over 35 and not looking for a man. She was being obedient to God, and searching for His divine purpose for her. This kept her very committed and involved in ministries of her church.

Connie recalls it was a Thursday in the fall of 2002. She and a co-worker ventured out to pick up lunch at Subway on Statesville Road. While in line, the gentleman in front of her offered to buy her lunch. She said no. "I thought it was a nice gesture, but I declined the offer," Connie continued. "He was a long-distance truck driver who stopped in Charlotte to pick up a sandwich. Since I would not accept the offer of lunch, he insisted on giving me money to go to my favorite lunch spot on another day. That I accepted, and gave him my business card."

Connie returned to work, and he was off to Pennsylvania. A couple of hours passed. Her phone rang, and it was him, Curtis Harper. They talked briefly, but right away she liked his conversation. He promised to stay in touch, and said he'd call once he reached his next destination. As promised, he called.

"We continued as phone buddies for about a month. Another month passed without my hearing from him. Then, on Thanksgiving night, he called and we've been talking every since," shared Connie.

"Curtis later moved to Charlotte and joined my church. Our relationship continued to grow. Finding a place in each other's heart, we both wanted to make a commitment to each other, we began making wedding plans. My first step was to get with my friends, Minnie

Leake, and Ann Sherrill, both had lots of experience with wedding planning.

The next step was to seek marriage counseling from our pastor, Rev. Michael Henderson of New Beginnings Community Church. Upon completion, we scheduled December 27, 2003 as the wedding date. We then realized we must move to fast-forward, because that was only three weeks away.

Planning on a budget

With not much time, and limited funds, Connie was blessed by friends who bestowed many gifts. First, former manager at A Child's Place, Cheryl Carouthers, gave Connie her wedding dress. The catering was done by girl friends and photographs were taken by John Grier. It was his first time every taking wedding pictures.

A former Sam's Club employee, Connie knew they offered great savings on exquisite diamonds, therefore there was no question on that decision. The wedding cake was purchased from Bi-Lo Bakery and she was finally able to rest, but only for a minute.

The wedding party

Connie's father, Charlie Williams gave her away, as mother Annie looked on proudly.

Long time friend Minnie Leake was matron of honor, sisters Linda Thomas, Cassandra Smith and Diane Roseboro were bridesmaids, and the flower girls were Ja-Nay Freeman and Connie's niece, Jessica Williams.

Church members Wil Blacksher, George Massey and Eric Wilson were groomsmen, and Jeff Stevenson was the best man. Master Ajani Williams was ring bearer.

The Harpers are planning a summer honeymoon in Jamaica.
Good Luck Connie and Curtis, from the management and staff of The Charlotte Post.



Approach with caution-choosing your wedding professionals

By Wialillian Howard
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Excitement is in the air. You thought you would get that diamond for Valentine and sure enough, your woman's intuition has been on target once again. He proposed!

Without thinking, you're off to the races. You figure 250 guests for the reception and without a plan in hand, you're booking vendors left

and right. Oops-mistake in the making. Let's step back for a minute. You don't want a disaster, so choosing your vendors must be done with a great deal of care. It doesn't have to be an unpleasant experience if you follow a few simple rules. In fact, it should be an engaging experience that's filled with joy

Count on a number of recommendations from friends and family-everyone will tell

you they know the best in the business. However, for such important decisions, relying on seasoned professionals may be the best decision that you can make.

Your event/wedding consultant should be at the top of your list of professionals. He/she can serve as the liaison between you and the other wedding professionals. A qualified consultant will know which questions to ask,

set timelines for completion of tasks and make the overall planning process a smooth and pleasant experience for all concerned. Your wedding consultant is also going to be your best source for putting you in the loving care of the right caterer, florists, videographer and other required professionals.

As an 11-year veteran in

See SPELL/3B

