

WELCOME
TO
THE COURTSHIP BANQUET



PRESENTED
THROUGH **Martin & Henrietta Mandula**

Dates : 20 November ~ 26 November 2016

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2

Time : 18:00 ~ 19:30 hrs



CONTINUE ATTENDING





Before You Say I DO

Presented Through
Martin and Henrietta Mandula



Philippians 3:13-15

13. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting

those things which are behind, and reaching forth

unto those things which are before,

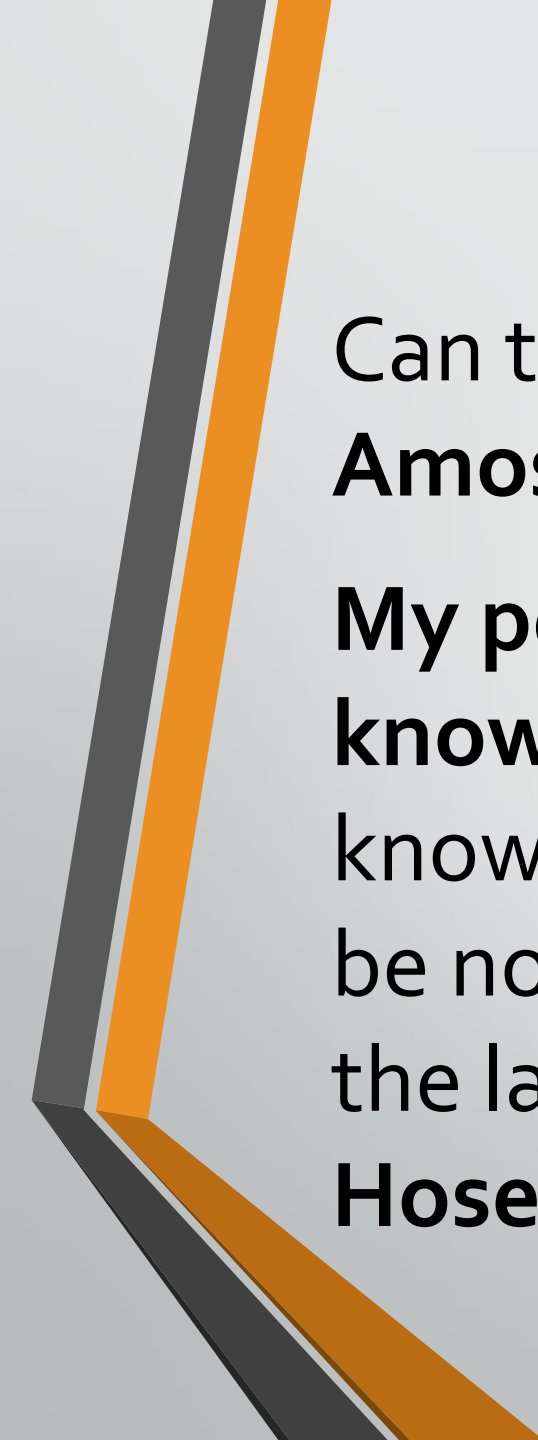
14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high

calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus

minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded,

God shall reveal even this unto you



Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Amos 3:3

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 4:6



DEAF TO COUNSEL

Two persons become acquainted; they are infatuated with each other, and their whole attention is absorbed. Reason is blinded, and judgment is overthrown. **They will not submit to any advice or control, but insist on having their own way, regardless of consequences.** Like some epidemic, or contagion, that must run its course is the infatuation that possesses them; and there seems to be no such thing as putting a stop to it. {AH 71.3}



DISPARITY IN AGE

The parties may not have worldly wealth, but they should have the far greater blessing of health. **And in most cases there should not be a great disparity in age.** A neglect of this rule may result in seriously impairing the health of the younger. And often the children are robbed of physical and mental strength. They cannot receive from an aged parent the care and companionship which their young lives demand, and they may be deprived by death of the father or the mother at the very time when love and guidance are most needed. {AH 81.3}



UNACQUINTED

It is often the case that persons before marriage have little opportunity to become acquainted with each other's habits and disposition; and, so far as everyday life is concerned, they are virtually strangers when they unite their interests at the altar. Many find, too late, that they are not adapted to each other, and lifelong wretchedness is the result of their union. Often the wife and children suffer from the indolence and inefficiency or the vicious habits of the husband and father. {AH 83.2}



UNACQUINTED

The world is full of misery and sin today in consequence of ill-assorted marriages. **In many cases it takes only a few months for husband and wife to realize that their dispositions can never blend;** and the result is that discord prevails in the home, where only the love and harmony of heaven should exist. {AH 83.3}



INCOMPATIBLE

Many marriages can only be productive of misery; and yet the minds of the youth run in this channel because **Satan leads them there, making them believe that they must be married in order to be happy**, when they have not the ability to control themselves or support a family. Those who are not willing to adapt themselves to each other's disposition, so as to avoid unpleasant differences and contentions, should not take the step. But this is one of the alluring snares of the last days, in which thousands are ruined for this life and the next. {AH 84.2}



BLIND LOVE

Every faculty of those who become affected by this contagious disease--blind love--is brought in subjection to it. They seem to be devoid of good sense, and their course of action is disgusting to all who behold it. . . . **With many the crisis of the disease is reached in an immature marriage, and when the novelty is past and the bewitching power of love-making is over,** one or both parties awake to their true situation. They then find themselves ill-mated, but united for life. Bound to each other by the most solemn vows, they look with sinking hearts upon the miserable life they must lead.



BLIND LOVE (Cont'd)

They ought then to make the best of their situation, but many will not do this. **They will either prove false to their marriage vows or make the yoke which they persisted in placing upon their own necks so very galling that not a few cowardly put an end to their existence. {AH 84.3}**

It should henceforth be the life study of both husband and wife how to avoid everything that creates contention and to keep unbroken the marriage vows. {AH 85.1}



EARLY MARRIAGES

Early marriages are not to be encouraged. **A relation so important as marriage and so far-reaching in its results should not be entered upon hastily, without sufficient preparation, and before the mental and physical powers are well developed.** {AH 79.1}

Boys and girls enter upon the marriage relation with unripe love, immature judgment, without noble, elevated feelings, and take upon themselves the marriage vows, wholly led by their boyish, girlish passions. . . . {AH 79.2}

FORBIDDEN MARRIAGES

FORBIDDEN DEFINITION:

- NOT ALLOWED
- BANNED



Breaking The Unequal Yoke

[14] Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

[15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

[16] And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

MARRIAGE OF CHRISTIANS WITH UNBELIEVERS

There is in the Christian world an astonishing, alarming indifference to the teaching of God's word in regard to the marriage of Christians with unbelievers. **Many who profess to love and fear God choose to follow the bent of their own minds rather than take counsel of Infinite Wisdom.** In a matter which vitally concerns the happiness and well-being of both parties for this world and the next, reason, judgment, and the fear of God are set aside; and blind impulse, stubborn determination are allowed to control. {AH 61.1}

MARRIAGE OF CHRISTIANS WITH UNBELIEVERS

Men and women who are otherwise sensible and conscientious close their ears to counsel; they are deaf to the appeals and entreaties of friends and kindred and of the servants of God. **The expression of a caution or warning is regarded as impertinent meddling, and the friend who is faithful enough to utter a remonstrance is treated as an enemy.** All this is as Satan would have it. He weaves his spell about the soul, and it becomes bewitched, infatuated. Reason lets fall the reins of self-control upon the neck of lust; unsanctified passion bears sway, until, too late, the victim awakens to a life of misery and bondage. This is not a picture drawn by the imagination, but a recital of facts. **God's sanction is not given to unions which He has expressly forbidden.** {AH 61.2}



GOD FORBIDS

Never should God's people Venture upon forbidden ground. **Marriage between believers and unbelievers is forbidden by God.** But too often the unconverted heart follows its own desires, and marriages unsanctioned by God are formed. Because of this many men and women are without hope and without God in the world. **Their noble aspirations are dead; by a chain of Circumstances they are held in Satan's net.** Those who are ruled by passion and impulse will have a bitter harvest to reap in this life, and their course may result in the loss of their souls. {Adventist Home p.63}



THE 'ONE THING' NEEDFUL

Those who profess the truth trample on the will of God in marrying unbelievers; they lose His favor and make bitter work for repentance. **The unbelieving may possess an excellent moral character, but the fact that he or she has not answered to the claims of God and has neglected so great salvation is sufficient reason why such a union should not be consummated.** The character of the unbelieving may be similar to that of the young man to whom Jesus addressed the words, **"One thing thou lackest"; that was the one thing needful. {Adventist Home p.63.2}**



Solomon's Example

There are men of poverty and obscurity whose lives God would accept and make full of usefulness on earth and of glory in heaven, but Satan is working persistently to defeat His purposes and drag them down to perdition by marriage with those whose character is such that they throw themselves directly across the road to life. **Very few come out from this entanglement triumphant. {AH 63.3}**



Romance 'Evangelism'

Many professed Christians think, like Solomon, **that they may unite with the ungodly because their influence over those who are in the wrong will be beneficial; but too often they themselves, entrapped and overcome, yield their sacred faith, sacrifice principle, and separate themselves from God.** One false step leads to another, till at last they place themselves where they cannot hope to break the chains that bind them. {AH 64.4}



He/She is favorable to Religion

The plea is sometimes made that the unbeliever is **favorable to religion** and is all that could be desired in a companion except in one thing--he is not a Christian. Although the better judgment of the believer may suggest the impropriety of a union for life with an unbeliever, yet, in nine cases out of ten, inclination triumphs. **Spiritual declension commences the moment the vow is made at the altar; religious fervor is dampened, and one stronghold after another is broken down, until both stand side by side under the black banner of Satan. Even in the festivities of the wedding the spirit of the world triumphs against conscience, faith, and truth. In the new home the hour of prayer is not respected. The bride and bridegroom have chosen each other and dismissed Jesus. {AH 65.1}**



The Adventist Reasoning

What ought every Christian to do when brought into the trying position which tests the soundness of religious principle? With a firmness worthy of imitation he should say frankly: "I am a conscientious Christian. I believe the seventh day of the week to be the Sabbath of the Bible. Our faith and principles are such that they lead in opposite directions. We cannot be happy together, for if I follow on to gain a more perfect knowledge of the will of God, I shall become more and more unlike the world and assimilated to the likeness of Christ."



The Adventist Reasoning (Cont'd)

If you continue to see no loveliness in Christ, no attractions in the truth, you will love the world, which I cannot love, while I shall love the things of God, which you cannot love. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Without spiritual discernment you will be unable to see the claims of God upon me, or to realize my obligations to the Master whom I serve; therefore you will feel that I neglect you for religious duties. You will not be happy; you will be jealous on account of the affections which I give to God, and I shall be alone in my religious belief.



The Adventist Reasoning (Cont'd)

When your views shall change, when your heart shall respond to the claims of God, and you shall learn to love my Saviour, then our relationship may be renewed." {AH 67.4} The believer thus makes a sacrifice for Christ which his conscience approves, and which shows that he values eternal life too highly to run the risk of losing it. He feels that it would be better to remain unmarried than to link his interest for life with one who chooses the world rather than Jesus, and who would lead away from the cross of Christ. {AH 68.1}

GOD IS NOT MOCKED

[6] Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever** a man soweth, **that** shall he also reap.

[7] For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:7-8



A Safe Marriage Alliance

It is only in Christ that a marriage alliance can be safely formed. Human love should draw its closest bonds from divine love. Only where Christ reigns can there be deep, true, unselfish affection.
{AH 68.2}



CHECKLIST

PRACTICAL PREPARATION

1. PRE-WEDDING PLANNING

A. PRELIMINARIES

i. HIV/AIDS and other related tests

ii. Formal introduction (Kuwonekera)

iii. Asking of Girls Hand (Kufunsila)

iv. Dowry (Lobola/Chiongo)

B. ENGAGEMENT

C. BRIDAL SHOWER/SEND OFF

CHECKLIST

PRACTICAL PREPARATION

2. WEDDING PLANNING

A. Garments

B. Church Registration

C. Reception Booking

D. Booking Service Providers
(MC, Videography,
Photography, Catering,
Decorations)

E. Invitation Cards



PRACTICAL PREPARATION

3. POST WEDDING

A. Wedding Night
Resting Place

B. Honeymoon



CONCLUSIONS

IT WASN'T RAINING WHEN NOAH
BUILT THE ARK!

PLAN TO HAVE A PLANNED
MARRIAGE.

Let all things be done decently
and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40



GOD BLESS YOU

SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT

TOMORROW NIGHT TOPIC: A SOLEMN
PROMISE