

RIGHT FROM THE START

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY INSTITUTES

HELLO AND WELCOME!

John and I have been working with a number of individuals seeking guidance around the issues of achieving appropriate matchings and blessings. I've tried to look at the main issues candidates encounter in preparing themselves and place them into a series of newsletters that I hope you can find useful. Let me know if it is helpful to you and what you think I can do to make it a useful item. Thanks, and much success in finding your eternal mate.

Sandra Lowen

S/HE'S OUT THERE!

But maybe not where you've been looking.

Too often the sad, sad text I get is from someone or another that feels the search for a partner has come to a horrible standstill and they will 'never' find their true mate. I've been looking especially at the number of women that find themselves approaching their 'sell-by' date and wonder if they will find their

true spouse before their first grey hairs start coming in. Women, in particular

struggle with the issue of age. It is all too easy to believe that the bloom is already off the rose age-wise almost before they are ready to start their search. Age twenty-one looks good as a number on the website. Thirty-one? Hmm, not such a pretty number. Women begin thinking about whether or not they will still be able to have healthy children (a real concern as eggs, with us at conception, begin to age). They realize that in a few years

they will begin to battle to hold on to the natural beauty the universe so lovingly gave them but is now threatening to take back. If there are issues of their perception of cultural beauty, they may see the prospect of marrying the man of their dreams fading rapidly. Then, what are they to do and how do they

maintain a life of fulfillment while waiting for their prince to come?

Three issues seem to obscure one

THE DAYS ARE GONE
WHEN THE GREAT MAN
WALKED INTO THE ROOM,
READ THE ANCESTORS AND
SAID, "YOU--AND YOU".

from Prince Charming:

- 1) That he will be ideal;
- 2) That parents will approve;
- 3) That he will satisfy all of your expectations for him.

MR. IDEAL:

Let's face it, ladies, even Cinderella's husband farted, snored, dropped his underwear on the floor and left the toilet seat up. Seeing flaws in a man does not mean he is unacceptable.

And he is not necessarily going to contact you. You may

have to go looking for him. Maybe not so romantic, but when you are sitting beside the fireside with him five years hence with two kids, the Labrador and your Hoondok-hae book, you'll be grateful that you started the search. Go to church and look around the congregation at coffee hour. Tell your family and friends that you are actively looking. Go to the 24+ workshops and don't be afraid to approach the young man that catches your attention. Even though you have a matching supporter, you can look, too. And don't forget to keep your profile current. Update whenever you can. More on that later.

PARENTS:

No matter how difficult your growing up with them may have been, your parents probably see you as God's gift to whomever you are Blessed with. And they have their own ideas about who that should be, even if they don't express it until your search has actually begun or even after someone gets suggested. Especially if they have significant public missions, high positions or remember someone from 'way back. Our son, when he was 24 years old, was rejected by a woman that recalled that when he was eight, years old, he and her son used to play 'Suicide Barbie' with her daughter's dolls. She concluded that it showed a twisted and sadistic character that she did not want her

daughter to experience. Her loss, his beautiful wife (who did not play with dolls when she was a little girl)) would probably say. Our son turned into a loving husband and a responsible and protective father.

It is important for parents and their adult children to be on the same page regarding whom they want to bring into their family. If a candidate wants to be open to anyone, but the parents would prefer a person from a certain culture or background and not a person from another, they need to be certain that the candidate knows that, so that s/he does not put down 'No Preference' on their profile, when the parents really will accept only natives of Pensacola. Sometimes parents don't want to show their narrow-mindedness and just want to hope things work out. They do not understand that this can make for real problems when someone from a background they know they would never accept but do not say that up front contacts them.

Ideally, parents and candidates will review any possibility. Because one has not thought of a particular person from a different background does not mean that that is not precisely the person that can change their lives for the better, understand their family's issues and love them like no other. "A fireman comes from outside," True Father said in his speeches. Maybe the person

that can put out the ancestral and present-day fires is not from Pensacola at all, but from Holland or Dubai or Madagascar.

EXPECTATIONS:

Not every individual in the movement has the same training, interest or motivation. Some have not had the exposure to large centers or have not been able to assume leadership roles. Others may have minor physical disabilities. Still others may have not gone as far in their pursuit of higher learning or may have not yet settled into a career.

Personalities may also be an issue. Many people, particularly 'only' children, may be more quiet and studious. Meeting an exciting, adventurous candidate may seem out of the question for such a person. Conversely, the go-getter may feel "Wow, is this person just going to want to stay home and read all the time?" Let's not forget that opposites often attract, rather than repel. It can be not only exciting, but also rounding to interact with a person that is different from oneself. If, indeed, our goal is to become round individuals, then that is the greatest spur to look for spouses that are very different from ourselves.

It is paramount that you remember that people don't come out of the box made-to-order for our expectations. As I often heard, "If you found the perfect person, would s/he want you? Marriage is like 'Build-A-

Bear'. One gets to help another person build and shape his/her character, and that person helps one do the same. Over time, a couple that is doing its work should look entirely different and inspiring to all of those around them. But change is difficult, and many people don't recognize the opportunity that being Blessed to a person of a different religion, race, ethnicity, or personality can afford. If marriage were simply about 'more of the same', then it would not be a terrible amount of fun after the first few weeks. Observing one's own family (or TV, or the lives of their friends), one can grow hopeless about the stability and potential for happiness in the family unit. If parents quarrel, fight, or maintain relationships of sullen endurance, children may feel that either the marriage unit is flawed, marriage within their particular faith is flawed, or that in order to marry within their movement dooms them to lives of deprivation or over-responsibility. But this is simply not so. Two people that truly delve into each other with open hearts and minds may—

and do—find a richness in their relationships that far exceeds those of people that marry their 'clones', because it feels safer. This is not to say at all that if someone feels insecure about venturing too far outside one's comfort zone, one is out of step and doomed to a life of ennui and white bread.

One cannot ignore the family's wishes or concerns. If the family has objections to a particular potential match, then, if for no other reason than for the comfort of the spouse, one needs to consider what the objections are and work them through before proceeding. Not every family can 'accept' a person of another race, culture or religious background. The scary stories are out there: the woman that went home with her spouse only to find her new mother-in-law tearing her hair out in the front yard, because the man had brought home this 'devil', the grandmother that chased the grandchildren through the house with a weapon, because her country had been at war with their father's country when she was a girl and senility made her

view them as 'the enemy', the parents that willfully separated the couple, because they felt True Father was 'mistaken' in giving their child a 'different' person. These kinds of things don't happen every day, but they can help us to understand that even in our enlightened age with our advanced teaching, not everyone 'gets it'.

How well-rounded such couples can become, how beautiful their children almost always are, and how much they can love each other as they look beyond their differences and view the world through the eyes of universal love! Such victorious couples are key in forging the relationships that allow the borders between the enclaves in the spiritual world to drop.

So persevere, dear Candidate. S/he may not appear today, but tomorrow, next week, sooner or later, at the right time, there will come a knock at your door, a ring on your telephone or the PING of your E-mail, and wow, how life will change!

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RIGHT FROM THE START is a newsletter developed for Matching Candidates working with Sandra Lowen. Its purpose is to give additional and collateral information regarding the Matching and Blessing. It is not a certified organ of the Blessed Families Ministry or any of its supporting organizations. For further information, contact sandralowen003@gmail.com.