

HOT STUFF WITH "BA"

I want to talk for a moment about passion. But not the kind of passion you might be thinking of. Mind you it does have its hot moments. I'm thinking about the passion, Justin and Rebecca share for the fire brigade.

I recently went along to a fire brigade practice and observed them practising with BA'S That's breathing apparatus where you strap oxygen bottles on your backs and don the masks so they can breathe while fighting a fire. As I watched, I learned some rules of using BA's. When using BA's, you always work as a team of three. You enter as a team, you carry out the task as a team and finally you exit as a team. If they fail to do this then it becomes potentially very dangerous, or should I say dead trouble.

In the exercise their task was to enter a building and look for a person. As they searched the darkened room, they moved around being careful always to be in contact with one another, keeping close, communicating by touch and voice. Constant contact with the rest of the team is essential for safety.

The reading from 1 Cor. 13:1-7 talks about love and commitment. Love based not on what it can get, but instead what it can give. Very much like the fire person who risks their life for others seeking to serve not to be served.

The BA team as they enter the work area show commitment in two ways. Firstly a commitment to one another and safety and secondly the commitment to get the job done. To carry out the task successfully they must communicate in every way possible, they must move as a team, think as a team for only in this way will they reach the objective.

Justin and Rebecca you are going to declare very soon that you are prepared to work as such a team for the rest of your life. To be successful in this task there will be times when you will have to work hard, but if you are prepared as you are declaring, then today is the start of an incredibly exciting adventure which will last your lifetime.

Recently I read this analogy of the love which Corinthian's 13:1-7 calls for. It is a love which keeps promises despite feeling or performance. It is love that acts - not by feeling, but based on commitment. It holds itself to a vowed standard trusting that feeling, ----- when it is absent, will soon follow. Such love says "I'm going to act according to my promise. I will give myself sacrificially and unconditionally to this person, and we're going to make it work, believing that the romance, the feelings of emotions are the fruit and not the anchor of our love. One writer said, A person making a marriage vow makes an appointment with themselves at some distant time and place. This love intends to keep that appointment and does it regardless of circumstances.

So I wish you well Justin and Rebecca as you team up and vow to work as a team until by death you are parted.

Those quick with figures will have noticed that in the BA crew there are not two but three. In Christian marriage, Christ is the third team member. Rebecca and Justin if you chose to build your marriage with Him then when the rough and stormy times come as they are always bound to, then you will find that you will have greater resources to draw upon.

Give Christ a place in your future life together and He will look after you. He will guard and guide you. He will keep you and nothing can separate you. May you have a blessed life together Justin and Rebecca.

And in the words of the station master after detailing the fire crew, Get to work.