

June 2005: New Steps (Part 2 of 2)

by Aaron Greenway

By the time you receive this letter, my new wife will already be on our cruise in the Caribbean. Planning a wedding is pretty difficult and it can really make your life interesting for a while. Everything happens all at once. But we found that many people were willing to help us. When we were in the planning stages, our pastor told us something very important, that we announce our wedding plans to the church, inviting everyone. Why? Because in the Hispanic Community, weddings are a community event and everyone wants to be part of it.

I remember a friend of mine from Guadalajara who told me about her sister's wedding, the typical Mexican wedding, where they take the shoes off the groom and throw him up in the air. And in much of Latin America they celebrate the wedding for hours into the night. Our wedding was beautiful even though we were scrambling around for several days before trying to make sure everything was just right. I recited my vows in English and my wife recited hers in Spanish.

We didn't want to be skimpy with our money when it came to paying for the wedding, but we really didn't have a lot of money. This was when friends and relatives gave us what we needed to pay for everything...with some left over. I was worried a lot about how things would turn out. But there are always those things that are beyond your control and all you can do is not worry about it.

Because of that, our friends and family paid for everything. When something is in God's plan, He always provides all that you need spiritually, emotionally and financially, to carry you to the altar. I still ask myself what we are going to do with all of the things that were given to us. We got really spoiled! It was a beautiful experience that we will never forget.

We heard a lot of advise, but two stuck out to us: Rest (referring to me) several days before the wedding so that, when we get to Houston to go on our cruise, I would not be so tired. Also, don't get into any scrimages before you get married. A friend of ours told us about the time before his wedding, when he was jogging on the side of the road. A car almost ran him over and so as the car passed, he slapped their trunk. Immediately, the car stopped and two very large gentleman got out and began to chase him...right into a church where they "let him have it." He thought, "What I am going to tell my fiancée. She is going to kill me."

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We don't plan to have kids for a while, because we want to get to know one another. The first year of marriage is crucial to getting to know one another. But as soon as the little ones come, you all will be the first ones to know.

Other changes in our lives will also occur this fall. For this entire year, I have been working as a Spanish teacher, but two months ago, I got hired to be a bilingual teacher for fourth grade beginning this fall. I am going to be teaching little latino kids, leaving my second job at the college teaching English as a Second Language. My wife will also be teaching Bilingual Education for third grade. We have many dreams and will be keeping you all informed of the things we learn.

Something to ponder...

Your brother,
Aaron Greenway