

## LANDING ON VENUS

It has been said: *"Men are from Mars and women are from Venus."*

How true that statement is when you analyze the number of divorces in this country today. Is it no wonder that marriages often crash on the rocks of despair in today's high tech society where distractions keep couples from having honest, deep connecting conversations? A world where it is easier to send an email than pick up the phone. Where television and Internet surfing compete with meaningful dialogue.

Studying the art of a good marriage and relationship is not a national past time. It is not taught in schools and religious education usually falls woefully short. Effective marriage counselors are rare and frequently fail in helping to nurture a healthy loving partnership.

People brush their teeth, have regular medical checkups and buy health club memberships as preventive maintenance. But where does there exist a preventive program to avoid bad marriages and divorce?

As a man in today's complex world, the answer might be right in front of your nose. KISS does not represent something that occurs right before our favorite extracurricular activity. It is for an acronym: Keep It Simple Stupid.

In reviewing what might seem like ancient history in your dating era, you might recall that some of the simplest and silliest

efforts on your part are what your wife remembers most today. They have become the cement that bonds the cracks and fissures that appear in marriages over time. Quite likely those occasions were the moments that were the most heartfelt and honest.

Some of the ideas listed might seem trivial or unimportant. Remember that life on Venus is very different than Mars. Your wife may feel that inter-galactic television sports, hunting, fishing, golfing, and other manly pursuits on Mars are trivial and unimportant.

Past visitors to Venus have found KISS to be invaluable. They have followed their boyish intuition and have completed many successful missions when visiting Venus. They have magnified the love in their relationship with their best friend, their wife.

And something interesting happens when you take the time to show your wife attention. It attracts her attention and love to you in return, just like a magnet.

So in reading these ideas, be aware you are taking them in through your eyes and into your mind. Many ideas will not resonant and fail to germinate from within. But those few gems, the ideas that inspire and encourage you to be the best husband and best friend that you can be, will eventually come back out, driven by your heart; expressed through love and tenderness. Remember to show her the simplest compassion and affection possible. Be sincere. Be aware. You just might be surprised with the results.

## **MISSION CONTROL: Going into orbit**

Ask her what a perfect weekend would look like and then work to set up that weekend.

Tell her you are having a "Mary Day" (or Judy Day, or Jane Day, whatever your wife's name). Do everything she wants you to do for the day.

Take her to lunch during the week.

Wash and vacuum her car. Doing it yourself says something extra.

Buy her a new nightgown or swimsuit.

Clean the entire refrigerator out and include dusting the top and sweeping under it.

Say you are sorry and what your faults were in the disagreement. Be sincere and offer some way to be of service or make up that is acceptable to her.

While she is taking a shower, warm a towel in the dryer and give it to her when she is finished.

Tell her something you appreciate about her every day for a week.

Wink at her when you are with friends or in public.

Hold her hand in public.

Hold her hand at weddings.

Give her a hug when she cries.

Ask her to hold you when you cry. Don't be afraid to cry in front of her.

Clean her reading glasses for her with a special polishing cloth or cleaning patch.

Do a volunteer service project together.

Offer to help her if she has a special charity, fundraiser or outside interest.

Ask her thoughts and wishes before making donations.

Approach her class reunion with enthusiasm and interest. Talk to her past classmates and do something to make the weekend special for her, such as take photos and make a photo album afterwards.

Give her a framed picture of the two of you.

If she is a coffee or tea drinker, get a mug with you and/or the kids' pictures on it.

Remind her of her accomplishments by getting a shirt from her high school or college. Talk about things she has accomplished.

Clean and organize the entire garage when she is away. Surprise her.

Ask her to name one thing you do that annoys her and then try to avoid doing it.

If you live in winter climates, write a huge **I love you** in the snow.

Make her a snowman carrying a bouquet of flowers. Make a snowman and snowwoman with a heart around them. Make a snow angel and put her name beside it.

Write love notes to her on her iced-over car window.

Pray for her and your relationship.

### **MORNING: Blast off and start the day out right**

Have a cup of hot tea or coffee ready for her when she gets to the kitchen.

Serve her breakfast in bed.

Make it a regular routine to give her a hug and a kiss before you leave in the morning. Wish her a wonderful day.

Take a special picture of the two of you and put it on her bathroom mirror before she gets up in the morning.

Leave a love note with her toothbrush.

Let her know what time you will be returning home and then make that a priority by being on time. Call her if you will be delayed.

Ask what her favorite radio station is so you can tune the clock radio to that station when she wakes up in the morning. Also program it into the cars she will be driving.

### **EVENING: Land on a happy note**

Surprise her by asking her out for a "date" just like the old days. Don't tell her what you are doing or where you are going, surprise her. That's half the fun!

Cook her a candlelight dinner, serve it to her and wash the dishes afterward.

If cooking is outside your talent level, hire a caterer to come in and serve dinner.

Compliment her cooking. Help clean up and do the dishes.

Check with her before you invite anyone to dinner.

Take a cooking or wine tasting class together.

Pick a flower from the garden and place it on her pillow or nightstand before bedtime. Be sure to check for bugs!

Lie on her side of the bed and have it warm before she retires for the evening.

Buy a new pillowcase. Write **I love you** on it with permanent marker.

Never argue in the bedroom.

Give her a massage with fragranced body oils. If you are really courageous, give her a hot rock massage but get directions first and perhaps practice on someone first.

Share the highlights of your day with her while she is preparing dinner.

Spend an evening together looking at family movies and/or family picture albums.

When receiving a fortune cookie, always say it reads, "You have a beautiful and wonderful wife."

Count to ten while you kiss her when you come home from work.

Hang up your clothes and put away your own laundry.

Watch a sunset together.

Do something active like putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

### **COMMUNICATIONS: Calling command central**

Record her number first in your speed dial at work and on your cell phone.

Try not to take calls from others while talking with her on the phone.

Call her back immediately when you have to interrupt a call with her.

Call her during the day to just say "hi" and check how her day is going.

Leave a message on her voice mail listing all the reasons you love her so much.

Send her an email from work that tells her how much she means to you.

Begin statements with "I feel" rather than "I think".

Tell her how beautiful and special she is.

Tell her she looks like she has lost weight, but only if you are sincere.

Take time to tell her how nice her new haircut or manicure looks.

Praise her publicly for her strengths, character and abilities. Give her compliments in front of the children.

Discuss your children and ask how you can help.

Share your goals and dreams with her. Ask her to share her dreams.

**WRITING/MEDIA: Awaken and pour out those creative juices**

Write a story about your dating courtship that recounts how you felt about her and the circumstances surrounding you falling in love.

Determine the meaning behind her name and find an appropriate depiction over the Internet. Frame it for her.

Leave a love note in a book you know she is reading.

Make a list of all of her great qualities and share it with her. You can do this using letters of the alphabet from A to Z, i.e., Always there for me. Beautiful beyond description. Cares about our family, etc.

Help her write a year-end letter to friends and family.

Write her a poem or love letter.

Get diaries for both of you and regularly write about a common subject. Exchange diaries after you both are done writing. Explain unclear statements and concepts to each other. This could provide a great gift for your grandchildren to read someday.

Record a CD of all of your special songs together such as wedding songs, favorite dance songs and special event music that reminds you of each other. Great gift for you as well!

Go to the music store and pick the titles of ten songs that express your love for her. Reprint those song titles and give it to her.

Contact the local newspaper from her hometown and have them send her a copy.

Find her favorite movie and buy her the DVD. Watch it together.

Find her favorite music group and buy her the album. Take her to the group's concert if available in your area.

If you have a piano, buy a piano player with her favorite music.

**SPORTS/PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES: Play and grow together**

Buy a tandem bicycle so you can ride together around the neighborhood.

Learn to play golf together so you can have time in the golf cart away from others.

Don't compete intensely in sports against one another. Play for fun.

Praise her sports ability when around others.

Go for a walk or hike together and stay at the same pace.

Plant and maintain a garden together. Include flowers that you can surprise her with later.

Arrange a lunch and take her on a picnic.

### **TRAVELING: Discover new worlds and galaxies**

Open the car door and other doors for her.

Make sure you always arrive at the airport to pick her up before she arrives. Greet her with a bouquet of flowers.

Call her on an airline phone just to tell her you miss her.

Call her every night you are on the road.

Take her with you on business trips.

Get an emergency kit for her car. Keep tires and the car in safe condition.

Revisit somewhere special that you went such as on your honeymoon.

### **BIRTHDAYS: Celebrate the essence of life**

Search the newspaper archives or library and get the front page of the day she was born.

On your wife's birthday, send flowers to your mother-in-law with a card thanking her for delivering such a special person into your life.

Fill the entire house with helium balloons for her birthday.

Host a special birthday party with friends where you have a *Trivial Pursuit* game made up from all of the little details from her past life. Separate them into different categories such as sports, friends, hobbies, children, family, etc.

Host a surprise birthday party with a theme such as casino night where you bring in gaming tables and guests can win/buy prizes at the end of the night.

Buy her a best selling book or one that she hasn't read yet from her favorite author.

Post a happy birthday sign in the front yard.

Get a picture from her baby book and give her a card with it letting her know she is your special baby.

### **ANNIVERSARIES: Launch into special memories, places and events**

Never forget your anniversary. Write it in red ink on your new calendar each year. Remind yourself with a December 31 note to place the date in the next year's calendar.

Make a collage of pictures from all of the special events in your life.

Buy a separate gift for each year of marriage on your anniversary, i.e., for ten years of marriage give her ten presents. Wrap them separately and include a loving card in each. Hide them throughout the house.

Renew your wedding vows before an official with or without friends and family.

Talk about your first meeting date and when you knew you were first in love with her.

Visit the place where you first met.

Find a picture from your wedding day and place it where she will see it.

Make a huge birthday banner and hang it across the family room to surprise her.

#### **VALENTINE'S DAY: Find Cupid among the stars**

Ask her if she will be your Valentine.

Bring her home a giant Valentine's Day card that you have made from poster board.

Buy seven valentines on Valentine's Day. Give one on that day and mail one to her every month for the next six months.

Go to a bath and accessories store and buy her a basket of sample shampoos, creams, lotions and conditioners or check the many companies that offer such an assortment on the Internet.

#### **CHRISTMAS: A time of giving back to the universe**

Put mistletoe throughout the entire house during the holidays and take the opportunity to use it with her, i.e. kissing under the mistletoe.

Get a Christmas song album, make hot chocolate and spend a night together talking about past Christmas times.

Look at past family Christmas pictures and/or movies.

Take her on a hayride or sleigh ride, complete with blankets and hot chocolate.

Take her Christmas caroling.

#### **MORE ADVANCED IDEAS: Boldly go where no man has gone before**

Paint her toenails for her.

Massage her scalp and comb her hair.

Buy a motorcycle with a helmet intercom system so you can have conversations away from other distractions while riding.

Get a boat that is comfortable and can be anchored out for getaway times together.

Buy a video camera and take family movies of important events.

Learn an instrument and play her favorite song for her during a special event in your lives. If you are brave, sing the words along with the song!

Hire a limo to pick you up for a surprise date and pick up friends along the way to dinner to help celebrate a night out.

Take ballroom dance lessons together.

Hire a masseuse to come to the house and give her a massage.

Arrange a surprise getaway for her to spend a weekend together with her best friend or relative.

## **NOTES**

## **Additional Ideas**

Let her think an idea is hers even when it isn't.

Let her talk first and answer for herself when you're out in public.

Ask her how she is feeling and really listen to her answer.

Go through the entire calendar year and mark an X one day per week when you will do something nice for her from this book.

Leave love notes around the house where she will find them but don't make them too obvious.

Leave a love note in her suitcase before she goes on a trip telling her how much you are missing her.

Ask her to pray with you so you can pray together.

Assure her you will always stand up for her and protect her.

Tell her that marrying her was the best thing that ever happened in your life.

Tell her you look forward to growing old together.

Buy her a trilogy wedding ring representing your love for her in the past, present and future.