With these marvelous thoughts ringing in our minds, I would like to conclude by offering you something special from Adventist Marriage Enrichment. It comes in the form of four prescriptions that, if faithfully followed, guarantee a happy and fulfilling marriage.

1. Pray together daily. Not just family worship with the children, but the two of you alone together, praying for each other and sharing your marriage with God.

2. Learn to communicate on deep levels. Often talk is superficial or becomes an attempt to persuade the other to your point of view. But you need to explain your deepest thoughts and emotions to your wife and listen with understanding as she explains herself to you. This communication is not for the purpose of effecting change in your partner, but that you might understand and be understood.

3. Devote sufficient high-quality time to each other. No relationship, divine or human, can flourish without time. This should be time free from your ministerial duties—time to work on some project together, to play together, to enjoy nature together, to read aloud to each other. And don’t deceive yourself by saying that there is no time for that right now, but sometime in the future things will be different. Life has a tendency to slip away while you rationalize. Live one day at a time.

4. Affirm each other frequently. Your wife needs to be often reassured that you love her. When you recognize her good qualities and tell her specifically what you appreciate about her, you raise her sense of self-worth and help her to feel more positive about her role as pastor’s wife. She needs to know that, next to God, she has first place in her husband’s life.

The minister, therefore, does not regard his wife as a useful appendage—someone to keep house, cook the meals, and keep the kids out of his hair. She is his second self—a true partner in their shared life and ministry.