Marriage and Special Needs Questionnaire

Return to Joe and Cindi Ferrini (by October 15th, 2016)

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Find us on Unexpected Journey on FB and other media:

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We are delighted to share with you that we have secured a book agent who is excited about our desire to write a book about MARRIAGE in the context of caring for one with special needs. We’d love to have YOU help us with answering some questions as we prepare to write!

To receive information about our soon to be written book covering topics encouraging couples to STAY married and have a THRIVING healthy marriage through caring for one with special needs, possibly get a free book, and to help others by your willingness to answer these questions, please fill in this information. Your name will NOT be used in the book, but your comments might be. They might be used “as is” or it might be edited to better conceal the identity of the one who wrote it or clarify a point being made. If you read our book *UNEXPECTED JOURNEY – When Special Needs Change Our Course*, we plan to set it up similarly with contributors’ comments being in “bulleted” form. THUS, feel free to answer our questions in incomplete sentences yet with clarity to your thoughts and points.

You don’t have to answer every question, but please know that the more you answer and the more detailed you are, the more helpful your comments will be in the final product of this book. Our goal is to HELP and ENCOURAGE others in “our shoes”!  
  
We thank you for the time, energy, love, and willingness to help others!

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(to receive info, not to be used in the publication)

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been married?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_1st marriage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2nd marriage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3rd marriage

How many children do you have? And their ages:

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

6-

7-

8-

9-

10-

Do you have “help” in caring for you loved one with special needs?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Family (relationship:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Friends

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Nursing/other medical help or staff

Your relationship to the person you care for with special needs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How did you **think** your marriage would be when you married?

How is your marriage different that you thought it would be?

Is your marriage alive and thriving? Be specific:

What do you do to proactively and intentionally do to keep your marriage thriving?

Are you and your spouse on the “same page” regarding the care of your loved one with special needs? How so? If not, why not? Explain:

Do you have good communication in your marriage? Explain/give examples:

Do you have a good sexual relationship with your spouse? Explain without giving intimate or private details. (Is the caring of one with special needs challenging this aspect of your marriage?)

What would help you to communicate better? (Is the caring of one with special needs challenging this aspect of your marriage?)

What would help you to have a better sexual relationship?

Have you ever had a mentor to talk to, help you along the way, get encouragement from?

Have you ever walked with someone as a mentor in this area of helping in their marriage as they care for a loved one with special needs?

Have you ever had counseling? If so, for what and was it helpful? Was the cost covered by insurance; self-pay; other? Was it manageable or overwhelming?

If you could talk to an expert about needs in your marriage, what questions would you ask?

What is the area of greatest STRESS on YOUR MARRIAGE due to caring for one with special needs?

What is your greatest STRUGGLE in YOUR MARRIAGE due to caring for one with special needs?

What is the greatest NEED in your MARRIAGE due to caring for one with special needs?

As it applies to YOUR MARRIAGE, how have your vows been challenged?

For better:

For worse:

For richer:

For poorer:

In sickness:  
  
In health:

Anything else you’d like to add:

THANK YOU! Joe and Cindi Ferrini