



First Church  
**FamilyLife**  
OUR MISSION: HEALTHY, HAPPY FAMILIES

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# First Church Yard Sale

September 17th 7am-2pm

\$40 Inside/\$30 Outside-Tables

Proceeds Support Our Seniors

Contact Darren Allen 256-652-4643

# Growing Your Ministry Influence

by Michael & Ardella Vance

Over the years Ardella and I have developed the habit of sharing our life journey with family, friends, and meaningful others. When we discover something that works for us in our relationship, health, finances, or spiritual life, we spill the beans. We find ways to share our authentic selves with people. We are very generous in sharing our life experiences and this has increased our ministry influence. Here's a few life lessons we have learned along the way.

Life Lesson #1 - God is the source of your blessings; not your job, not your degrees, not your wealth, not a plant-based diet, or who you know. God must be the foundation of your life.

Life Lesson #2 - Walk by faith and not by sight. Where you are now is not where you will be one year, five years, or even ten years down the road. Remember God is not through with you yet. Trust God through the process.

Life Lesson #3 - Delay Immediate gratification for long term goals. Today's instant messages, tweets, and text messages. has taken the rest out of the Sabbath. Learn to set boundaries with social media and digital entertainment.

Life Lesson # 4 - Avoid debt. We are baptizing many of our college students with an incredible amount of school loan debt that will follow many of them into bankruptcy or retirement age.

We believe you can increase your ministry influence when you share your authentic self. People are looking for examples of Christians who walk their talk. Remember to keep believing, keep believing. With God all things are possible.

# Being A Real Cool Grandparent

Being a grandparent can be the coolest job in the world. Your job description is simply to love, lift, and leave. You can sow seeds of wisdom into the lives of your grandkids that will last a lifetime.

Your first task is to love. Find ways to communicate love to your grandkids.



Call them on the phone, spend time with them, send letters & cards, text them, Skype them, and Facebook them. You can never say "I Love You" enough.

The next task is to lift. Intentionally encourage your children in front of the your grandkids. Let your children know they are doing a great job at parenting and that your have their back.

The final task is to leave. Set boundaries on the amount time you will invest in your grandkids.. Let's face it. You have only so much discretionary energy. Over extending yourself will only burn you out and cause you to resent the time you do spend with your grandkids.

Being a grandparent can be one of the coolest jobs on the planet it you learn to love, lift, and leave..

Michael & Ardella Vance have been married over 34 years and share their lives with 4 children and 9 grandkids. They lead the Family Life Ministry for a 2,000 plus community of faith at the First Seventh-day Adventist church in Huntsville, Alabama. The Vance's are available for empowerment sessions on healthy relationships and finances. They can be contacted at 256-694-7448 or [vanceministries@aol.com](mailto:vanceministries@aol.com)

## F.I.G.H.T.

You are invited to participate each 2nd and 4th Friday night at 6:30 pm as men **Faithfully** pray for their families. Godly men **Implementing** strategies to become better husbands, fathers, and men. Strong men listening to **God's** still small voice speaking to the heart. Mature wise husbands sharing **Husbandly** tips to younger husbands. Men picking up the **Task** to create rites of passage for boys to become to men. For more information, contact Robert Mann at 256-617 4617 or [bigrobmann357@gmail.com](mailto:bigrobmann357@gmail.com).



# MARRIED WITH BENEFITS

Having a common purpose helps both men and women get serious about life when they get married. Among the benefits of marriage and sharing a common purpose is the following.

Studies show that married people, especially married men, have longer a life expectancy than do single or divorced people. Husbands as well as wives live longer on average, even after consideration of race, income and family background.

Marriage seems to be a wealth-creating institution. Married couples seem to build more wealth on average than singles or cohabiting couples. The economic advantages of marriage stem from more than just access to two incomes. Marriage partners appear to build more wealth for some of the same reasons that partnerships in general are economically efficient, including economies of scale and specialization and exchange. Marital social norms that encourage healthy, productive behavior and wealth accumulation (such as buying a home) also appear to play a role. Married parents also more often receive wealth transfers from both sets of grandparents than do cohabiting couples;

Having a common purpose in marriage creates something that you individually are unable to accomplish alone. Write a marriage mission statement of what you collectively would like to see unfold in your marriage. Then frame it as a visual reminder of your commitment to each other.

A report from Family Scholars. Why Marriage Matters, Twenty-one Conclusions From Social Sciences 2002