



with this ring

A Testimony

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With This Ring

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“Armadillo Jim”
and
Sheila R. Schmidt



Golden Faith Publishing

WITH THIS RING; A TESTIMONY

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A VERY special thanks to

Lisa Knight

for all her hard work.

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you Lisa. Thank you so much!

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GOD LOVES YOU

HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU THE
DESIRES OF YOUR HEART

THIS TESTIMONY IS AN EXAMPLE
OF GOD'S WILLINGNESS TO GIVE US
THE DESIRES OF OUR HEART.

AS LONG AS YOUR DESIRE IS IN
LINE WITH GOD'S WORD AND DOES
NOT VIOLATE HIS DESIRE FOR YOU,
MARK 11:24 IS A PROMISE YOU CAN
CLAIM FOR YOURSELF

YOUR DESIRES WILL
BECOME A REALITY TO YOU
AS A TESTIMONY OF GOD'S
UNENDING LOVE.

Mark 11:24 (New International Version)

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

Our Wedding Blessings



I, Jim Schmidt, have spent the past many years serving God and waiting for Him to send me the right helpmate. Sheila was a widow and had been married for ten years. She had two beautiful children during that time. Since Sheila's first wedding was quickly planned, and I had never been

married, we wanted a fullscale covenant ceremony and reception on our wedding day. God granted us our heart's desire: Here is our wedding testimony!

Upon our engagement, we began asking God to help us do this wedding HIS way. We planned to celebrate our wedding in Florida, where Sheila was raised. Shortly thereafter, God began dealing with us to change the wedding location to our church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We asked our pastor to perform the ceremony. We prayed that God's will would be done. *Our pastor and his wife agreed to perform the ceremony even though they oversee a very

large ministry and don't have time to perform many weddings. No Saturdays were available; but Thursday evening, June 26th worked for everyone's schedule.

Through constant prayer many things began to happen.

We sowed seed (*Matthew 13*) and believed God for a Hawaiian honeymoon. *Soon after, my brother-in-law offered Frequent Flyer tickets to Hawaii. Other family and friends blessed us with rental car money, a snorkeling and

sailing trip, and the most beautiful Hawaiian lei on the Island. Sheila and the children found her dream wedding dress but it was \$1800.⁰⁰. *They all prayed and the next month they found that very dress on a clearance rack for \$600.⁰⁰.

The same thing happened with the flowers. Sheila priced the flowers she wanted at \$600.⁰⁰. *The next day she found some beautiful silk flowers on sale for seventy five percent off. She made all her own arrangements, corsages, bouquets, and boutonnieres for only \$83.⁰⁰. They were beautiful!

After ordering invitation seals and miniature gift frames from a

magazine, Sheila noticed that it said on the order form, “Every 1000th customer gets their order free.” She laid her hand on the order form and said, “In the name of Jesus I *say* that we are the 1000th customer.” *Four days later Sheila received a call telling us that we were the 1000th customer, saving us another \$350.⁰⁰. Praise God.

One day, while programming the wedding invitation list on the computer, we began running out of ink. Sheila lifted her head to God and asked Him to supply more ink. The next day our printer broke. We shipped the printer back to get it fixed. *Ten days later we received a brand

new printer and the manufacturer had put **two** new ink cartridges, valued at \$80.00. in the box.

One deep desire that Sheila had was to have her braces off her teeth by our wedding day. Originally her orthodontist had said, "No way". A few weeks before the wedding the doctor again said that it was not possible but he could remove the top braces temporarily and put them back on for her after the wedding. The week before the wedding the appointment was scheduled to take the braces off just for the wedding. *I believe the doctor's word was "Wow". The top teeth were ready and the braces came

off permanently.

We continued to pray *daily* for the wedding and **God's** will for our covenant ceremony. One day while we were volunteering at a local center we were giving testimonies about all the things God was doing for the wedding. *A co-volunteer there offered to coordinate the wedding and reception, and anything else we needed, at "no charge". God laid it on her heart to do everything with the highest excellence.

*Soon after that, another woman volunteered to host our rehearsal dinner, saving us hundreds of dollars in restaurant and catering

costs. *She also baked a miniature wedding cake to bless our children, Blake and Fiona. Since our ceremony included a special ring and vow exchange between the children and I (their new Dad) we were thrilled with the idea! We began praying for volunteers to help our coordinators so it would not be such a big job. *God provided twenty six helpers. Because both ladies did such an *awesome* job, many attendees said it was a five star affair.

*Two weeks before our ceremony a couple approached our wedding and reception coordinator and told her that God had laid it on their heart to help pay for the cost

of the wedding reception food. We were told that we had never met them. They wanted to remain anonymous so that we would receive it from God and not them.

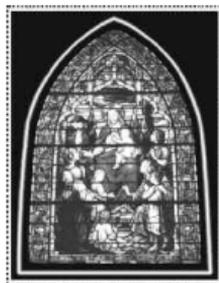
A few weeks before the wedding day one of Sheila's bridesmaids called to say that she just couldn't attend. Financially she could not afford it. Sheila began telling her all that God had done and that if she could stand in faith for this she knew that God would make a way. *Soon, the bridesmaid called again saying that someone had given her a plane ticket and another person had given her some spending money. Praise the Lord!!

One of our biggest challenges was that my background was Roman Catholic. It was difficult for some of my family to accept the wedding location (being non-catholic). The situation became more sensitive when the wedding date we chose was also the seventh anniversary of the death of my uncle, the late Monsignor Schmidt. My aunt, (my uncle's sister) who served as the Monsignor's secretary and housekeeper for thirty-five years, was apprehensive about our wedding. The Holy Spirit led Sheila, on the anniversary of *Sheila's* husband's death, to write my aunt. She did. *What the Holy Spirit directed Sheila to write

performed a miracle in my aunt. Immediately, she called, saying she had changed her mind and was coming to the wedding. She encouraged everyone else in the family to attend.

In addition, God gave us the idea to decorate the front cover of our wedding program with a picture of the stained glass window from St. Mary's Catholic Church, my family's home church in Texas.

*That decision blessed many people's hearts at the wedding service and made a beautiful cover for our program!



Our wedding was unique because Sheila was a widow. *Her late husband's parents made a special 2200 mile trip to attend our wedding. They blessed many people by their loving approval, wedding toast, enthusiastic involvement and telling the children (their grandchildren) that they wanted them to call me "Daddy." Sheila's late husband's father also escorted Fiona (Sheila's daughter) down the aisle during the ceremony. What a blessing!

*The day before our wedding a corporation in town donated a brand new Pentium computer and monitor to our ministry. It was delivered to our home just before

our wedding rehearsal. We didn't even know it was coming.

*Many blessings happened on the wedding day including two donated beef briskets and 144 tamales for the reception, a limousine for post wedding travel, wedding video-photographer, a free pedicure and much more.

Our prayer for the wedding was Romans 5:5, "*the love of God shed abroad by the Holy Ghost,*" and that everyone attending would experience the presence of God. *The Holy Spirit spoke a word of knowledge to Sheila and I through our pastor during the wedding service. Praise the Lord!!! God's

presence was felt by all.

Many people have said that it was the most beautiful wedding ceremony they had ever attended, even all these years later. That is because it was HIS covenant ceremony and HE gets all the glory!

One of the most amazing testimonies during the engagement and wedding ceremony is the bride's ring. *One week before I asked Sheila to marry me a couple at our church offered, (unsolicited) to loan me their grandmother's ring for us to use. I proposed at Christmas on an enthusiastically accepted

borrowed ring. Sheila had selected the ring she desired but since I was attending Bible School and only working part time I could not afford that one at the time. However, I believed God wanted to give this extra special gift to His daughter. I had been sowing financial seed in my offerings for almost one year for that ring. Just three weeks before the wedding it was harvest time. Just after I made a small down payment, the phone rang. An agent called requesting to feature one of our pet armadillos in a national TV commercial. When I returned with the money from the commercial I called the diamond broker to offer my next payment. The diamond

broker accepted my payment and said the ring will be completed in a week. I said, "How can that be possible? This payment is for the center diamond and does not include the cost of the rest of the diamonds and the setting." *The broker said "while you were out of town someone here wanted to anonymously plant a seed in a marriage, so they paid off the ring." Sheila got her ring. Our pastor and I surprised Sheila with her two carat ring during the ceremony. She was overwhelmed with joy!!!



** Indicates blessings from God*

Sheila's Reflections

The greatest of all these miracles is that God has given Jim Schmidt to me. When you reach my age, a good, handsome man who has never been married, is older than me, and loves children and God with all his heart, is very hard to find. I believe that God saved Jim for me. God has given me my dream. Jim is a wonderful husband and father to my children. Plus, our covenant ceremony would have cost thousands of dollars if God had not provided financially for it. God has restored a family!!! My daughter said it best in her own words as she walked down the

aisle, as the miniature bride, during the ceremony. She made an audio tape saying this to Jim....

“My Dear Mr. Jim, four years ago my Daddy went to heaven. Blake and I are so glad that God has sent you and that you have chosen to be our spiritual leader and head of our home.

Thank you for being so kind, gentle and loving. Thank you for all the back scratches and throwing me in bed. Thank you for all you have



done and if you do not mind, I would like to call you my "Daddy." I love you!"

(There was not a dry eye in the wedding chapel.)

Looking back at all the wonderful things that God did for our wedding, we KNOW that it would not have happened if we had not spent many hours in prayer over our special day. We have accomplished and experienced many wonderful things since then and the times we have spent extra time in prayer for something, are the times that God showed himself real and faithful to us.

God will do the same for you!
He wants you to ASK Him.

God is a loving God and He wants
to give us the desires of our heart.

Mark 11:24 (New International Version)

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

**Do not ever hesitate to *ask* Him!!
Go to Him now!**

To receive more information on the
Put On Your ArmorSM Foundation,
the Schmidt Family Ministry and
their special project titled,
I Cried TooTM that was chosen by the
Pentagon as the official gift given
to the U.S. Military children who
lost a mom or dad on 9-11 and
the War on Terror

please write to:
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or visit our web-sites at:

www.ICriedToo.org
www.PutOnYourArmor.org

www.ArmadilloJim.com
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About the Authors

Jim Schmidt, also known as "Armaddillo Jim," and his wife Sheila, co-developed the "I Cried Too" grief recovery project (chosen by the Pentagon as the official gift given to the U.S. Military children who lost a mom or dad on 9-11 and the War on Terror). Jim and Sheila frequently speak on topics of faith, hope, and healing. For more information please visit:
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