

## A BETTER VERSION OF ONE'S SELF

By John F. Hall

In Proverbs, Chapter 17, Verse 6, are these words: "Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children." My friend and Christian Fraternity Brother, Richard



Hornbeak, is the proud grandfather of a granddaughter that he calls "Sparkle." I've been amazed by my oldest granddaughter, Andrea, since I first rocked her to sleep, when she was three years old. She was the first to call me "An-Father." And I called her "Babydoll." This story is a good example of the continued affection, that we have for each, now that she is an adult and married. The title of this story came from Andrea's, and her husband, Andrew Jansen's own words. They quit their jobs, to pursue a career, that will make a difference in the lives of other people. Conchita

Wurst wrote, "Be the best version of yourself rather than a bad copy of someone else."

In Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 20-24, are these words: "You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your former self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful, to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in righteousness and holiness." Andrea and Andrew were born in the same month and on the same day, April 21%. Andrea is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, with a degree in marketing. She was employed, as a freight broker, for a large firm in down town Nashville, Tennessee. She arranged for the transportation of goods, by negotiating rates with carriers, and by submitting shipment details to freight-forwarding companies, or directly to cargo owners. Andrew is a graduate of Campbellsville University, with a double major in Healthcare Management and Business Administration. He is a concrete flooring specialist. He specializes in the preparing, pouring, and finishing concrete floors for residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Andrew decided that he wanted to have a more meaningful career. He felt that doing the same thing, day in and day out, and being out of town a lot, was getting old. Andrew and Andrea went online and found a fast track 16-month nursing program.

To be in the program, Andrea and Andrew had to have a good college grade point average (GPA), and a previously earned bachelors degree, since nursing will be a second degree for them. The plan was for Andrew to earn his nursing degree first. But Andrea was becoming very dissatisfied with her broker job. She told me the following: "I had a bad day at work and I called Andrew when he was out of town. I told him that I wanted to go to school too." Andrew told her not to make any rash decisions, because she was upset. Andrea told me that she went home and prayed about it. The next day, at work, she received an email from the firm's pricing lady. The lady wrote: "God does not care about your finances. Put your faith in Him and He'll pull you through."

Saint Thomas Hospital West is affiliated with Marian University. It is the only Catholic University in Indianapolis and central Indiana. It serves 5,100 students including 4,000 undergraduates and 1,200 graduate students. It awards degrees in the arts, business, education, engineering, math, medicine, ministry, nursing, and natural and physical sciences. Andrea and Andrew do their clinicals at Saint Thomas Hospital. These clinical rotations in nursing, then allow the student to work on practical nursing skills, in various health care settings, under the supervision of an Registered Nurse clinical instructor. Andrea and Andrew take their nursing classes online. In another text to me, Andrea wrote, "All of the exams are in person, the only thing online are the classes, so we have to teach ourselves."

Andrea told me, "We're in this program because we want to be better versions of our self and to help others. I think the people around us see that as well. We also love that we are in a faith based nursing program and working in a faith based hospital. We have our own Christian morals and values, and it's nice being in settings where their values also align with ours." Andrea and Andrew are the only married couple in the fast track Marian University nursing program. The University sent out information to the television stations in Nashville, in conjunction with the National Nursing Week, of May 6" through May 12\*. The University felt that Andrea and Andrew, had a "cool" human interest story to tell.

Channel 5 News reporter, Nikki Hauser interviewed Andrea and Andrew as they were doing their clinical training at Saint Thomas Hospital. Nikki and her camera man came unannounced to interview Andrea and Andrew. Andrea was a little concerned that she did not have time to do any make-up. I told Andrea, "You and Andrew had an excellent interview. You two were relaxed, casual, and in control. I'm very proud of how you talked about your reason for going into the program as a married couple. As for make-up, it was not needed. You have natural beauty. Andrew was clean cut. You both looked good. You both talked from your heart, and not from a script. You both were genuine in how you expressed yourselves. There was nothing fake about what you two said. You are both are certainly an asset to the program, and to the hospital. I'm proud that you both sustained and stayed in the program."

Andrea and Andrew will complete the nursing program in August. They will immediately go to work at Saint Thomas Hospital. Andrea wants to work in cardiac care. Andrew wants to work in the emergency Room. They will have a "Pinning" graduation ceremony when they finish their training. I'll end this story with the words spoken by Mother Teresa, who said: "Unless a life is lived for others, it is not worthwhile."

John F. Hall

\*Read other stories by John F. Hall and others at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>