

### **From the wife's perspective**

My job, as a wife, has not been to be the provider, but the minister and support of the provider. The most critical part of this job is in attitude. I had to learn to support my man regardless of his plan. There were times when I didn't like his plan, didn't see it working and was sure that if he'd just listen to me, I could tell him a better plan. I had to learn to forsake my own ideas of what he should do, and support him regardless of how he chose to get the job done. My job is to believe in him. When my husband came home one day when still working his job and trying to build a business on the side, he stated that he was going to make \$100,000 that year, and regardless of his past failures, I chose just to take him at his word.

In addition, he set a goal to pay off our \$90,000 of debt in the next 12 months. As crazy as it seemed, even if he did manage to achieve \$100,000 in the next year in income, we had to have money to live on! Never mind the fact that he had only been making ½ that amount and there was no visible evidence that anything would change. I usually would have ridiculed his statement as ridiculous, ignored the statement altogether, or confined him and his dream. Because of a recent mentorship relationship with an older woman who was in business with her husband, I chose to encourage. The next day when my husband came home, I had a crude drawing of a house made of bricks where each brick represented \$1000 drawn up and greeted him with the idea that if he did make the money he mentioned that we could pay off our house in a year and showed him the chart.

We put the \$90,000 debt chart on the fridge and every time he made any extra money it went toward that goal. Each time we sent in an extra \$1000 to pay toward the debt, we colored in a brick. We were miserable failures and instead of 12 months it took 18 months! It took fifty percent longer to pay off the house than we planned. So what! Without a dream and the goal, we would have never paid it off even if we would have increased the income! When we set goals and trust in God to help us correct the wrongs we have made, miraculous things can happen.

There were times early on when I had to pick up some of what I considered "his" jobs at home to free up his time. There were many nights that, after an exhausting day of schooling, shopping, cleaning, cooking, and caring for many small children, I would have liked to plop in bed and go immediately to sleep, but instead I gave my husband a foot or back massages to relax him. Isn't that what Christianity is about? Serving one another?

From a wife's perspective, things are a little different. We're not out there, generally, drumming up business and spending the largest part of our day working in the business. However, it is important that we strive to understand where our husband's mind is and keep it as free as possible from distractions. We can do the little things he asks us to do to help and encourage and support in many ways. We can minister to our husbands in a way that only a wife can. Studies have shown that men who are physically satisfied perform better on the job (or business) and have a significantly higher degree of drive and ambition, than their counterparts that are not. And by all means, at all times, we need to be praying for our husbands!

Talk together about your family vision, dreams and goals. Learn to dream again. Get around others who support you in your goals and don't ridicule you or your husband's vision. Never talk down about your husband. Be the wife God's called you to be regardless of how he does his job (work). You are responsible before God for you, not him. Husbands, on the other hand, are responsible not only for themselves, but for their wife and children too, so let's not make his job more difficult. In all we do, let's do it for the glory of God! We believe God wants to use you and your families in a greater way than you have ever dared to imagine. He is the God who does exceedingly abundantly more than we can think or ask.

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