

**CHAPTER TEN**  
**THE WEDDING AND AFTER**  
**Julius Ewald Karl marries Carol Yvonne Karl**

Nitro, West Virginia  
24 November 1967

On Tuesday before Thanksgiving 1967, Julius and Yvonne taught their college classes then left for West Virginia on Wednesday arriving late in the evening. Yvonne's mother and sister had worked diligently to get the wedding and reception put together in two weeks. The family enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner together in the early afternoon. Meanwhile, Julius' sisters Frieda and Erna and Erna's husband Willi and children Karin, Rainer, and Norbert were driving from Hamilton, Ontario to Nitro, West Virginia for the wedding. They arrived in time for the rehearsal on Thanksgiving late afternoon.

After the rehearsal, everyone went back to Yvonne's parents' house for a light dinner. As Julius pulled into the driveway, he turned off the lights and engine and said to Yvonne: "I want you to go in and call off the wedding." They don't recall any discussion. Yvonne replied: "I will not! If you want to call off the wedding you'll have to do it yourself. I believe it's God's will for us to get married." I guess he had last minute jitters as years later he often thanked her for not obeying him that night. Obviously, he did not call it off, and 25 years later, he wrote about it in the Foreword to Yvonne's first book, *Handmaids in the Reign of Almighty God*, as follows:

**Foreword**

In the afternoon before our wedding on November 24, 1967, both of us sitting in the car, Yvonne said to me, "If you feel it's a mistake for us to get married, you will have to call it off; I won't! I am convinced it is no mistake." Almost 25 years have passed since that afternoon. God has helped me to see His will and plan for both me and Yvonne. Our marriage was no mistake! At first, both of us saw marriage, though unconsciously, through the eyes of years of humanistic education. We, and probably more so I, thought we knew how marriage ought to work. It didn't work for us until God opened especially my eyes to His plan in the Bible. God is the inventor of marriage, not man! The Bible is the Operating Manual, not the opinions of our culture! Most of all, I did not know how to be a husband; I had to be taught by the Lord and Scripture!

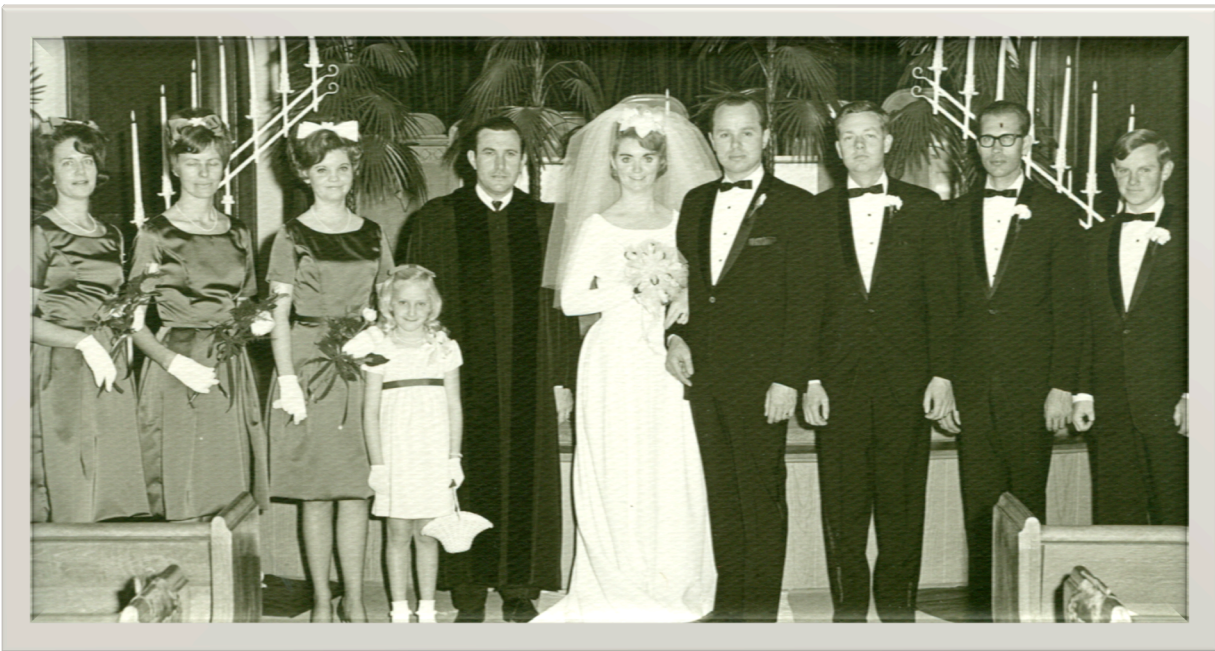
Since then everything changed. We began to develop each other. My view of women in general, and of a wife in particular, was brought in line with the Word of God. First, I saw the gifts God had bestowed upon Yvonne, and then I recognized His call on her life. Among many other things, she is called to preach and to pastor, side-by-side with me or independently of me, as the Lord chooses. In the following pages she tells her story and shares her convictions with the scriptural foundation upon which they are based. Read it! God will speak to you because He has a plan for you, too!

It is my sincere prayer that you serve as a Handmaid in the Reign of Almighty God. Remember, regardless how our age defines happiness, true happiness is being in the will and purpose of God (Acts 17:28). Precisely that is what is meant by *Handmaids in the Reign of Almighty God*.

-J.E. Karl, Ph.D.



*Interesting tidbit: Julius forgot to bring his black shoes for the wedding. He only had brown so he borrowed black from Willi, his brother-in-law.*



*L to R – Jean Walkof, Frieda Karl, Virginia Hively, Melissa McCormick, Harold Goodpaster, Yvonne, Julius, Jerry Jones, Don Roe, Richard Hively. Melissa was the little sister of one of my best friends, Sally McCormick Meadows. Jean Walkof caught the bouquet and Jerry Jones caught the garter. At the time, they were not dating. However, they got together and married in August 1968. Carol Tucker, a Nitro girl, got the measurements and made the bridesmaids dresses without a fitting. Don Roe was the music minister at Nitro Church of God and a friend of Julius when he was a student at Anderson.*



*L to R – Candlelighters – Nephews, Norbert and Rainer Boeling. Junior Bridesmaids, Cousins Kathy and Becky Stricklen, and niece Karin Boehling. Yvonne, Julius. Ushers: friends Ed Ely, Don Roe, Ivan Meadows, and Yvonne’s Uncle Bob Stricklen*



*Julius prepares to throw the garter (caught by Jerry Jones). Yvonne throws bouquet (caught by Jean Walkof). Both Jerry and Jean were in the wedding party, and although they had not dated before, they ended up getting married nine months later in August 1969.*



*The Get-Away car-- Yvonne’s 1961 Olds ‘88 souped up by Brother Rich and friends*

## **RUNNING OUT OF GAS**

An interesting tidbit: Julius and Yvonne spent their wedding night at a Motel on Highway 17 headed for Rte 35 going to Ohio. The next day, Saturday, they were on their way back to Anderson when they ran out of gas between Jackson and Chillicothe, Ohio. As they sat on the side of the road deciding what to do (no cell phones in those days), Jean and Jerry came by—they had stayed overnight in Nitro and were on their way to Anderson. They rescued the newlyweds as Jerry took Julius to buy gas and bring it back to the car. They followed them the few miles to a station where they filled up and all continued on their journey.

Julius had moved his things from his apartment to Yvonne's before they left for West Virginia, so that was home when they returned to Anderson. They didn't take a honeymoon vacation. On Sunday morning, they decided to visit the First Presbyterian Church in Anderson although the next week they returned to Park Place Church of God where they continued to attend until they moved to Bloomington the following August, 1968.

## **AFTER THE WEDDING**

By Yvonne

Our first night back in Anderson, we were awakened in the middle of the night by a knock at the door and lights flashing outside. Julius opened the door to paramedics who were there with the cot and equipment. Obviously friends had decided to play a prank on us. We had a good laugh. No one ever confessed.

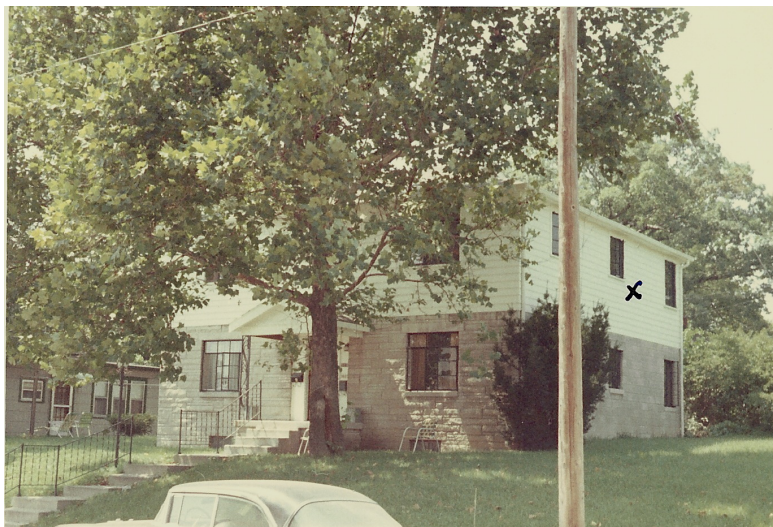
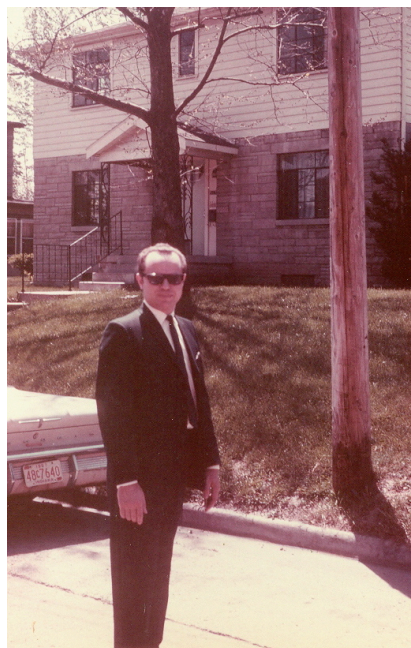
We lived at 517 Chestnut in an apartment building adjacent to Warner Press. When I first moved to Anderson, I lived for three months in an apartment about three miles from the college, but when this one on Chestnut became available half a block away, I was eager to move in. There were four apartments in the building. Jim and Carol Lynne Usher married in June and had moved in downstairs. Across the hall from us upstairs was Mike and Naida Whitesel who had been married a little longer than us. They had graduated from the college and were working in town. An older lady and her daughter lived in the apartment below ours and when we made too much noise, they would bang on their ceiling with a broom handle. They moved out a few weeks after we got married, and Jerry and LaDonna Sullivan moved in. Julius, Jim, and Jerry were all in seminary together.

The three couples would get together occasionally for an evening meal—everyone would contribute something and we ate and talked. In fact, we were together the evening of April 4, 1968—the day before Julius' birthday—when Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot and killed. The Ushers had a nice new COLOR television and the six of us watched the news coverage together at their apartment.

## **WEDDING GIFT TO OURSELVES**

Julius and I pooled our savings and bought ourselves a brand new 1967 beige and gold Pontiac Bonneville. We paid \$4000 cash for the car. It was a big car and we were proud of it. When Dr. Irene Caldwell, Christian Ed professor at the seminary who had befriended both of us,

heard about the car, she was shocked. “Why,” she asked, “didn’t you put that money down on a house?” At that time, we thought Julius would be taking a pastorate somewhere after graduation in a few months. She let it go after a while but continued to hover over us. After all, she was really the one who took Julius under her care and got him to Anderson College just four years earlier.



*Julius, standing in front of our apartment house at 517 Chestnut St in Anderson. We lived upstairs in the apartment on the right (where the x is). This was just across the street from the College and it only took us five minutes to walk from our apartment to our office in Old Main (which soon after was torn down to make way for new college facilities). Our rent was \$60 month for one bedroom. No air conditioning. We did have a locked storage area in the basement where we also did our laundry. Before we married, someone broke into our storage area and stole all of Yvonne’s luggage and summer clothes. We filed a police report but no suspects were found. It must have happened during the night because people were coming and going all day and we never locked the front door.*



*Left-Our 1967 Pontiac Bonneville 13 years later in front of our home in Livonia, Michigan.*

### **Follow-up**

Yvonne made a \$6000 annual salary for teaching full-time Spanish and English at Anderson College in 1966-1967, and with a raise, received \$6200 in 1967-68. Julius was fulltime in seminary and taught German part-time at the college each semester and his salary was less than \$2000 each year. However, he did get a discount on his seminary tuition both years, and Yvonne could take classes free at the college or seminary. She took Christian Education classes at the seminary, audited German from Dr. Tjart when he returned from sabbatical, and audited New Testament Greek from Dr. Boyce Blackwelder. Julius and Yvonne enjoyed the interaction with seminary faculty and were frequently invited to their homes. The faculty ladies had a get-together for Yvonne to give her advice on being a wife. It was hilarious. They expressed excitement that for only the second time in the college history, two faculty members were marrying.

Upon graduation from seminary, Julius changed his mind about taking a pastorate and decided to apply for the doctoral program at Indiana University in Bloomington. He was accepted and Yvonne later applied and also pursued the doctoral program. They resigned their teaching positions at Anderson College in August 1968 and moved to Bloomington where they had teaching positions in public school during their time there.