

# The Weekday Wedding



An interview with Sonia and Quintin Jordaan



**Sonia, why a weekday? Didn't you consider a Thursday for a wedding really strange?**

Quintin and I originally chose the 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, as it's a public holiday. However, we visited the Bridal Library at Oakfield to get some ideas for our wedding and you may remember, Matthew, that we chatted with you. You mentioned that we should consider a January wedding and as we were going to have a small wedding we should consider a week day.

Thank you for the advice. We probably would not have thought about it. There is no doubt that it was a better option than the 16th December.

**Was cost a factor?**

Absolutely. Weddings are very costly and finances can cause major stress before and after the wedding. We

know of others who, after two or three years, are still paying off their weddings.

Also, we decided not to invite family or friends with whom we were no longer in touch and, believe me, being Portuguese my guest list could easily have numbered 200. The weekday option also helped people to understand that ours was a small and intimate occasion.

**How much do you think you saved?**

Easily 30K. The saving came from the choice of having a small wedding, moving it to January and choosing a week day. This way we could have what we really wanted. We were able to spend more on top class professional photographers. A wedding lasts only one day; your photos are for a life time. Jaco Fourie and Daleen



are a husband and wife team to be reckoned with. There is a huge benefit in having two photographers working together. Every moment is captured.

**Didn't your friends think it strange? Your guests would have to take a day off work.**

If they did, they didn't express it. Most of them took only half a day off and we had made accommodation arrangements for those travelling from a distance. Most made it a long weekend and spent some time with friends and family over the weekend before returning home.

Also, on the day everyone was at work so the roads were great. The suppliers are able to deliver timeously. The hairdresser and makeup artist are not in a rush to get to another appointment. There are definitely more advantages to having a weekday wedding than people realise,

**Did the function still have a party feel or did the guest all go home early?**

We had a blast. No one ran off early because of their children or work. It wasn't necessary. A wedding is a definite excuse to party till late. Several friends and family booked into B&B's in the area so that they did not have to drive a distance. I also had the number for Road Angels to drive home anyone who was under the influence. Planning the small things for your guests makes the difference to the day.

**I see you invited quite a few children.**

Not every venue allows children. Honestly, if this had been one of Oakfield's rules we would have gone



elsewhere. Most weddings exclude children which is a shame. No matter what age, we both really wanted our whole family to share our special day. Many children, nowadays, do not have any idea of what a wedding is. They loved our wedding—every bit as much as the adults. We booked the Oakfield guest lodge so they were able to sleep when they got tired. The parents just had to collect them on their way out.

**I see that Anthony van Tonder married you—How did you come to meet him?**

After visiting Oakfield Farm I went onto their website where marriage seminars were offered to couples. I mentioned it to Quintin and we decided that we would attend one. We thoroughly enjoyed the it. Great venue, good food and an awesome message. We were hooked and one seminar turned out to be all except one as I had bronchitis.

Quintin and I had such a good feeling about Dr Anthony and his wife Michelle that we asked him to perform

**Photographer**  
J&D Photography

**Dress**  
Wedding Box

**Make Up**  
Bella Professional  
Make-Up & Body

**Invitations  
& Stationery**  
Angela's  
Handmade Cards

**Flowers & Decor**  
Cafe Fleur

**Music**  
Flash Mobile



the marriage ceremony. After all, who better to marry us than a man who has devoted his time to develop families by teaching and equipping them?

**Did he insist on counselling? After all you are not some naïve couple in their twenties?**

Absolutely! Regardless of age every couple needs some kind of guidance. It would be foolish to think you know it all or that your relationship does not need help. After our counselling session, Quintin and I had a better understanding of our personalities—where we clash and what we need to do to defuse the situation. We are still learning things about each other.

**Tell me more about the wedding workshops**

Oakfield is not only interested in seeing you married but they follow up by ensuring that you have a place to go to get support so that your marriage lasts. At every seminar Quintin and I always arrived early and we would take a walk in the beautiful gardens and envisage our future wedding day. It reignited our union. It was a real blessing to return to the seminars and enjoy a

scrumptious dinner, good conversation, and learn to make your union the best it can be.

**It is often said that, “Marriage changes everything.” This is a scary thought—is it true in any way?**

Marriage does change things. The day after our wedding the love for my husband seemed so much deeper. It felt pure. It felt right. There is of course both good and bad. The challenge is to make the bad better and the good the best.

We both tend to see things coming out of each other that we didn't see before, which can be a bit of a shock. It is easier to blame your partner and not to be accountable for your own actions. The sooner couples learn that it is easier to change your own faults than trying to change your partner the better. I try to examine myself first. My prayer to God every morning is “Lord show me my faults and guide me into changing them.”

My Uncle's words to us were “A marriage is hard work; you've got to work at it everyday.” This, I'm sure, you've heard from everyone. What people forget to tell you is that hard work can be fun. So have fun working hard on your marriage.”

**Is there anything that you would have done differently if you could?**

Not at all. Even if there were, you can't change it. We had an awesome day filled with family, friends and an abundance of love. That day goes by so quickly. All I wanted to do the next morning is put wedding my dress on and go dancing.

# Does it make a difference?

Dr Anthony van Tonder

**M**ore and more couples all over the world choose to live together and even raise children without the security of marriage. Many people are questioning if there are any benefits. Is it not simpler and wiser to leave things just as they are? And the statistics of a 64% failure in marriage in South Africa are certainly not encouraging. It is also true that the decision to stay together without getting married is seldom a mutual decision. Men are not afraid to pop the question—they simply like the convenience and freedom without the commitment and the risk.

Marriage and living together are completely different and marriage brings with it some unique challenges. You may feel locked in. It is easy to take each other for granted assuming that the promises and the rings will give you the security to say and do things which previously would have been a quick end to the relationship. Marriage does bring out unrealistic expectations and the desire to change our partner. New problems, such as the shortage of money or the struggle for a balanced sex life and poor communication, all play a part. This is not helped by unrealistic and often unfair expectations that we have of our partners, nor does our universal inability to see our own glaring mistake.

Sadly, in my experience, I have found that taking the step getting married somehow magnifies each individual's need to want to receive. This is as a result of deep rooted self-centeredness that bolsters the statistics

to even more in the case of failed marriages. It is a risky business but there is no relationship barring our relationship with God that we long for more. There is no relationship that is more fulfilling than marriage. We need to try and understand this phenomenon and then look at how a couple can make their marriage work.

In the end, the outcome of every problem will be conflict so this is a crucial issue to deal with. It would be nice to believe that prevention is better than cure, but nothing will prevent conflict and the cure cannot be found overnight. This is why it is our great pleasure to conduct our bi-monthly workshops at Oakfield Farm.

Irrespective of how long you may or may not have been together and especially if you have chosen not to marry you all are invited to join these workshops. After a delicious dinner we will explore the problems and solutions in an informal and fun way that will help you have a wonderful marriage just as God, the author of marriage, ordained it.



Photographs by J&D Photography

Dr Anthony van Tonder is both an ordained minister and doctor in Christian Counselling. As a relationship specialist he has many years of experience as to what make people tick and with his charming wife Michelle is deeply committed to the success of marriage and family life. He is also the founder and CEO of Family LifeChange Centre SA, trading as Happy Families. Topics at Oakfield include: The Five Love Languages, Anger Management, Conflict Resolution, Effective Communication, Trust, Intimacy, Behavioural Differences, Stress, Fun in Marriage, In-Laws, Finances, ecetera. For those unable to attend, these talks have also been produced on DVD.

For more details, including the DVD series, Dr Anthony may be contacted on 012 991 8672 or at [office@happyfamilies.org.za](mailto:office@happyfamilies.org.za). For the marriage seminars log onto [www.idoido.co.za](http://www.idoido.co.za) or contact Oakfield Farm on 082 606 6000 or [info@oakfield.co.za](mailto:info@oakfield.co.za)