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“The Best Marriage I Know”

It happened one rainy afternoon, about two o'clock, on the first floor of the Greene County Courthouse. My uncle Joe and Aunt Mary Virginia Hall entered into the “best marriage I know”. Marriage is when a man and woman take certain vows to love and cherish one another, and to stay together through sickness and health, for better or worse. This vow was taken by my Uncle Joe and Aunt Mary on December 27th, 1991. To this day, they have kept this agreement, and I see their marriage as one that cannot be dissolved except by death of one of them.

I was told that my Uncle Joe had high blood pressure for a long time, but did not think it was as bad on his health as it proved to be. After about six months of uncontrolled blood pressure, his kidneys became damaged and he needed to start dialysis. They said he went through dialysis for about three months, and then he was fortunate enough to receive a kidney at UAB hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. My Aunt Mary told me that this was a stressful time for everyone. But, through love, caring, understanding, and belief in the vows that she took on December 27th, 1991, they made it. Today, my Uncle Joe has to take a handful of medicines for the rest of his life, but he is alive, he has the love of me, and has the love of my Aunt Mary, in “the best marriage I know”.

What makes this marriage great is that I often see my Uncle Joe and Aunt Mary communicate about things that need to be done, things that should have been done, how they feel about certain things, and about how to take care of and provide a good life for me since the death of both my mother and grandmother, whom I loved dearly. A husband and wife should be able to peacefully discuss how they are feeling, especially about important things, and things that will have an affect on all of us. I hear them discussing things a lot. Sometimes they disagree, but they don't argue and fight. I have been living with my Aunt Mary and Uncle Joe since I was in pre-school. I have never seen them have a fight! This is wonderful; this is “the best marriage I know”.

Living with my Aunt Mary and Uncle Joe taught me a lot, especially about what makes a good marriage, and about boys and girls courting each other. A strong marriage is one where a wife and husband respect each other and spend quality time together. During the busy time between my Aunt Mary's working and my Uncle Joe's doctor appointments, they make time to just be alone together. Sometimes they get a babysitter and just go away for the weekend together or just right out somewhere together. But sometimes, they just sit, hug, and touch each other. This marriage is a description of the kind of marriage I want to enter someday.

My Aunt Mary and Uncle Joe have realized that there will be stressful times in a marriage, but have learned to respect each other and to get along. They have accepted the changes that came along

with children, loss of time for each other, and the sickness of my Uncle Joe. My Uncle Joe and Aunt Mary Virginia Hall care for each other and for their marriage. This is “the best marriage I know.”