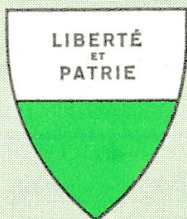


The Big Day!!

The week leading up to our wedding was bittersweet. We were looking forward to our new life together as husband and wife, but we knew that it would mean the end of our time at L'Abri with all the dear friends we had made. We would miss the rich stimulation that lectures and discussions provided. Our final week at L'Abri in 1971 fell on the same days of the week as the celebration of our 50th anniversary in 2021. We enjoyed Christmas on Saturday, surrounded by friends and great music. We worshipped with our church family at the L'Abri chapel on Sunday.

Before our church marriage on Thursday, 30 December, we needed to submit to the required civil ceremony on Monday, 27 December. Our banns had been published and apparently no one objected to our marriage. So, we went up to Villars with Udo, who would provide translation for us. The official before whom we appeared was a very proper Swiss gentleman. He made sure that we understood the serious, binding nature of the commitment we were making. He then conducted the ceremony, having us repeat vows that were more substantive than those found in many wedding ceremonies today. He then filled out the Livret de Famille, which not only contained the official record of our marriage but also instruction on maintaining a healthy marriage. As you can see, the Swiss official had a beautiful, flowing hand.

CONFÉDÉRATION SUISSE
CANTON DE VAUD



LIVRET DE FAMILLE
DES ÉPOUX

Maffion - Mc. Benzie
Délivré le *27 décembre* 19*71* sur la base de
l'inscription du vol. *7* page *13* n° *16*
du registre des *marriages* de l'arrondissement
de l'état civil d. *Villars 101er*



Mariage célébré à

Villars / Ollon

le 27 décembre 1971

entre

Epoux

Maffier

Paul Rees

état civil

célibataire

origine

ressortissant des Etats Unis de
l'Amérique du Nord

né à

Canandaigua (U.S.A.) le

fils de

Maffier Clyde A.

et de

Brothg E. née Rees

Epouse

Margaret Eleanor

née Mc Kenzie

état civil

célibataire

origine

ressortissante des Etats Unis de
l'Amérique du Nord

née à

Seattle (Washington) le

fille de

Mc Kenzie Selmar Daniel

et de

Mathilda Eleanor, née Haggover



L'officier de l'état civil :

Drey

Margaret: "A last minute detail needing some thought was decorating the chapel. Keeping it cheap, simple, *and* pretty was paramount. Since our wedding was barely a week after Christmas, someone suggested that poinsettias probably would be on sale at the local Migros (Switzerland's largest supermarket chain). Udo went off to investigate. It was a remarkable sight to behold his little Citroën 2CV filled with red poinsettias toiling up the road! I went out and scrounged interesting greens and 'seed fluffs' from the verge and arranged those with the poinsettias. The chapel looked pretty sweet! Paul can talk more knowledgeably about our music selections."

We left most of the musical selections up to Gini Andrews, a L'Abri worker who was a concert pianist. She made the little Flentrop organ in the L'Abri chapel sing! Two pieces that we especially wanted were the Purcell Trumpet Tune in D for the processional and Widor's Tocatta as the recessional. The venue could not have been more beautiful. One wall of the L'Abri chapel is built of large windows facing out onto the Swiss Alps. Because it was a Thursday, Udo's message for our wedding was a required lecture for students.



Bruce (my best man) and I walked to the chapel together before the start of the service. We were very thankful that Franky Schaeffer offered to take the pictures of the ceremony, otherwise we would have had only our memories of that day.



The service began with Purcell's Trumpet Tune in D. I was overwhelmed seeing Margaret process down the aisle, realizing that I was really marrying this lovely lady.



Udo gave a wonderful message on the Biblical basis of marriage from the Book of Genesis. Udo pointed out that God's work of creation was not complete until He had made a human partner for Adam. Udo stressed that Margaret and I were creating something unique with our relationship, a lifelong work of art in which we would delight in each other's uniqueness. He

emphasized the need to forgive each other in light of the great forgiveness that each of us had received in Christ. He encouraged us, when confronted with challenges, to work together to find solutions unique to us. Our marriage relationship must demonstrate our trust in Christ and the reality of His grace.



Dr. Schaeffer led us through our marriage vows. Even though both of us were excited and confident that our marriage was blessed by God, we both experienced our knees knocking as we entered into what we knew was a lifelong covenant.



Margaret had asked Natasha, the elder daughter of Udo and Debbie, to be the ring bearer, a charge she carried off beautifully.



Dr. Schaeffer pronounced us man and wife, and we left the

chapel as a married couple. We stood outside the chapel and greeted people as they filed out.





A favorite picture from our wedding day is of Edith Schaeffer, clearly tickled by something that had been said as people filed out of the chapel.



Many in the community of L'Abri worked together to provide a lovely reception for us in Gentiana, the chalet in which we had lived. It was a touching outpouring of love. Once the reception was over, Margaret and I headed off for our honeymoon. I will share a bit more about our last week in Switzerland and our return to the US in my next post.