



# "This Christian Life"

Lloyd and Marian Konrad

Each and every story is special in God's eyes. "This Christian Life" takes a captivating look at everyday folks living extraordinary lives. So without any further interruptions it is our pleasure to introduce to you the Konrad's.

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As we approached the house, we could see that the front door was open – welcoming us to their home. When we entered, the first thing visible was a life-sized cutout of President George Bush. There was no doubt in anyone's mind about the Konrad's political affiliation. Nor was anyone questioning which Texas university held their allegiance. There were many references to Texas A & M.



The living area is filled with mementos of travel both in the United States and in Europe. Pictures adorn nearly every flat surface where children and grandchildren are prominently visible. The room itself is warm and inviting and we were treated as honored guests.

Mr. Konrad believes that the energy of the church is heavily invested in the young adults. This age group makes or breaks a congregation by their commitment level. It is true at Abiding Peace as in other churches. However, we believe that people in the Konrad's generation are equally vital to church building as they continue to share their varied experiences.

While Marian served lemonade, we were treated to a synopsis of their 63 years together. During that talk, Lloyd gave us his theory on marriage: That marriage is never 50/50 because one is usually on the giving end of things and the other is often on the receiving side in a disagreement. And that the ratio changes daily. One of the reasons that marriage can be so much fun and so exciting is that waking up every day in a new world is God's continuing gift to us!

During a brief fit of coughing he said that "Old Krauts (like himself) go down hard." Mr. Konrad is a fighter and has no plans to give up his zest for life and sit in an easy chair. Indeed, why should he? He is mentally alert, generous, open, and delightful to talk with.

He mentioned his deep concern for the health of Wallace McColgan. He commented that Wallace never voiced a complaint about his illness. He prayed for Wallace every day until his death and tried to talk with him on the phone at least every other day. Said that the McColgans are a genuinely (that was his word) nice couple to be friends with. Well, in our opinion, the Konrads are equally delightful and charming hosts in their home. The day we interviewed both couples was a day of smiles and laughter. We look forward to spending time with more couples like them.



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We enjoyed the chiming of the clocks, some of which may have come from Europe, and which radiated a sense of joy and contentment in the room that was filled with beautiful things from many places.

Answering a question about his younger days, Lloyd said he was a middle child, spoiled by everyone until he went into the military where he was trained as a radio operator on B17s. He became very ill with rheumatic fever, spent six months in the hospital, lost out on his appointment to Officer Candidate School, and was discharged prematurely for medical reasons in 1942.

He worked in a shop, punched a time clock in Cedarburg, Wisconsin because he knew Marian's family there. After realizing there might be a better job in the office, he took the cushy job that gave him some freedom and subsequently married Mrs. Konrad September 28, 1946. Tomorrow will mark 63 years of happiness for this wonderful couple.

During the drinking of lemonade, Lloyd talked about the many miracles in his life that came from God. That he, himself, made some bad decisions, but God always bailed him out of them. In fact, his awe of God and His care for the Konrads was foremost in his mind when we talked.

He mentioned a relative who wanted to return home following a marriage breakup but his reply was, "Don't sit down!", forcing the couple to re-evaluate and re-examine their situation and make the marriage work. Much loved grandchildren were not omitted from the recitation of blessings that the Konrads attribute to God's continuing care. God is very real to Mr. and Mrs. Konrad and is present in their lives every single day.

His praise of Marian included the fact that he could not take care of himself and live in their house if he did not have her to lean on. She assists him in moving about, transferring him from wheelchair to recliner, and is his right hand in every way. He gives her all the credit and thanks for his continuing ability to remain active.

Lloyd remains deeply interested in everything about the church. He talked about Bible studies he has enjoyed, his years of serving on church councils, his involvement in all church happenings, and his desire to be part of the planning for the future of the congregation at Abiding Peace.

A brief visit with Lloyd and Marian Konrad was a lesson in basic Christianity and the running of the church.



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When we left their home after touring the beautiful garden outside the living area, we were struck with the realization that we had spent time with people who are still incredibly young and with the rest of the congregation are the hope for the future of Abiding Peace.

Congratulations on the occasion of your 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, Marion and Lloyd Konrad.

Let me close on a very personal note. Lloyd Konrad has been a mentor to me for many years. His presence and his encouragement to the men of the Wednesday morning Bible study have been as that of a big brother, or an adopted dad for many of us. He stressed accountability in all facets of life and never failed to maintain contact with friends – wherever they are.

He regularly calls to check on people who may be alone following the death of a spouse. As an example of church friends that shared the same numbers of years of marriage, when Walt Helwig died, Lloyd and Marian determined to keep Fern close and to share God's love with her. They maintain an active social life including Marian's involvement in the Red Hat Society.

I honor the Konrads for two lives that are being lived to the fullest. Bless you, both of you.