

# SIDES OF THE STORY



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WITH

**NGEE & RICH**

(KEEPING MARRIAGE ALIVE INITIATIVE)



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# 2 Sides of the Story

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WITH  
NGEE & RICH OKONKWO



KEEPING MARRIAGE  
ALIVE INITIATIVE®

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by Ngee & Rich Okonkwo.

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Culled quotes are duly acknowledged.

Cover design by Babatunde Quazeem.

Illustrations by David Ikyeleve.

## **Dedication**

Dedicated to all men and women who believe in  
togetherness and are looking for ways to keep their  
marriage alive.

## FOREWORD

Hmm!! – I could not drop the manuscript from when you gave me until I finished reading. For couples interested in keeping marriage alive, this is a must read.

For young people thinking of getting married, I recommend this unusual book. The insights, mistakes, corrections, moving forward, will keep your marriage alive.

Thank you Ngee and Rich for coming up with such a book as this; at a time when marriages are dying on the flimsiest of excuses.

On my part, I will make sure that any couple we will wed henceforth will read this book. This will be in the list of must read books for our intending couples.

**Ngozi Nlekwuwa**

Wife of Senior Pastor

Olivet Bible Church,

Festac, Lagos.

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Most importantly we acknowledge the inspiration from God and His daily guidance in our live.



# 1



## Broken Promises



I just can't take it anymore! It's our wedding anniversary; we agreed to take the weekend off. Am packed and ready and you walk in to tell me that there is an emergency, therefore we can't travel. You saw me packing this morning, why didn't you tell me? This plan was set a month before and I took time for God's sake to make sure we spend time with each other! You are full of broken promises!!

Can you relate with this situation or scenario? How many times has your spouse broken a promise and felt sorry was okay? This is our story; join us, let's walk the path together.



"Just because I have an emergency, is that why you are shouting! Should I leave my patients to go and have some fun? Don't you know i am a doctor?"



"You knew we had a weekend off date to keep, we discussed, we agreed together, not once did you prepare or even tell the clinic staff you won't be available in case of emergency.

This simply shows that you never wanted the vacation. Truth be told; if it was a work related appointment, you would set aside the date and make sure you were available.

I can't even remember the last time you kept any promise at all."

*As usual, blame work! Can't trust him anymore, says something else but means something else.*

## Hidden Thoughts



*You are hard to please!*

This is where most couples stop but in reality every misunderstanding or conflict should draw us closer or at least we should learn something from it.



## WHAT COULD WE HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY

"You can't just make a promise and break it just to suit your situation. Think of the other person. In retrospect, I would have found out 1<sup>st</sup> the gravity of the emergency and also see if we could shift the date and not just cancel it."

“Is there any other possible actions I could have taken? I could have prepared better by getting a doctor to relieve me of my duties for the days involved, this would have covered for the emergency.”



## LET'S TALK

If you are dealing with broken promises right now in your marriage this is a good place to start asking the right questions to achieve a better result.

- Why am I upset?
- Is my reaction towards my spouse appropriate?
- Both of you should define broken promises.
- Both of you should identify how broken promises can or has affected your marriage positively or negatively.
- Is the issue of broken promises just a one off situation or has it become a habit?
- If unmet expectations is the number one cause of divorce can we equate or compare broken promises as unmet expectations?
- What are my expectations from this union or

- Are there habits that can help in meeting each other's expectations?
- Write down 3 habits each – exchange papers and come to an agreement of 3 habits that will be used as a measure to stop the habit of breaking promises.

***Don't forget- SORRY is an action word. Take action today!***

***For us we agreed on these 3 habits MOVING FORWARD.***



### **MOVING FORWARD**

We agreed that keeping promises put value in the relationship and assures the other of your love.

1. We will set reminders and remind each other if need be of the promise; this includes birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other important dates to us like children's graduation.
2. We should take permission and make adequate preparation to cover for areas like work, children, extended families and emergencies that might affect our plan or promises especially if we need to travel.

3. We should give room for emergencies once in a while but have a makeup plan as soon as possible.

**INSIGHTFUL QUOTE**

“*People with good intentions  
make promises but  
people with good character keep them*”

[Author unknown – culled from the internet]



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