

## Surprise proposal makes this a Valentine to remember

Written by Administrator

Thursday, 25 February 2010 00:00 - Last Updated Thursday, 25 February 2010 10:33

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Stephanie Padgett flashed a wide grin as her name was called for a door prize during intermission of the "Speaking Louder Than Before Tour" Feb. 12 at Graceland Baptist Church in New Albany.

Padgett's eyes were full of anticipation as "Wally" the host of WAY FM's "Total Access" asked her if she was ready to see what she had won.

She nodded and out-walked her boyfriend of seven months, Shawn Scott.

Scott is a Salem resident who had been planning the surprise engagement for about three months.

He said he initially wanted to do it in front of a room full of women at Northside Christian Church's Christmas Tea event, but didn't want to take the focus off the event.

"I thought it would be a good example of Christ to propose to her in front of all those women," Scott said. "The problem was, they were having a guest speaker and I didn't want to take people's focus away from him and the message he was delivering that day."

When the Christmas Tea plan fell through, Scott's next thought went to the Feb. 12 concert at Graceland. Scott shook it off at first, but the more he thought about it, he said, the more it felt like God laying it on his heart to do it then.

"God put it on my heart that the concert was the way to go," he said. "(I contacted them and) didn't hear anything back for a while. I would call them and no one would return my calls. Then the general manager called me and kept in touch leading up to the show."

The couple met last summer while volunteering for "One Bright Night" in New Albany. Scott said that event is prom for underprivileged kids with neurological deficiencies.

Scott said he received several e-mails from Padgett after the even but said they were of the corporate variety and he didn't respond.

After leaving the event early one night, an e-mail caught his attention. He said he realized it was specifically to him and the two started corresponding from there.

After that, rather intentionally or unintentionally, their paths were crossing more and more, which eventually lead to the first date – a Jeremy Camp concert.

Oddly enough, Camp was the headlining act at the Feb. 12 show.

It didn't take long for Scott to realize Padgett was the woman for him. He said he followed the advice of Pastor Chip Ingram.

"I was listening to a study with Chip Ingram on dating and he said people should date for a year, go through the holidays and then you will know what it's like to spend the holidays with them and how to act and respond to different situations with them," he said. "I thought that was a good approach. I mentioned it to Stephanie and we were going to wait until the summer, which would have been a year."

The problem was, she wasn't buying it, mainly because she hadn't received a proper proposal.

"People kept asking if we were going to get married and she (Stephanie) said, 'He says we are, but he has never asked me!' Finally, I realized I better get on it," he said.

The plans for Scott and Padgett are to get married this summer, which would complete Ingram's recommended year of courtship.

Scott said he wants to get married sooner, but he feels like God is telling him to wait.

"We have several young people who are in the singles group (at Northside) who have been dating and we want to be an example for them," he said. "We don't want them to rush things. We want them to wait and get confirmation from the Lord that (marriage is) what He wants for them."

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A warning though, that confirmation could put them on a stage in front of a packed house with their future husband on one knee!