

# The National Expirer

All the news that's fit to print—and some that isn't, too!

News of 2008 from George & Julie Halitzka

## George and Julie becoming boring old married couple, says survey

LOUISVILLE — According to a recent survey of friends and family members, George and Julie Halitzka have officially become old and boring in their second year of marriage.

“We didn’t mean to do it,” said George, as he listened to NPR Radio. “We just naturally got dull as soon as the honeymoon ended.” He bowed his head in shame. “But I never thought it would happen to us.”

Survey data indicates that 78% of the couple’s acquaintances believe they rank below both “watching paint dry” and “viewing daytime TV” on the Humperdinck Boredom Index.

“It’s not *my* fault that I like staying home to make crafts and read blogs,” said Julie defensively.

“I think writing articles about insomnia and mushrooms is fascinating,” George insisted.

Otis Humperdinck, Professor of Tedium at the University of Iowa, shook his head when he heard the couple’s lame excuses. “Denial is very common in cases like this,” he said. “But the first step is admitting you have a problem.

“Once you understand that shopping together at Kroger is *not* wedded bliss, you can take steps towards becoming less dull. An outing to Starbuck’s is a good beginning,” he explained patiently. “Then you might experiment with a real movie—and Redbox doesn’t count.”

When confronted with



Humperdinck’s suggestions, the Halitzkas seemed to realize something was amiss. “I . . . *think* we did interesting, romantic things once,” said Julie, as if in a haze. “Back when we were—what’s the word?—*dating*.”

“But that’s before you were stuck with me for life,” protested George. “I’m not doing that crap anymore!”

Julie immediately turned an unattractive shade of scarlet, and the couple began to fight.

“Well, arguing is better than boredom,” said Humperdinck with a shrug. “If this keeps up, their 2009 survey will be full of excitement!”

### Inside this issue

**MIRACLE CURE: George renounces control freak habits!**  
*Still plenty of room for improvement, insists wife . . . . . 3*

**EXCLUSIVE: Julie cleans off her desk!**  
*Antique dealers bid on papers from bottom of pile . . . . . 7*

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## Julie studies, sings, and teaches

(But not at the same time)

Julie continues to work on her Master of Divinity in Worship at Southern Seminary. After three very intense semesters, she's almost two-thirds of the way done with her degree requirements!

However, the infamous "Credit Crunch" has made it impossible for her to obtain additional student loans at a reasonable interest rate. So Julie is

taking only 6-9 credits next semester while she begins substitute teaching a few days a week. The slowdown means she'll spend an extra year in school, but she'll also be able to fund her education up front—instead of paying exorbitant interest rates later.

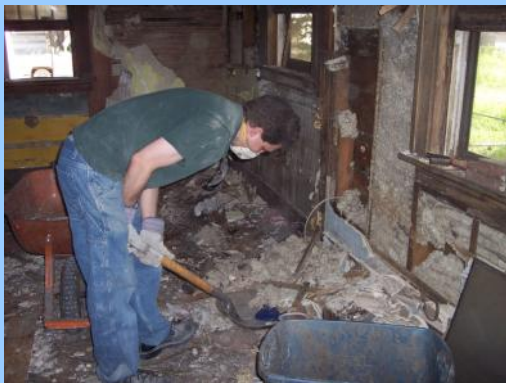
Just before Christmas, Julie discovered that an anonymous donor had contributed funds to her tuition account at the seminary! George and Julie both thank God for that sizeable gift, which relieves much of the financial pressure from the coming

semester.

Last spring, Julie began singing regularly with her church's worship band. She also meets regularly with Lee Anne Turner, the congregation's worship leader, who is helping Julie learn to lead music with excellence and passion.

Julie continues to teach music classes and coordinate birthday parties at Gymboree Play and Music. She enjoys working with preschoolers . . . except on days when the birthday girl pukes on the carpet. ☹

## Team from Louisville helps with Eastern Iowa flood cleanup



Iowa City is the place where George and Julie met and married. So when they saw news reports in June that the Iowa River had overrun its banks, they were saddened to learn the town they loved was underwater. Even Parkview Church, where they both served on staff, was heavily damaged.

During August, they led a team of five people from their church in Louisville to assist with cleanup efforts. The group spent a week helping to repair Parkview and several flood-damaged homes.

In these photos, you can see two phases of the restoration process. On the left, George is shoveling debris into a wheelbarrow after gutting a flooded Cedar Rapids home. At right, Julie is painting the interior of a house in Iowa City that has already been cleaned and drywalled.

At the time of this writing (January 2009), Parkview Church has finished repairs and returned to its building. Many homeowners have also completed their clean-up efforts. However, some working-class neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids remain devastated, full of boarded-up windows and empty buildings. Please pray for the people of Eastern Iowa who lost so much. ☹



## George preaches at home church; dozens flee

George was asked to speak twice in 2008 at the congregation where he and Julie worship, the Highland Vineyard Church. A surprisingly small number of families left the church as a result.

He continues to write monthly for *Boundless*, an online singles mag, and has also contributed this year to *The Courier-Journal*, *Lillenas Drama*, *Today's Transitions*, *The Voice-Tribune*, and *Worship Leader*. During the fall, he collaborated with his friend Zach Nord on a monthly column for *LEO Weekly*,

Louisville's alternative newspaper. In "The Church Hoppers," George and Zach wrote reviews of nine different Christian worship services. They haven't been struck with lightning for critiquing church . . . yet.

In the dramatic realm, George directed his play *Christmas Presence* for the holidays. The cast gave 11 performances at churches and organizations in December. Earlier in the year, George taught drama ministry workshops in four states. Regrettably, he's still waiting to become rich and famous. ☹

