



People's Post

"Telling it as it is"

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FALLING IN LOVE WITH CAPE TOWN

By tarren-lee.habelgaam
 Photo : Tarren-lee Habelgaam
 2012-11-20 00:00

GIVING HEARTS: Front, from left, are Dieter Wulkow, Steven Moolman and Betina Wulkow. Back, from left, are Gerrida Howard, Dave Howard and German friends of the Wulkows. Photo: Tarren-lee Habelgaam

A GERMAN couple travelled to Cape Town for a business trip not knowing they would fall in love with the city.

Dieter and Betina Wulkow expected the routine business trip, but instead walked away with many memories of Cape Town.

The couple, who stayed at a Claremont hotel, walked around the neighbourhood and also attended a local church.

"We were interested in experiencing what a church service is like in South Africa," says Dieter.

They enjoyed the service so much that the couple decided, were they ever to get married, they would do so at that church.

"This year we decided to get married and remembered the church we had decided on. The only problem was we couldn't remember the name of the church," says Betina.

They turned to the internet. "We Googled churches in Claremont and, after seeing the photo, knew it was the church we had fallen in love with, and the place that made us fall even more in love with each other."

They called Dave Howard, the priest of the Methodist Church, in Claremont, and explained their story. "He agreed to marry us and we told our family and friends we would be married in South Africa," Dieter says.

When they arrived in Cape Town two weeks ago, they returned to the same hotel they had stayed at years ago and couldn't wait to take a stroll to the church.

"We went on our walk, but when we got to the church, it wasn't there and we were very surprised," says Betina.

It turned out they had chosen the wrong church on the internet and it was no longer the church they would get married in.

"Even though we were surprised, I think it was meant to be that we found Dave and his church because it was he who led us to Marsh Memorial Home."

Before leaving Germany the couple had informed their guests that, instead of wedding gifts, they wanted cash donations for a good cause. They would match the amount their guests gave.

"We had thought about starting a foundation to help disabled or orphaned children to get an education. We can't have our own children and we have always had a good life so we wanted to give something back."

They asked Howard for help and he, in turn, told them about Marsh Memorial Home in Rondebosch. "We visited the Home and thought it fits exactly with our idea for our own foundation in the future. We decided it would be a perfect match for what we wanted to do with the money."

On a visit to the Home, the Wulkows explained their plans to Steven Moolman, principal of the facility.

Moolman and the couple then decided the money would go towards the tertiary education of one of the boys at the Home.

"With our programme we support the children even after the age of 18. If we didn't have the support of donations we wouldn't be able to fund this programme and give the children the opportunity to study further," says Moolman.

The couple married a week later in a small ceremony with 20 of their friends and family in attendance.

"As of this morning, we have deposited R30000 into the bank account of the Marsh Memorial Home and will be financially supporting this child through his tertiary education," says Dieter.

The couple handed over a framed plaque to the home with the names of the guests who attended their wedding and who contributed to the donation as a token of remembrance of their fairytale beginning in Cape Town.

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