

ROLES IN THE CHURCH

MATT AND KARRYN THIELE RELISH THEIR CARING OCCUPATIONS

WORDS: JOANNE WILSON



Pastor Matt Thiele with his wife Karryn, and columnist Jo Wilson (left).

PHOTO: WARREN LYNAM

I love this series where I have the honour of unveiling some incredible influencers, either in my field of facilitating and promoting great relationships or dynamic couples who are fine examples.

Humble is the word that comes to mind for this week's "Relationship Influencers". If I think of shift workers, my obstetrician, the plumber, firefighters and pilots come to mind. Did you ever consider the crazy hours

performed by a pastor? This role is not for the faint-hearted. Mr Bean fumbling through *Four Weddings and a Funeral* made it look easy.

Meet lead pastor Matt Thiele, who as well as planning his next sermon at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Buderim (well-known nationally), often performs as vocalist and pianist. Matt often attends to the midnight call to pray with someone slipping away from this world.

During office hours he will be conducting a leadership meeting, mentoring staff,

running a seminar, writing another book or website, supporting those in crisis, caring for the bereaved, visiting hospital or aged care homes, leading a funeral or wedding, or working with Immanuel College.

Meet his wife Karryn, an accomplished leader, working in the wider community, mother, and full-time teacher of children with learning difficulties? Enjoy my chat with them.

Due to your role as a pastor and pastor's wife at Immanuel Church, you're considered to be highly regarded

Relationship Influencers. Do you ever feel the pressure to portray the perfect relationship?

Matt: This may sound too polite, but in the Immanuel community I haven't felt this pressure much. People know we're not perfect and they're rather gracious. Sometimes older people have wrongly assumed that Karryn's work or her calling is less important than mine. But I believe in Karryn's right to be her own person. I don't let people assume that Karryn must serve my calling – she has freedom to be herself.

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