

Marriage is ongoing process

Commitment needs reaffirming

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riage to be saved, be taken care of, it doesn't happen," agreed Bob Tolles of Plymouth's Associated Counseling Services.

When both partners are self-secure, they can enrich each other's lives, Hughes said.

Communication is a must, the authorities agreed.

"Relationships can endure almost anything except bad communication," McIvor said.

In a relationship where a couple isn't conversing, one partner may always

win arguments and get his way while the other covers up his feelings.

That doesn't necessarily mean the relationship isn't workable, Hughes warns. It does mean the couple's communication skills need honing.

Compatibility is another important factor. One way to tell whether you're a good match, said Hughes, is to ask these questions: "Can I be myself when I'm with him or her?" and "Do I feel happy when I introduce this person to someone else?"

Warnings that the relationship may not work include repetitive arguments about the same problems which have

'The decision has to be made each day to commit yourself to marriage and keep working on it.'

**— Bernadette Hughes
marriage counselor**

no solutions, hot and cold emotions, impatience with the other person's qualities and excessive desire to change the other person, Tolles said.

PRACTICAL issues couples should discuss before marrying include how

they'll handle money, resolve conflict, whether they'll have a family and how they'll rear children, and how they'll express affection and spirituality, Hughes said.

Once couples decide to marry, they have to reaffirm their decision to be

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