

## Our mission

*The mission of Loma Linda University Medical Center is to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, "to make man whole," in a setting of advancing medical science and to provide a stimulating clinical and research environment for the education of physicians, nurses, and other health professionals.*



**I**n sickness and in health," Robert Justice repeated, his voice cracking with emotion. For him and Stacy, his bride, this wedding vow had come to mean so much.

A few weeks before their intended wedding date, Robert and Stacy had gone camping at Canyon Lake. Escaping the August heat, Robert raced from the campsite and swan-dived into the lake. Suddenly, he could feel nothing from the neck down.

Robert was quickly transported to the intensive care unit at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

"When they took him to the intensive care unit, I thought, 'Great, they'll patch him up, and we can go home,'" tells Stacy. But Robert's injury was far from what Stacy had hoped. His spinal cord damaged, he had been rendered a quadriplegic. Going home was going to take time.

While in the hospital, Medical Center staff befriended Robert and Stacy. "They became like a second family to us," says Stacy. "Everyone took such great care of Robert."

Although their wedding was postponed, Robert and Stacy never lost sight of their commitment to be married. "I knew I would have to take care of him, but this didn't change my mind about marrying him," says Stacy. "It's easier to care for someone you love."



Since the Medical Center had become like a second home and the couple saw no reason to wait for Robert to be discharged, they decided to be married at the Medical Center chapel.

On November 3, family and staff crowded the chapel to witness Robert and Stacy exchange vows. "It was the happiest day of my life," says Stacy. After the ceremony, the newlyweds honey-

moonied in Robert's hospital room. Nurses had strewn rose-petals on the beds and decorated the room with balloons and cards.

Performing the wedding ceremony, says Chaplain Lynaia Freund, was a very rewarding experience. "It is very rare for a relationship to continue after an ordeal like this. Robert and Stacy are truly an inspiration."

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### Expressions

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