

# THIS IS AN ENGAGEMENT ANNOUCEMENT

December 2013

joyellen.wordpress.com

## Advent and Anticipation

Greetings Family and Friends!

December is a month of anticipation. I really enjoy advent and the meaningful traditions that enhance this time of reflection and preparation. Christmas is a season filled with quality family time, thoughtful giving and joyful celebration. As a Christian this is made more meaningful as we reflect on the historical birth of Jesus.

This advent season also begins another season of anticipation. Ryan and I are anticipating a life together and will be getting married in February. He proposed Saturday morning December 7th with a little help from a talking kangaroo. See "The Engagement Story" for details. And keep checking my blog [joyellen.wordpress.com](http://joyellen.wordpress.com) for wedding plans and ministry updates.

Starting January 1st, I will be taking a leave of absence from MTW while Ryan and I spent the next year seeking God's face and his direction for our life together. Our intention is to pursue church planting ministry in Australia but we are holding our own plans loosely in order to leave room for the spirit's direction as our lives and hearts are being united as one. We are excited to continue sharing with you as we discover what life and ministry looks like as a couple.

Happy with Anticipation-

*Joy Candee* (soon to be Joy Reiter)



### The Engagement Story

It was pouring rain that morning and we had stepped into our friend's entryway. Ryan had given me a stuffed kangaroo to add to my collection but this one was extra special. When I squeezed it, she began to speak to me in Ryan's voice. The kangaroo read me the message and a poem and when she finished I looked up to see Ryan down on one knee. He asked THE question and held up two signs, yes (written really large) and no (written really small). This was him honoring my choice to say no. I wasn't planning on saying no, but what's the point of asking if no isn't an option? I took the yes sign and eventually gained enough verbal ability to actually say, yes! Then he handed me the gorgeous ring that he designed himself. Check my blog for pictures:-)

Contact Joy!

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Financial  
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Please keep giving through  
December.  
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