

proposal when they came to know about the love affair. Normally, all love affairs are institutionalised through the wedding though the marriage between the near blood relations is ~~bx~~ tabooed.

Marriage is a community affair and as such all the people of the village and the nearby villages attend the marriage. As per the Christian tradition 3 banns are observed inviting any objection for the proposed marriage. The boy and the girl to be married send a circular invitation to all the Karens to attend the marriage which is a distinct feature of their tradition. However, of late, some Karens have also started sending the printed Wedding Invitations to non-Karen friends.

The friends and the relatives assemble at the Church the previous day to the marriage. The community feast is arranged at the Church by the parents. The Karens attend the marriage with gifts. After the marriage feast, the Karens go back to their/their relatives houses in the evening.

Cooking of the feast for the following day starts in the evening so that the marriage feast is ready by the next day morning. This feast is served to all before 10.00 AM. The marriage is solemnised by the Pastor. He preaches the duties of husband and wife. The marriage is solemnised by a formal exchange of rings. The Karens sing the traditional marriage songs on the occasion.

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