

eCall To Be Family

Issue 1

Fall 2006

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Dear Lovers,

We are John & Nancy Orwig. We were encountered in Gillette, Wyoming, November, 1988. We are a clergy couple, a clergy presenting couple, and the North American Region Clergy Executive Couple (until summer 2007). We are taking on the Loving Task of being editors for a new publication, called "eCall To Be Family." If you drop the "e," one has the corporate name of Lutheran Marriage Encounter with which we are incorporated in the state of Washington. Lutheran Marriage Encounter used to publish a hardcopy newsletter called "Call To Be Family." This one will be entirely electronic and will be posted on our web site, ilme.org. We are a faith expression that is a part of the family Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the Roman Catholic umbrella organization from which we hold our license.

The purpose of this letter, at least at its beginning, is to give any readers of this piece some basic knowledge of LME (Lutheran Marriage Encounter), and places to go for any further or other information. This "e-letter" will be a learning experience for us as editors, as well as you the readers! We hope to present articles that will help all of us in growing our marriages and sources for this kind of articles. We also would welcome "letters to the editor" and continuing discussion of various topics relating to building strong, God-pleasing marriages.

Summer 2006 Meetings in Finland

July 2006 was one of those historic times for Lutheran Marriage Encounter! The North American Region Board (NAR) held their summer meeting in Finland and the European Region (ER) held their meeting in Finland also. Both boards met at a Christian Retreat Center called Vivamo, only a few miles North of Helsinki, Finland. Our meetings were held simultaneously and we joined together for devotions, Bible stories enacted by the camp staff, and sauna every evening! The days were long and the nights were short! It was a really great time!

Then on a Friday we boarded a bus to Korpilahti for our 2006 International Lutheran Marriage Encounter Family Reunion -- the very first time the ILME Family Reunion was held outside of North America! We had some good presentations; a short cruise on the largest lake in Finland; a concert at the Lutheran Church in Korpilahti; also worship in that same church; saunas; lots of food, visiting, and sharing. We had people from Canada, U.S.A., Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and even one from Holland. A great time was had by all, and the Finns did a great job of hosting us.



Having fun at the lake!



The new International Lutheran Marriage Encounter Board



NAR Board at Work!

MISSION STATEMENT

Lutheran Marriage Encounter is a ministry dedicated to assisting married couples to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing an Encounter Weekend experience as well as ongoing community support.

VISION STATEMENT

The Lutheran Church renewed and our world changed through strengthened couple relationships and stronger personal relationships with Christ.

800#

Hello with a warm hug from Spokane, WA!! I am Carol, your North American Region (NAR) National Registrar. Perhaps I talked with you when you called our 800# (answered in my home). Or, maybe I responded to your e-mail request for information. I'm delighted to encourage married couples to enjoy a Weekend...and quickly mail necessary information. I receive scheduled weekend locations/dates, forward them to our websites and keep an accurate list by my phone.

Why am I so 'gung-ho' about Marriage Encounter? My husband, Dale, and I were married for 55 years until he went home to Jesus. We were active volunteers for about 30 years in many phases of LME. We enjoyed closely sharing our life journey and I continue to cherish these memories. We also made many long-lasting friends across the continent and felt honored and blessed to present weekends. Yes! I am a very 'satisfied customer'!

I continue to enjoy these friendships and I am glad to help any interested couple find a Weekend. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I'm here to help you invite others to a NEW World!
1-800-235-1010 GodLovesMarriage@comcast.net

With love, Carol Ure
Lutheran Marriage Encounter, PO Box 8524, Spokane, WA 99203-9998
(Online registration available:)
www.GodLovesMarriage.org
www.GodLovesMarriage.com
www.GodLovesMarriage.net

An article from the Lutheran Magazine about our NAR Lay Execs:

See your spouse with 20-20 vision

That's a goal for Lutheran Marriage Encounter leaders

--Story by Jeff Favre

When David and Jean Fell attended a Marriage Encounter weekend, it wasn't because they felt their union was in trouble. They were asked if they would like to put icing on the cake that they considered a strong and healthy marriage. "Why not?" they asked each other.

That was 26 years ago. Since then, the Fells, members of Advent Lutheran Church, Solon, Ohio, have not only presented nearly 100 weekends, but they also were elected the lay executives for the North American region of the [International Lutheran Marriage Encounter](#).

The volunteer-run mission has for 30 years worked with couples to strengthen marriages by teaching tools for more effective and open communication, as well as ways to better understand one's spouse.

The weekend encounters require only a registration fee, though it has remained solvent by donations made by couples.

The Fells knew that first weekend that Marriage Encounter was something they wanted to turn into their ongoing Christian ministry. "That first weekend blessed us so much," Jean said. "We made discoveries about each other. It was like receiving a pair of glasses when you didn't even know you needed them."

The Fells were asked to become lay presenters, partnering for the weekend with a clergy couple. Soon after they became area lay leaders, then for a larger district and, now, for North America. They also meet with members of an interfaith Marriage Encounter board.

Though the weekends have been streamlined and modernized in the last three decades, the Fells said the approach remains the same. Workshops are given throughout the weekend, after which couples take time to work on the information that has been provided. Trust and openness are stressed, and God's role in a healthy marriage is explored.

The impact the experience has on couples is the primary reason the Fells continue their work.

"Even though the weekends aren't designed for major problem-solving, we have at least one or two couples come up to us every time and say, 'Thank you for saving our marriage,'" David said.

When they're not on the road for Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Jean and David Fell like to relax on the lake behind their Ohio home. "You've got to know how to communicate if you're going to paddle a canoe and get anywhere," Jean Fell said.

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MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEBSITES

www.GodLovesMarriage.org

Our main site for seekers, this is where your still-yet-to-be encountered friends can go to find LME Weekend locations, registration information, and, eventually, online registration.

www.ilme.org

Our main site for already encountered couples, for some resources you will need to enter a user name of “ILME Couples” and a Password of “1010.” Here you will find:

- [eCall to be Family](#) – quarterly update
- Rosters of leadership for North America at regional, district, and local Area level, and around the world.
- Dialogue questions and helps, outlines, and presentations to lead your Circle or any group during a time of marriage enrichment
- Inviting helps, like how to write a temple talk for your church
- Downloadable graphics, like letterhead, business cards, church mailing brochures, inserts
- Information about upcoming international or regional events, like the International Family Reunions held every 2 years
- In fact, everything a new or veteran encountered couple like you might want!

www.wwme.org

The Roman Catholic expression of Worldwide Marriage Encounter and the “umbrella” body of our movement. This extensive site holds more helps, information, daily dialogue questions, and a great “Dialogue Companion.” It includes lists and contacts for every Expression’s Weekends.

www.retrouvaille.org

The Catholic Expression’s weekend for troubled marriages. This works! Recommend it.

www.leeionline.org

The reference site for Lutheran Engaged Encounter, which holds Weekends for engaged and seriously dating couples in many parts of North America.

<http://csweb.cs.bgsu.edu/maner/dialogue/> - 40,000 dialogue questions, by subject

www.wmegifts.com

View and/or purchase Marriage Encounter items and gifts, Dave & Joan Fister in Idaho

www.fullcirclewood.com

Wooden articles with WWME logo and general marriage designs.

wme-l-subscribe@yahoogroups.com (Note: the 4th digit is a small L, not a number 1)

Subscribe to this Worldwide Marriage Encounter listserve by emailing to this address with word “subscribe” as the subject for discussions, resource materials, and contacting encountered couples all over the world.