



From North America Region Board Meeting

JAN 31-FEB 2, 2002
Ontario, CA

WE WERE GIVEN A CLUE that we were in for some surprises from our NAR execs by a slogan on the wall of the conference room which read:



*“What we are about is serious . . .
But let’s remember to not take ourselves
too seriously!”*



“We can see clearly now!”



Tsk! Tsk! Such a “nosey” bunch !



Carl and Dallas Presley, our secretary couple, are thinking, “Really now! Do you expect us to take notes on this?”



Just a pickin’ and a singin’ and a praisin’ and a prayin’ and a makin’ everyone feel like God’s a smilin’ on what we’re a doin’ . . .

NAR Board Meeting continued . . .



Now, then. . . down to business!

“RENEWING THE VISION ”

. . . is the focus of NAR Lutheran Marriage Encounter for the next three years. A Gospel Call for renewal is St. Paul’s invitation in Romans chapter 12, verse 2: ***“Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to God and is perfect.”***

Some of the highlights of topics covered in the strategic planning sessions are:

- ♥ RELATIONSHIPS—with God, with each other and with others.
- ♥ MINISTRY—as Self Serving versus Self Giving and/or Ministry versus TASK!
- ♥ COMMITMENT—Going through difficult times together and working through them.
- ♥ PRIORITIZING focus of LME ministry—
 - Mentoring
 - Marketing
 - Clergy Involvement
 - Post-Weekend Commitment
 - Nurturing Leadership Couples



Post Weekend Commitment—Every couple off a weekend to dialogue daily, involvement in Community activities, and live a Marriage Encounter lifestyle.

- ♥ All loving tasks will be filled in all Areas, always.
- ♥ 25% of couples off the weekends will be involved in a Love Circle.
- ♥ 25% of couples off the weekends will send at least one other couple on a weekend.
- ♥ 25% of couples off a weekend will be a Prayer Couple at least once in the first year.

Nurturing leadership—Every couple called to leadership will be nourished and nourish others for ministry.

Clergy—will support Lutheran Marriage Encounter and recognize it as a viable ministry of the Church.

Enrichment Experiences—Get beyond talking about it and move on to providing some kind of opportunity for Area Presenting Couples. For example:

- ♥ Discovery Weekends
- ♥ Leadership Training Retreats
- ♥ Love Languages
- ♥ Attend new Deeper Weekend with updated format.

The goal is for presenting couples to participate on an enrichment weekend once a year.

- ♥ Any events scheduled for presenting couple enrichments should be sent to Carl and Dallas Presley (NAR Secretary Couple; see Leadership Listings for how to contact them) or distribution to ALL Areas for dissemination across ALL Districts.

PRAY— for the enthusiasm of those who had ministry positions in the past to mentor and support the newly encountered to fill the ‘Loving Ministry’ positions.

PRAY—that our Lord will instill a sense of “Call” to newly encountered couples, and renew the vision and sense of Call to those encountered in the past twenty-five years.

Some “Food for Thought” for dialoguing:

1)-Write down the quote. 2) Write what it means to you right now. 3) Answer “How do I feel knowing that God is saying this to me today?” 4) Describe your feeling as best you can.

- ♥ Some marriages are made in heaven, but they ALL have to be maintained on earth . . .
- ♥ A successful marriage isn’t finding the right person—it’s being the right person.
- ♥ The best way to get even is to forget . . .
- ♥ If I feed my faith, my doubts will starve to death.
- ♥ Sorrow looks back, worry looks around and faith looks up . . .
- ♥ My words are the windows to my heart.
- ♥ To forgive is to set the prisoner free and then discover that the prisoner was you.

You are richer today if you have laughed, given or forgiven.

Have you ever wondered what some of those people look like that are listed in very small print on those pages in the back of this magazine?

Well—here's a start at getting some of them to pause from their Loving Ministries long enough to pose for a picture! (Watch future editions for more . . .)

Know Your Leaders



Commissioning Service for new leadership in Districts II and III.

Front Row, left to right—
Dick & Judy Dehnel,
Richard & Sandy Giro,
Laird & Winnie Engel.
Back Row, Hartmans and
Tollefsons.



John and Irene Schmehl
NAR Finance Couple



Russ and Ann Hillman
Deeper Weekend Coordinators



Carl and Dallas Presley
NAR Secretary Couple



John and Sally Duenow
NAR Historians



Bruce & Ila Zellmer, Dick & Judy Dehnel
District III Clergy and Lay Couples



**(l to r) Laird & Winnie Engle,
Sandy & Richard Giro**
District II Clergy
and Lay Couples



WOTSUP?

[Ed. Note: We all know that after our M.E. Weekend, we all buried the phrase "The Battle of the Sexes" forever! However, we've noticed a subtle but definite twist to this age-old phrase creeping into our vocabularies—"The Battle of the Personality Styles." To that end, we are including one author's solution to living with a person of a specific Personality Style that we talk about on the Weekends. ENJOY!] (P.S. The author chooses to remain anonymous wishing to represent **all Thinkers' wives!**)

Emotions don't make much sense to him; they're not logical. He's rarely wrong, and when he is, he'd rather have a root canal than admit it. He won't ask for directions. Ever. [Moses was a Thinker!] While you're heading out the door, he is still contemplating the logical reasons for moving versus ones for remaining seated. [Rip Van Winkle was a Thinker.] He thrives on planning. And then he plans some more. You can get him to do almost anything if it involves planning—especially a plan with diagrams, scale drawings and meticulous measurements. [Leonardo was a Thinker. Not the guy on the *Titanic*—the artist.] If he ever does get started on a project, stand back! He is going to do it *his* way, the way he planned it. Even if there might just be a better way to do it. [Frank Sinatra was a Thinker.]

If this sounds like your beloved, we have good news for you! Now there's an organization dedicated entirely to your support, encouragement and sheer survival. It's **WOTSUP—Wives Of Thinkers Support Personnel**. Long before Thinkers were formally identified, wives the world over shook their heads in wonderment at the behavior of their men. And, in the nature of women, they took comfort in knowing that others were coping with the same bewildering circumstances. It was only after Marriage Encounter put a name to this strange sub-species of the Human Male that women began to realize that they were, indeed, members of a unique sisterhood. Out of this realization, **WOTSUP** was born.

What does WOTSUP have to offer? First and foremost, we are your support system. We are your alternative to banging your head against a wall when

your spouse flounders aimlessly, unwilling to seek directions. We offer reassurance that you do indeed have a useful, functioning brain even when your decisions involve emotion as well as logic. We are your sounding board when your Thinker seems more like a Stinker. But our support is more than this; we are also developing an extensive collection of anecdotes demonstrating the fun and rewards of living with a Thinker.

We have practical purposes as well. We give you methods, developed over years of research and experiment, of moving your Thinker from thinking to doing. We show you how to subtly introduce directions into his mentality without threatening his self-image. We even have in the development process some ideas that *could* lead to the production of actual emotional responses from even the most dedicated Thinker!

Most importantly, we are here to remind and reassure you that your Thinker is a truly loveable child of God. It is never the goal of **WOTSUP** to change a Thinker into anything else. It is instead our desire that every Wife of a Thinker should love and nurture her mate, and retain her sanity in the process. Our goal is to celebrate and enjoy (and survive) marriage to a Thinker. Sure, it sounds like a big order, but that's why **WOTSUP** was born. If you think you are a candidate for membership in **WOTSUP**, send your resume to this publication. Include years married, tell-tale signs that your husband may be a Thinker, symptoms of your condition (may include excessive head-shaking, periods of bewilderment, reputation for being late to social events, repressed or excessive emotionalism, etc.) In order to be accepted into **WOTSUP**, you must also include at least two things that make your Thinker loveable and worthwhile. (If you're unable to comply with this request, you need to take your Thinker to a Marriage Encounter Weekend for some attitude adjustment.)

We welcome you into the world of **WOTSUP**, and remember:

- Life with a Thinker is not always easy. It *is* always interesting.
- Life with a Thinker is a challenge. But you, as a **WOTSUP** woman, can be a winner.
- Life with a Thinker can be a thorny proposition. But the roses are beautiful.



IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

Due to increased expenses in printing and mailing *Call To Be Family*, **the following policy is in effect immediately:**

- Issues will be mailed only to those who annually renew their subscription with a \$10 check or money order. (See back page for full instructions on how to renew.)
- Free issues will be given to each newly encountered couple for one year.



**ANY WORLDWIDE
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET**

at this Interfaith Address:

<http://208.130.185.51/interfaith/interfaith.htm>

also

“Call To Be Family”

**is available on the Internet
for ALL encountered couples:**

1. Go to the ILME Home Page: www.ilme.org
2. Click on “Resources for Couples who have been on a ME weekend”
2. Click on “ILME Post Weekend material”
3. Click on “Download some Documents, get dialogue helps”
(User name: ILME Couples, password: 1010)
5. On the second page, go to “Misc. stuff that didn’t quite fit other categories,” and you will see “Call To Be Family”
6. After downloading, you will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to open it. The Acrobat Reader can be downloaded from the Resource page or from www.adobe.com

Lutheran Marriage Encounter 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.

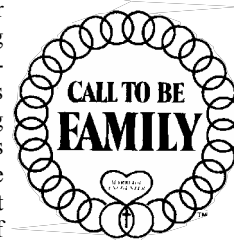
Vision Statement

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

ILME Donations

Lutheran Marriage Encounter welcomes and needs your additional donations. ILME Weekend donations alone are not enough. Send a ME love donation often to your District Finance Couple to be used for the ongoing expenses of ILME.

“Our International Call to be Family” is published by International Lutheran Marriage Encounter. This newsletter does not set policy or determine practices for ILME. It is the community of couples sharing itself to increase awareness, stimulate discussion and insight. It is mailed bulk rate and is not able to be forwarded. If you are planning to move, please send your change of address as soon as possible to the Editor Couple (see National Staff listings). The newsletter is sent to all who wish to receive it. A donation of \$10.00 for the publication year (September through August) is requested. Names and addresses listed in this publication shall not be used for solicitation by any person or organization for personal or organizational gain or profit. We invite the readers to share information, thoughts and comments with the ILME Community.



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COMPONENTS of a PRAYER LETTER

One of *the* most important times on a Marriage Encounter Weekend is when the couples are told that a special couple has been praying for them for the entire weekend—and more. Remember how you felt hearing and knowing that? What about the love letter you received from your Prayer Couple—then meeting them face to face at the conclusion of the weekend? If this meant a lot to you, know that it means a lot to each and every couple who go on a weekend. So, if you are Called to serve as Loving Ministers to one of the couples on a weekend as a Prayer Couple, consider the “Call” as coming straight from God to “Pass the Love On.”

To assist you in this Loving Ministry, here is a brief outline of what to include in your Prayer Letter to your special couple:

- ♥ Let them know you are praying for them
- ♥ Tell them the special things you are doing this Weekend on their behalf (Offering your Worship, Candle burning, Fasting, etc.)
- ♥ What your hopes and dreams are for them.
- ♥ God’s Unconditional Love for them.

THANKS FOR HEARING GOD’S CALL TO SERVE!

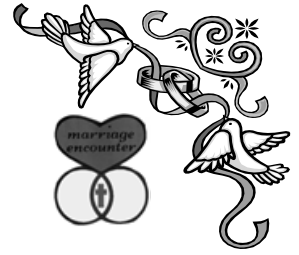
**Your Gifts to the
Endowment-Dream Fund
Will help keep ILME alive!**

There are many ways to give: Life Insurance, Real Estate, Securities, Memorial Gifts, Wills, IRAs, Personal property.

**For details contact:
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P.O. Box 510-335
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REQUESTS FOR
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Need Ideas to use
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circle, spiral or IMAGE?

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Also, feel free to contact your
NAR Resource Couple:
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(see NAR Staff)

Have you checked out the
extensive source of materials
designed for a multitude of
Community uses to be found
on the ILME website?

ilme.org

User name: ILME Couples
Password: 1010



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In what areas do I not quite trust God? How does it feel to share this with you?

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"What are we holding onto that we should throw away? DFILD

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LOVING INVITATION . . .

(Requires a LOVING response!)

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***“What promise have I
made to you that I have
always kept?
WAMFAT?”***

*“ . . . DREAMS
HAVE NO
BOUNDARIES!”*

Jean and David Fell (on far right) had the privilege of spending four weeks in Malaysia and Singapore during the month of February 2002, enjoying many hours in the company of dozens of couples from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter communities in those two countries.



They wrote, “Wow! Did we feel completely and warmly welcomed and surrounded by love. Since we cherish the chance to friendship with other Marriage Encounter couples, we arranged to meet some of the local lovers. We weren’t disappointed! What more proof could we have that Marriage Encounter means loving without borders, beyond the typical boundaries of religion, color, language or culture.”



Prayer for a Family

*Forgive us, Lord, when jealousy, greed,
temper, pride, or indignation
disturb the peace of our family.
Help us to find the right words
and the right actions
to soothe and heal the hurt.
Forgive us when we quarrel.
Help us to forgive others;
help others to forgive us;
Through Christ our Lord,
who showed us how to forgive. Amen.*

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