

Chicago Area SR continued....

Of course, this Sweetheart Renewal had the usual fun and games, with “veteran” couples and newly encountered couples getting better acquainted. There was also a 10/10 along with questions and answers—primarily related to dialoging. This was followed by newly encountered couples sitting with their new friends in our Community enjoying delicious food and lively conversation. The evening ended with the couples standing in the traditional “love circle” cheerfully singing “There’s A New World Somewhere.”

Another feature was that baby sitting service was provided for those couples who needed it—at no cost to the couples. This is now standard at our Renewals.

The next Sweetheart Renewal will be on **Saturday, May 31, 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Villa Park. This is a reunion for **all** encountered couples. Use this semi-annual event as an opportunity to come and have fun with friends, “old” and new, and meet the May Weekend couples. This is an opportunity to support and get to know those newly encountered couples and tell them about your Community.

Weekend Will Have An All-Chicago Presenting Team

Our next LME Weekend will feature an all-Chicago Area presenting team. This will be a first for this Area for quite some time and this pleases all of us greatly!

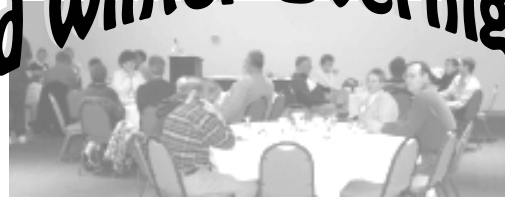
X O X O X O X O

**REQUESTS FOR
COPIES OF “C T B F”**
*for your Weekend Packets should be directed to
our National Supply Couple:*

Tom and Sheila Cochran
1502 Jackson Ave. NE
St. Michael, MN 55376
763-497-3675
Cochrantl@charter.net

Missouri

Mid Winter Overnighter



Lovingly submitted by the Bush's and Brownlee's

On January 18-19th, 2003, Seventeen Couples gathered in Osage Beach, Missouri for the seventh annual Marriage Encounter Overnighter. The couples who attended were from Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. They came from different expression of Marriage Encounter; Lutheran, Methodist, and U.C.C. Each came with the same goal to strengthen their marriages and grow in this wonderful ministry.

This year we (Jerry & Lyn Brownlee and Jim & Pam Bush) shared with the couples the new updated “Love Spiral Six.” Our goal was to have each couple take this post weekend material back to their respective areas and start a ‘Love Spiral Six.’



We were very intentional in placing the couples with other couples that they may not have had an opportunity to share with before.

Each Love Spiral Six session began with a short presentation, devotion or sharing that was handled by one of the presenting couples who attended the Weekend. We then broke into our individual groups. A question was selected from each session of the Love Spiral Six. Then came open sharing within your group. It was a wonderful time to get to know these couples on more than just on a casual basis.

We shared, we hugged, we prayed for each other, we exchanged gifts, we had a “wine & cheese party,” we celebrated with a game called “the Nearly Newlywed Game,” we worshipped, we gathered around the Lord’s Table and we celebrated Christ’s presence and forgiveness in the sacrament.

It was a wonderful Weekend!

.....Why don't you try it.....

DISTRICT III



LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

“UN-WEEKEND”

**SUNDAY - TUESDAY
MAY 4-6, 2003**

OMAHA, NEBRASKA



The weekend will begin Sunday evening at 8 PM to enable clergy couples and other weekend workers to come without taking vacation. All married couples who desire better communication and more intimate relationships are highly encouraged to make a reservation soon.

Reservations with a check for \$45.00 made to Lutheran Marriage Encounter should be mailed to:

Tom & Cheri Dawdy
4823 S 162nd St.
Omaha, NE 68135
402/861-1845
dawdy@tconl.com

For further information, brochures or a free video, please contact:

Dick & Judy Dehnel
952/432-3105
djdehnel@aol.com

OR

Dave & Elsa Larson
402/673-3134
dande_larson@juno.com



DISTRICT IV
LOVERS
GO DEEPER
IN PHOENIX

We recently had the privilege of attending a **Deeper/Deeper** here in Phoenix. We were eager to once again experience the power of God on weekends like these. We learned, laughed, were healed, and regained a deep sense of God's compelling love in and for this ministry. We encourage all of the current LME presenting couples to experience the wonder for themselves. If one is offered in your District and you cannot go, travel to another District the next time it is offered, what ever the price. It's worth the cost, for you, your relationship, and God's work. Our thanks to the National Executive Leadership Team and all the couples who gave freely of themselves to make a difference in our lives and in the life of this very important ministry.

We love you,
 Rich and Jan Schleier



Discovering a Deeper SELF in Ohio!

by Kevin Guynn

On February 1, 2003 my wife Raye and I joined 25 other couples at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Solon, Ohio to participate in *The Enneagram: A Journey of Self-Discovery*. This story is a reflection on the workshop itself, and the thoughts associated with the Columbia disaster. Just like the moment in time when I heard about the Challenger Explosion, I will forever remember being at this presentation when I first heard the news of Columbia and her crew being lost.

The day actually began many weeks prior to February 1st. We received a phone call from **Steve and Sue Rufe** (Ohio Area Presenting Couple Coordinators) asking if we, in our capacity as Area Lay Contact Couple would consider putting on a joint Presenter Enrichment activity and Community gathering activity. Having never heard of the Enneagram (ANY-a-gram), we had to go on faith that this activity would be worth the time, effort and energy to pull together for our area. Invitations were mailed, and reservations began arriving. Couples in the Our Redeemer Love Circle agreed to host the event.



Sue and Steve Rufe

“Discovering A Deeper Self....” continued.

I felt apprehensive...so many couples, and they are coming on faith that this is going to be worthwhile.

On the day of the event, we arrived and helped rearrange the room for the presentation, and before too long I saw the presenter, Rev. Allan H. Sager, Ph.D. arrive. He got settled into the room arrangement with his materials and I walked over to introduce myself and welcome him to the outer edge of the Snow Belt. My thoughts focused on, “is it Dr. Sager; Pastor Sager, Dr. Pastor Sager?” The moment arrived and I said, “Hi, I’m Kevin Guynn.” He responded, “I’m glad to meet you Kevin, I’m Al Sager.” The warmth of his voice and smile mixed with the firmness of his handshake put my apprehension to rest. I had the privilege of making the introduction and welcoming everyone to the event.



Dr. Al Sager, Kevin & Raye Guynn

After the history lesson on the Greek meaning of the word Enneagram (nine/figure), Dr. Sager began talking about the path to self-knowledge and self-understanding. Using the nine-sided figure of the Enneagram, Pastor Sager moved into

three “clusters” or regions: the head, the heart and the belly. Each of these regions have three personality types associated with them – thus the nine points of the figure. Dr. Sager talked about each type, offered a prayer from the perspective of that personality type, identified a Biblical character that possessed that personality type and played a melodramatic song exaggerating the personality type. After this was done, the presenter asked for participants to consider sharing how it is to live being that particular personality type.

Dr. Al told us that once you hear about a particular personality type, and if you see yourself there, it feels “just like home.”



Suddenly, the fire siren went off and I could hear the Doppler effect as the siren rotated on the pole in some distant location. Once, twice... Dr. Sager asked if that was the Saturday, noon test?... Thrice...this is



way too long for a test... maybe I had better go check the weather... no, it is perfectly clear...four times. At last, the siren began to die down and the peaceful serenity of traffic passing by the church returned. It **must** have been a test.

Al continued until lunch and only at that point did a couple that happened to arrive late share that the *Columbia* had been lost. **NO!**—I want evidence beyond this couple’s report. It is not that I didn’t believe them, I didn’t WANT to believe them. This news awakened the memory of the day I was teaching music theory class and a student walked in, and announced that *Challenger* blew up. Seventeen years, and that memory is still so very clear. After lunch, a participant offered a prayer for all the families of the astronauts and those touched by this tragic loss.

If our presenter’s mind drifted to the disaster, and I am sure it did, he never let his wandering thoughts impact the job he was asked to do for the Ohio Area Community. He continued to enlighten us as to the remaining personality types. We laughed at ourselves, and with each other while exploring this new information. I thought I had found a “home” as a three, but when we got to five, I decided that if three was my home, five is my mansion (back the moving truck up here, I’m ready to unpack).



After unwrapping all of the personality styles, we



broke up into small groups of our different Enneagram personality types to discuss our “oneness, twoness and the like.” We “fives” were not the life of the party, but we