



THE PRESENTER HOTLINE

North American Lutheran Marriage Encounter Presenter Newsletter
March, 2009

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Shown attending the January 9-12 Deeper at the Holiday Inn in Houston from left are: Presenters Jim and Detra Swensen; Denny & Carol Coerber of Everett, WA; Presenters Bob & Linda McGurn; Scott & Kris Moor of University Place, WA; and Pastor Roger & Jennifer Keller of Cabot, PA. Please keep these couples in your prayers.

The Swensens have graciously submitted the photo and the following write-up. Thank you, Jim and Detra! And a big thank you to Arnie and Sue Kaestner for all your help with the Deepers!

Our first experience on the deeper weekend was to realize how well Arnie and Sue Kaestner had taken care of facilities, meals, snacks, supplies and many unknown items. What a blessing they are to the deeper weekends. The people at the hotel treated us as if we were their only guests. What instant and quality service we received. We give thanks to them.

We had not met Bob and Linda McGurn but quickly we became a unified presenting team. The three couples attending the deeper came eager to move deeper into the relationship discoveries of their marriage encounter weekend. What a blessing each of the couples was to each other as their open sharings touched us all. We all connected with the goodness in our marriage covenant relationship, the goodness of the marriage encounter movement and the goodness in caring for our own corner of the world. Thank you to all who supported the deeper weekend with your prayers and letters.

*Caring love,
Jim and Detra Swenson*

Deeper Information

Another reminder that the next Deeper is scheduled at the Holiday Inn in Houston on **September 18-21, 2009**. Please keep Deeper Coordinators, Dave & Elsa Larson, at delarson@windstream.net or phone 402-483-5404 informed of couples in your area preparing to attend a Deeper.

- Couples attending the Deeper are to write the Deeper Homework questions and also the Self talk III: A,B,C, & D. This is to be workshopped and sent back to the writers, but no re-writing is necessary before the Deeper. These writings plus the registration form should be sent to the APCC, then on to Larsons.
- Also, if you would like to schedule a Deeper Deeper (very inspirational weekend for presenters), contact the Larsons.

Workbook Information

Another reminder that **workbook inserts** are available from supply couple:

Dean & Katie Senne

123 Marion Lane

Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-345-3599

Email: kddesigner@charter.net

The newest edition has "2008" at the bottom left corner. We encourage you to use up any older copies of the workbooks as the changes are very minor. Just be aware that the Mission and Vision statements may be in a different place in the older copies, or if you have very old copies, they might not be there at all. So, 3rd Setters: As you read these to the couples in the Dream talk, be sure you have checked the copies being used so you know where to refer the couples.

Running out of dialogue ideas??

Go to: <http://csweb.cs.bgsu.edu/maner/dialogue/> We hope you are all including this site in your Weekend take-home packets. It provides some 40,000 dialogue questions arranged alphabetically by subject. Whenever we give the "Impact of Dialogue" talk, we tell couples are sending them home with enough dialogue questions to last them at least 82 years, and after that, they are on their own. 😊

The Idea Corner



What idea would you consider sharing?
Please send to:
fjschamber@comcast.net.

A professional display for your next booth

Another reminder that we have available a couple of very professional-looking Marriage Encounter displays to be used whenever you are putting up a display in churches, at Synodical meetings, at festivals, etc. You reserve the booth through the Fells and they arrange to have the current holder of the materials shipped to you. You then pay to have it shipped to the next request.

To reserve the booth contact David & Jean Fell at 330-541-2471 or davidjeanfell@hotmail.com

International Prayer Scroll

Also, a huge thank you to David & Jean Fell for resurrecting the Prayer Scroll last year and updating it this year—a huge job that we're sure took many, many hours! Many attendees comment that the unveiling of the scroll of prayers from around the world during the Covenant talk is one of the most powerful moments of the weekend. David & Jean have the current 2009 version posted in each of the various time zone versions on the Worldwide Encounter Resource Library site: <http://erl.wwme.org> under "General Resources," then "Community." Plans are for these to also be included in the future on the ilme website along with directions for having a scroll printed at somewhere like Kinko's.

Our Circle, Weekend, or Marriage Encounter Activity

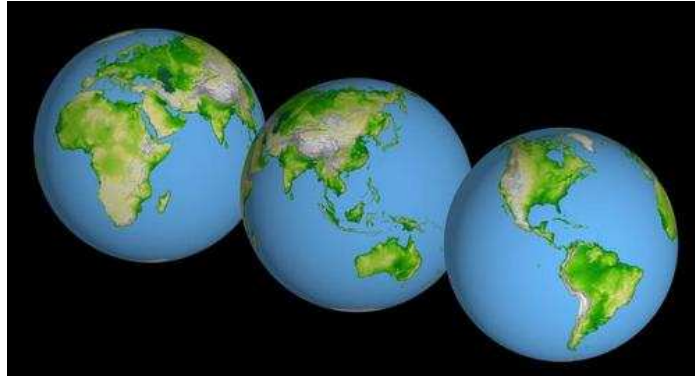
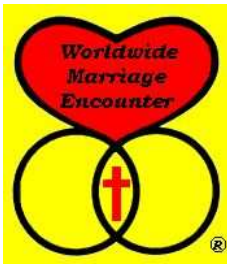
Please consider submitting a story (and picture if possible) of YOUR Circle, a M.E. Weekend, or any Marriage Encounter Activity. We'd love to share them with the Presenting group.

Thank you to Barry and Joann Claycomb for sharing with us the following inspirational story about their love circle:

A Great Love Circle



The Youngstown, Ohio Circle/Sharing Group has been meeting for 25 years. The couples in the current group have been encountered from 3 to 27 years. Their anniversaries all fall between August 2 and September 11, so they have a joint anniversary celebration. The current group represents 153 years of marriage. Couples travel as far away as adjoining counties to participate in regular monthly meetings and several activities just for fun such as family picnics, a Christmas dinner, and movies. They always welcome more couples to share in their circle of love.



Have you checked out the newly revised website for Encountered Couples www.ilme.org Jake Rabatin has done a fantastic job updating the International Lutheran Marriage Encounter website with all kinds of useful information for encountered couples including some great information especially for presenters. Find under: "Resources for couples who have been on a Marriage Encounter Weekend" the following:

♥ [Dialog Helps](#)

♥ [Dialog Questions](#)

♥ [Love Circle Presentations](#)

♥ [Inviting Material](#) -Bulletin notices, Temple Talks, etc.

♥ [Weekend Materials](#) --Weekend Powerpoint

♥ [Old interests](#) Back copies of "Call to be Family"

♥ [Miscellaneous](#) -- LME Graphics, Bylaws, Community Handbook, Stories, Skits, etc

♥ [Presenting Couples](#) **Click on this and enter the password "LME/pc" (for presenters only, please) and you will find: the Feb. 2009 NAR minutes, the latest version of the talk outlines, the current workbook and a replacement pages document, the NAR/District/Presenter Rosters, Admin documents, and Deeper and Kickoff materials. Jake encourages suggestions and updates. Send jakenjune@citlink.net your material. He can only keep the website as current and useful as the information he is given.**

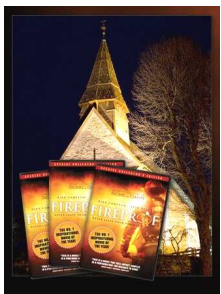
♥ [Thanks, Jake, for all your work on this website!](#)

Attention all presenters: CHECK YOUR "SELF" TALK

As you may have noticed in the Interfaith Report included in the NAR minutes, the Catholics have been carrying on Workshops called "Formation Through Relationship" which are intended to improve the quality and consistency of workshopping. One of the stumbling blocks they still run into is distinguishing the difference between personality style and behaviors. As clearly stated in our Lutheran talk outline, **personality style** *"is the essence of who I am...It reflects my identity, becoming more apparent from childhood through adulthood."* **Behavior** is *"a learned and adaptable manner of presenting myself...Behaviors may be different depending on whether the setting is work, home or play."* Behaviors *"have been learned over a lifetime, but as opposed to my personality style, they are much more subject to adaptation and change. Behaviors can be learned as well as unlearned."* So be sure that in your Self talk your personality style is portrayed as being a consistent and unchanging aspect of who you are; only the behaviors may change and vary depending on your situation.

Also, we've also been asked to remind couples that we are trying to not use the phrase "makes me feel" in our talks as it is believed that nothing can make you feel a certain way. Thanks for doing all you can to make your talks super!

It's not too late to see the number 1 inspirational movie of 2008 -- "Fireproof"



The website: www.fireproofthemovie.com now gives a number of resources for ordering the DVD of the movie "Fireproof" for around \$19.00. (Amazon is showing used copies for \$11.00.) Also Provident Films has partnered with Outreach to provide the official site license DVD for having Fireproof movie events at churches. See the website if you'd like to host such an event.

For those who have not seen it, it is a fantastic movie which stars Kirk Cameron as a fireman who struggles to rescue his marriage as it slowly seems to go up in flames. When he begins to really understand the kind of unconditional love Christ shows to us and makes a life-changing commitment to God, he then is able to truly love his wife.

