



# Lovelinks

Worldwide Marriage Encounter  
Reformed Expression  
October 2006

## Dialog Sharing

Herm and Marti Minnema, a clergy team couple, dialogued on the question "What is my favorite hymn? H.D.I.F. when I hear or sing it?"

My Darling Marti,

My favorite hymn has these words:

*Now let every tongue adore Thee! Let men and angels sing before Thee!  
Let harps and cymbals now unite! Heavens gates with pearl are glorious!  
Where we partake through faith victorious with angels round thy throne of light.  
No mortal eye hath seen, no mortal ear hath heard such wondrous things;  
Therefore with joy our song shall soar in praise to God forevermore.*

The tune is composed by Philip Nicolai and arranged by none other than Bach himself. And we have sung it with many a congregation with the words "Wake, Awake for night is flying!"

When I first heard this hymn more than sixty years ago, sung by an excellent choir, my body tingled and my eyes filled with tears. The director turned and invited the audience to join in as we sang it again. We stood without being asked, and the thrill of singing these words was even greater than just hearing them.

I feel something of heaven's joy whenever I hear this hymn or sing it either with others or in some private place like my car. Its power has not been reduced by time.

I believe the power of this song lies partly in the way it builds from an invitation to "every tongue" to "adore thee," a pronoun with no antecedent, and then extends this invitation to "men and angels, "harps and cymbals," and climaxes when "our song soars in praise to God forevermore!" Such words coupled with a majestic tune makes it a song for the ages. To "jazz it up" would profane it. Some day I hope to sing it with the angels and with you!

Sacred music means a lot to me. My first date with you was to the "Elijah." It changed my life, and my favorite hymn always reminds me how God has enriched my life by bringing you into it, and the best is yet to come.

All my love,  
Herm

My Dearest Herm,

This is a difficult question for me because I have so many "favorites" depending on my where I am in my faith walk at the time. I thrill every time I hear the challenge of "Lift High the Cross, the Love of Christ Proclaim." Or I am moved to tears when we sing "Like a River Glorious is God's Perfect Peace." And I can't keep my feet from moving, wanting to dance with "Let All Things Now Living."

My feelings when I hear or better yet, sing these glorious hymns of faith are at a 9-10. "Lift High the Cross" fills me with awe and wonder. "Like a River Glorious" elicits in me a feeling of heavenly peace, quiet, and contentment. The chorus of that hymn "Trusting in the Father, hearts are fully blest," has stilled my fears and comforted me in sorrow when nothing else could.

I can hear the sound of rippling water in a forest of lush green and I see us standing together bare foot in a brook as the rising sun sends shafts of light around us. And we sing:

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us, his light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished as forward we travel from light into light!*

Writing this to you has brought joy to my heart and tears to my eyes. As one sage wrote, "Burdens are halved and joys are doubled when shared with the one you love the most!"

All my deepest love,  
Marti

Here a few questions you might like to dialogue on. Are pens dry or notebooks hidden away? All it takes is a handy pen or pencil and a tablet or notebook with a loving heart!

1. What sacred song(s) has stirred you at a time or time(s) that you can share with your spouse?  
H.D.I.F. about my answer?
2. Can you think of a fun song that moved you to laughter or to do something fun or silly together? H.D.I.F. about this?
3. Do you have a favorite patriotic song that has come to mean a lot to you? H.D.I.F. about my answer?

### Additional Sources for Dialog Questions:

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter dialog question suggestions:** includes a daily question, access to past daily questions, a way to submit your favorite questions, downloadable collection of dialog questions, a sign-up to have the daily question e-mailed to you- <http://www.wwme.org/already.html>

**The Dialog Companion-** <http://www.wwme.org/companion.html>

### Please invite your friends and family to these weekends coming up:

#### United States

February 9-11, 2007      Holland, MI  
March 2-4, 2007        Modesto, CA  
March 23-25, 2007     Sioux Falls, SD  
April 20-22, 2007      Holland, MI

#### Canada

November 3-5, 2006      Peterborough  
February 16-18, 2007    Niagara Falls  
April 13-15, 2007        Kingston

Register ON-LINE for these great weekends by going to [www.reformedme.org](http://www.reformedme.org) or see the area contact information for registration couples below.

### Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Reformed Marriage Encounter Events:

#### United States

**Christmas Party-** December 1, 2006- 7:30 PM  
At Faith Reformed Church, 85 West 26<sup>th</sup> St  
Holland, MI across from hospital.  
Contact Kevin & Christine Sall, 616-772-5658  
**Bridging-** For any couples who have not had an opportunity to complete bridging and would like to: November 17, December 15, January 5 and January 19 at 7 PM. Please call Mike & Beverley Rannow, 616-392-3417 to sign-up.

#### Canada

**Circle Meetings-** Mountain Christian Reformed Church (290 Main St. E., Grimsby, ON) at 7:45 PM  
October 7, 2006            Goals & Values  
November 4, 2006         Material Possessions  
December 2, 2006         Location

### Are you willing and able to fill the following ministry needs?

#### West Michigan

Here in West Michigan we have an urgent need for people to fill the following positions to help with the smooth execution of Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends. We need a Prayer Couple Coordinator and Friday Hosting Couple. Please contact Kevin & Christine Sall if you are willing to help out, 616-772-5658.

### Reformed Expression Contact Information

#### North American Executive Team

Cal & Carol Gulker- Lay Executive Couple: 616-895-6321, [calving@altelco.com](mailto:calving@altelco.com)  
Clarence & Hennie Van Essen- Clergy Executive Couple: 605-337-3349, [vessen@aol.com](mailto:vessen@aol.com)  
Al & Pat Tysen- Finance Couple: 269-375-7429, [aptyesen@sbcglogal.net](mailto:aptyesen@sbcglogal.net)  
Martin & Linda Lensink- National Promotional Couple: 905-685-6244, [martin@cemeng.ca](mailto:martin@cemeng.ca)

#### California Area

Herm & Marti Minnema- Local Exec Clergy Couple: 559-734-0918, [meminnema@mfire.com](mailto:meminnema@mfire.com)  
Roger & Edie Dornbush- Registration Couple: 530-662-5632

### **Tri-State Area**

Leon & Karen Schuiteman- Local Exec Couple: 712-722-0004, [leokaren@mtcnet.net](mailto:leokaren@mtcnet.net)

Matthew & Annette Burns- Registration Couple: 605-498-2697, [ruger7@iw.net](mailto:ruger7@iw.net)

### **Heartland Area**

Arlan & Jane Van Wyk- Local Exec Couple: 641-628-1393, [advwyk@lisco.com](mailto:advwyk@lisco.com)

Les & Katrina Veenstra- Registration Couple: 641-628-4028, [ldki@iowatelecom.net](mailto:ldki@iowatelecom.net)

### **West Michigan Area**

Mike & Beverley Rannow- Local Exec Couple: 616-392-3417, [brit@egl.net](mailto:brit@egl.net)

Jim & Kathy Molenkamp- Registration Couple: 616-538-2749, [kalinefan6@yahoo.com](mailto:kalinefan6@yahoo.com)

### **Ontario**

Henry & Marjolein Eising- Ontario West Local Exec Couple: 519-426-4262, [eising@execulink.com](mailto:eising@execulink.com)

Gary & Carina Oosterhof- Ontario East Local Exec Couple: 613-541-3943, [Oosterhof@sympatico.ca](mailto:Oosterhof@sympatico.ca)

Jamie & Wilma Kulyk- Registration Couple: 905-987-4272, [james.kulyk@sympatico.ca](mailto:james.kulyk@sympatico.ca)



Newsletter Editor- Beverley Rannow: [brit@egl.net](mailto:brit@egl.net)

**We hope you have enjoyed receiving this newsletter. We have designed it to be an E-Newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving it please e-mail Beverley, address above, so we can add you to the newsletter e-mail list. Thank you!**