



Lovelinks

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Reformed Expression Winter 2008



Greetings from the North American Executive Couple-

Hi Fellow Lovers,

As we prepare this letter for you, we are excited to report that the February West Michigan weekend was completely full for the first time in a while, and the next Canadian weekend, February 15-17, also promises to be well attended.

At the beginning of January, we attended the Interfaith Board Meeting. This is a gathering of the heads of each Worldwide Marriage Encounter Expression. It was a time of celebration as the Wesleyan Expression was admitted to membership on the Interfaith Board. Interfaith is comprised of 11 Expressions- Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran, Mennonite/Brethren, Pan-Orthodox, Presbyterian, Reformed, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, United Methodist and Wesleyan. It was exhilarating to hear about the many couples whose marriages are blessed by attending one of the many Marriage Encounter weekends offered across the United States.

In our last letter, we mentioned that we were working on making it possible to make deposits and donations on-line from our website. This is now operational through PayPal and several couples have used this method of payment to pay their deposits for upcoming weekends.

We are also posting past LoveLinks on the website. You can get to them by going to www.reformedme.org and clicking on the 'News' link at the top of the page.

*Hugs,
Mike and Beverley Rannow*



Dialog Sharing-

“We are sharing with you a 10/10 we have done. We attended our weekend in 1988 and began presenting in 1990. The weekend experience transformed our marriage, and we are grateful for what we learned about ourselves and our relationship. We both share a passion for couples and their relationships.”

~ Leo and Karen Schuiteman, Iowa

Marriage is about commitment and the “daily I do’s”. Describe feelings in loving detail.

Dear Karen,

What are the “daily I do’s?” I feel certain like the feeling the warm sunshine gives when it comes into our kitchen window, that they are the things which help each of us deal with daily living. Taking time to make the bed, empty the trash, scoop the snow and clear the table are some of the ways in which I can make us partners in life’s daily routine. But I also feel glad, like giving you a gift, that the “daily I do’s” is more than just deeds. It is about telling you that I love you in the morning and before we fall asleep at night. I can call you to make a date for an A & W root beer float after a busy day. I can listen to your frustrations about work and schedules. I am your sounding board when the check book does not balance. We can hold hands while we pray and pray together on a daily basis. I feel elated that my “daily I do’s” list can and should grow continually. I need to strive to make our life together the best it can be, both physically and emotionally. Love, Leo

Dear Leo,

Marriage commitment is life long. Commitment is loving you when you are unlovable. Commitment is sticking together in the good and the bad times. Commitment is about honoring God by loving you. Little did I know the journey this commitment would take over 35 years. Reflecting back, (anniversaries have a way of doing that) I feel fascinated like looking out the window, seeing the trees and power lines glistening with the ice covering. I feel joyful like being blessed to be grandparents again this year. Marriage is hard work at times. I feel distressed when I allow ‘stuff’ to get in the way of showing my love fully and completely to you. I feel pleased like getting the clutter cleaned off my desk that I can minister to you. When I can accompany you to meetings, go shopping together or just enjoy your company as we sit side by side on the couch, I know I am blessed. God has given me a gift in you. May I be worthy of His generosity. Love, Karen

-How do I feel about your commitment to love me?

-How do I feel about the time we spent together recently?

Additional Sources for Dialog Questions-

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: <http://www.wwme.org/already.html>
Lifetime List of Dialogue Questions: <http://www.cs.bgsu.edu/maner/dialogue>
The Dialog Companion: <http://www.wwme.org/companion.html>

Start inviting your friends and family to these upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends!

Mar. 7-9 Modesto, California
Mar. 28-30 Sioux Falls, South Dakota
May 2-4 London, Ontario
Oct. 10-12 Holland, Michigan
Nov. 14-16 Petersborough, Ontario

How can we go on a weekend?

Application to register is online at www.reformedme.org or you can contact the couple below that is nearest your area!

California:	Roger & Edie Dornbush	530.662.5632
Tri-State:	Nolan & Dorenda VanGaalén	712.722.4022
West Michigan:	Jim and Kathy Molenkamp	616.538.2749
Ontario:	Chris & Cindy Otten	519.393.5163

Can we go again?

Certainly! If it's been five years since you've attended a WWME weekend, then it is time to give yourself the gift of attending again! Sign up today!



: A special group of people, who like you, have been blessed on their weekend and realize the need to continually renew their relationship into what God would have them to be. Circle is a once a month, ongoing opportunity for couples to take time out of their busy schedules to focus on their marriage. Circle usually meets once a month for 1½-2 hour time. You'll be uplifted by a brief devotional, a private 10/10, and a chance to share with the small group. Oh! and food! ☺ Bring a small snack to share if you're able and willing.

United States

West Michigan: The last Sunday of each month @ 7:30 PM.

Next meeting on Feb. 24 at Mike & Beverley Rannow's home at 1054 Cobblestone Rd, Holland, MI.

Canada

There are Circles in Oshawa, St. Catherines, and Kingston.

Contact Gary and Corina Oosterhof at local_executive_canada@reformedme.org for specific info.

If there isn't currently a Circle in your area, contact the Newsletter Editor (info next page), to state your interest. Someone needs to go first! We welcome hearing from you ☺

Share your Story-

Share a little about the difference that your Marriage Encounter weekend made in your relationship by sending it to administration@reformedme.org by April 30 to fill this spot in the spring LoveLinks!

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

West Michigan

We are down to needing one volunteer couple: Luggage Carriers Coordinator.

Contact Kevin & Christine Sall for more information, 616.772.5658.

We welcome Jim and LuAnn Mellema as Prayer Couple Coordinator!

Jim and LuAnn once served as a presenting couple, and this past October, they felt God's tug when at a church function in the same place they'd presented on weekends...they just felt certain they could still be of some help to this ministry. They are an answer to many prayers!! Thank you, God, and thank you, Mellemas!

Tri-State Area

There is a need for couples to fill the roles of: Prayer Couple Coordinator, and Supply Couple.

Contact Leo and Karen Schuiteman for more information, 712-722-0004.

Tri-State current prayer request: Ask God to bring 15 couples to the March weekend!



"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their work; if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)



Reformed Expression

Strengthening the Church by Enriching Marriages

Newsletter Editor- Rob and Rachel VanDam: administration@reformedme.org
Comments? Suggestions? Letters to the Editor? Send 'em our way! ☺

We hope you have enjoyed receiving this E-Newsletter. If for some reason you would like to discontinue receiving it, please e-mail the newsletter editor.

Please Consider:

- ...A dollar for every year you've been married...
- ...a penny for each day since you've said I Do...
- ...a gift given on the anniversary weekend of your Encounter...
- ...a gift given so that another couple can grow...

A financial gift in any amount makes a positive difference in the relationships of countless couples coming on a weekend to experience God and their spouse in a beautiful new way.

Donations are accepted on www.reformedme.org or you can contact the Newsletter Editor for direction.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)