



Encountered Love in Northeast Kansas

eLink

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2010

UPCOMING WWME 2010 WEEKENDS:

- April 9-11,
- June 11-13
- Sept. 17-19
- Nov. 19-21

Welcome to the New E-LINK

Welcome to the first edition of **E-LINK** a monthly publication for the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community of Northeast Kansas.

E-LINK replaces our former newsletter, One in the Spirit, which was published on a quarterly basis. The older, more traditional format no longer fits the needs of our changing community.

Rather than a long, "folksy" piece, **E-LINK** is designed to offer couples small bits and bytes of information that can be quickly consumed in the rush of everyday life. In addition, the information shared will focus on topics

that help couples continue to strengthen and grow in their relationship.

Along with introducing **E-LINK**, we are working to keep our website, www.neksme.org, up to date with upcoming events, current community contacts and links to other marriage enrichment resources.

Also in the works is a new Worldwide Marriage Encounter **Facebook** page for our Northeast Kansas community. Look for more information in the March edition of **E-LINK**. We hope that many of you will become our "friends" and contributors by sharing dialogue ques-

tions, parenting tips, and encouraging stories from your relationship. A key feature will be quotes from couples fresh off the Weekend experience that we are sure will bring back memories from your weekend and help to "re-inspire" you to live God's plan for your marriage.

In addition to providing **E-LINK** in an electronic version, it is also available via "snail mail" upon request. If you would like a hard copy version or you would like to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please email your request to:

neksexecs@gmail.com

The Weekend Around the World

We truly are a WORLDWIDE movement! In January, representatives from WWME in the United States met with leaders from around the world to discuss our movement. Here is a short excerpt from their report. Our dream to change the world is alive and well!

"As a group, we were able to hear and be motivated by outreach plans and successes across the world, such as in Egypt, Dubai, Papua New Guinea, Russia,

China, Cuba, and the Solomon Islands.

We were happy to hear that Dubai, China and Cuba are now close to being self-sufficient due to continued dedication and ongoing support. In fact, one of the Bishops of Cuba has invited WWME to host the next Latin American Council in Cienfuegos, Cuba.

We were proud that the US Board and many Sections previously provided significant funds

to bring the weekend to Cuba, and now the fruits of that effort can be seen.

Once again, we were thanked by the Latin American Secretariat for our support of Cuba outreach. We are glad to continue to encourage each other on the course of bringing our mission and vision to all those that desire to embrace it, and promised continued North American support for these efforts."

Jose & Marilyn & Fr. Mitch

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A DIALOGUE QUESTION:

How do I feel about making dialogue part of our Lenten Journey? HDIFAMA?

“Our weekend was more than we could have asked for! We both left feeling as if we had been given a second chance at life together.”
 Cara & Terry

How is the Spirit working in our lives? HDIFAMA?



Lenten Dialogue Challenge

“Each year, on the occasion of Lent, the Church invites us to a sincere review of our life in light of the teachings of the Gospel.” Thus begins Pope Benedict XVI’s message to the faithful for the Lenten season of 2010.

For married couples, Lent can be a time to reevaluate our behaviors and attitudes and make changes so that our love for each other is a reflection of Christ’s love for his Church.

Dialogue, the tool that we all learned on our Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend,

offers a unique opportunity to go deeper in our faith and strengthen our relationships as part of our Lenten journey.

Many of us will commitment to giving up chocolate, snacking between meals, caffeine and other “bad habits” as part of our penance. This year, take the additional step to cultivate a “good habit”, like dialoguing daily with the one you love!

We invite you to take the **40-Day Dialogue Challenge**, carving out 20 minutes a day for written reflection and dialogue on questions related to

this special season.

Possible resources for questions include:

Magnificat’s Lenten Companion (create a question from the reflection & suggested penance).

Lent & Easter Wisdom books from Liguori Publications.

The daily readings, available at USCCB.org

www.VVME.org website, visit the dialogue assistance page for downloadable questions.

Rekindle the Flame (Part 1)

Is your share group looking for a fresh (and easy) presentation? Try this one to build intimacy in your group.

Invite the couples attending to bring their wedding albums. As people arrive, they can share their pictures—this generates excitement and interest. It also establishes some intimacy for the sharing to come.

Opening Scripture: Matthew 18:19-20 Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Opening Prayer: Lord, we are gathered this evening in your name. We are confident that you are here in our midst. Help us to be good listeners

and to allow your Spirit to work through us for the good of all. Give us the courage to share openly and tenderly. May our love for each other grow ever stronger and more visible so that all who meet us will be warmed by it. Help us to love so completely that we are a sign to others of your own unconditional love for your people. We ask this in Jesus’ name. AMEN.

Questions for sharing: Remind couples of the rules for sharing. First couple reads the first question and answers it. All answer around the circle. Second couple reads second question and begins, all answer, etc. The answers are given individually, not together as a couple.

1. What favorite memory do I have of our wedding day?
2. What was our early marriage like from my point of view?
3. Why did I decide to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encoun-

ter Weekend with my spouse? What enticed me to go?
 4. What part of the VVME Weekend had the greatest impact on me?

Couple Dialogue: What significant changes do I see in our relationship since the Weekend? How do I feel about these changes?

Group Sharing: How has dialog made a difference in our relationship?

CLOSING PRAYER: Lord, we thank you for the gift of this journey we share. Help us to continue risking openness with one another. May we overcome our fears and allow the Spirit to use our couple love to change the world. We thank you for the gift of companions on our journey, couples and priests who light the way for us with their love. Help us to pass this gift along to others so as to build up your Kingdom here on earth. AMEN

(Part 2 in the next issue)