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From the Executive Couple

Dear Friends:

We have just received the weather news that California will be hit with the wettest El Niño in modern history!? We have been through these El Niño's before: some years the rains come gently over time and the water soaks in and there is minimal damage. Other El Nino's are fierce and nasty with huge downpours that create flooding, mudslides and lots of damage.



Which type of El Niño are we in our marriages – calm and gentle or fierce with much damage?

Joni and I saw the new movie, *The War Room*, recently and recommend it to all of you. It is a great refresher for married couples about not being distracted, about being gentle, prayerful and not being fierce or causing damage to your spouse or your family.

In other news, we are excited to welcome Harry & Cecilia Hentges, as "officially" the Traveling Ambassador Couple for National Marriage Encounter!! As such, the Hentges will be assisting the Board of Directors with community outreach, fundraising and as we know the Hentges can do, to welcome new couples and groups into National Marriage Encounter. Join us in welcoming Harry and Ceclia to their new role!

Happy Labor Day to everyone and thank you for all your 'labor' for us and NME.

Hugs,

Mike and Joni Stallings

Message From the Traveling Ambassadors

Dear Friends,



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Faith Community Leaders

Dr. Gary Chapman
Baptist Church

Bishop Robert Morneau
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Moderator

Mindful Marriage Moments



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Some of you might remember that this is the basis for the Color Me Love 2006 NME Conference theme song.

In their book (cited below), the

First of all, we want to say it was great to see so many of you at the conference in Jefferson City this past July. "Thank you" for being here. We also want to say "Thank you" to all of the National Marriage Encounter family that we've had the privilege of meeting over the past 16 conferences and during our time on the National Board. We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.



We have been appointed to a new position on the National Board that we would like to tell you about. The position is called Traveling Ambassador Couple.

We proposed this idea to the National Board toward the end of our time as National Executive Couple. They were interested and we worked with Joni and Mike Stallings to iron out the details of what that would look like. Our idea is to travel around the country, at the Board's direction, to promote Marriage Encounter.

This position was approved at the winter Board meeting and discussed further with us at the summer Board meeting. We are now contracted by the National Marriage Encounter Board for this work.

This is where you come in. We would very much like to come to your area and help start, restart, promote, encourage and sell the idea of Marriage Encounter in your area.

Think about it and give us a call (573-893-5178) or **email** us with any idea you may have. There are no bad ideas. Let's put them out there and discuss. Together we can do this with the Holy Spirit's help. We encourage you to say the prayer to the Holy Spirit and let Him lead you from there.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Our love and blessings to all of you,
Harry and Cecilia Hentges

2016 Conference



Moellers tell of a contentious tennis match between Ilie Nastase and Arthur Ashe. At one time during the grueling hours of play, Ashe complains to the judge that he might lose control. When told that that action would result in forfeiting “the match, Ashe replied, ‘I’d rather forfeit the game than my dignity.’ God would rather have us forfeit an argument than lose our self-control. When we are provoked, the fruit of the Spirit changes our response.”

From *Marriage Minutes: Inspirational Reading to Share with Your Spouse*, by Robert and Cheryl Moeller. Chicago: Moody Press, 1998.

Dialog question for your mindful marriage moments during the next month:

When have I lost control in a situation or argument? How might I react differently when I focus on the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23?

This book is available on Amazon.

Bob and Cheryl’s website contains many more marriage moments.
<http://forkeepsministries.com/>



Prayer Network

To submit your name to be on the list to pray, or to make a prayer request, send an email to: Mike and Gene Vander Heyden mikengene@gmail.com. Put Prayer Network in the

Make plans now for the next conference:

August 4-7, 2016 at Stevens Point WI

You will find conference information in monthly updates called The Gift of . . . Watch for the next one later this month.

Look What You Missed

If you didn’t attend the 2015 NME Conference in Jefferson City, MO in July, you missed a lot of Marriage Encounter information and fun.

Check out some more 2015 Live, Love, and Laugh conference photos at the NME website: <http://marriage-encounter.org/memories/>



Board Corner

Finance and Operations

Recommendation: that the Board add \$2,500.00 to the current year budget as an expense item under Special Projects to cover expenses of the Traveling Ambassadors.

email subject line.

Remember to pray for the fall NME weekends, listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Recommendation: that each Board member, as able, make a donation of \$250.00 annually to the general operating fund.

Recommendation: that the Board allocate the \$1,000.00 support of Fr. Calvo to Special Projects in his honor.

Communication and Publicity Committee

Recommendation: Change the words in brackets to the words in bold in the Copyright section of the Affiliate Resource Manual to read:
“Taking this one step further, we need to remind you that the duplication of any content [records, tapes, or CDs] for Marriage Encounter use is prohibited. It is illegal to duplicate content [music] on any medium [cassette] unless you have obtained permission to do so by each copyright holder, or unless you have the original and that original is taken with you on the event.”

Weekend and Affiliate Support Committee

This committee plans to look into the needs of couples as a part of their decision-making regarding weekend participation. The committee began looking into ways to expand the base of encountered couples and others simply interested in their marriages by sharing successes along the line of monthly meetings and other outings.

At the regularly scheduled Board meeting via Zoom on August 24, 2015, the Board decided by consensus to develop a process of allowing donations to NME in the name of affiliates. Mike, Joni, Kent, and Jeannette will develop the details and guidelines.

Fall Weekend Dates

September

September 12 – Central Ohio ME
September 19 – Twin Cities (Engaged)

October

October 3-4 – Central Ohio ME
October 10-11 – Twin Cities
October 16-18 – Central Texas
October 23-25 – Central Coast, CA
October 24-25 – Chippewa Valley

November

November 6-8 – Green Bay ME
November 7-8 – Jefferson City
November 21 – Twin Cities (Engaged)

Testimonial from Chippewa Valley

"This was life/marriage changing. We should have done this a long time ago. I will be an advocate for others to attend."

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