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December 2015 Volume
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Season's Greetings

Ho Ho Ho friends!

Christmas is coming, holiday cards and letters fill the mailbox--and it's time to write your family's annual Christmas letter. Remember to write to your spouse, also. Thank them for the past year and tell them what your hopes and feelings are about next year! It is hard to believe that it will be 2016 in a few days!



It's our family's favorite time of the year! It's not because the weather is cooling down (it will get down to the 40's here in San Luis Obispo, not quite as cold as some of you!) or because Santa will be visiting soon. It's because we go to mailbox or inbox, looking for your coveted holiday cards and newsletters. We save them until the end of the day and read them together, looking at the photos or creative ways you let us know how you are doing! We love getting pictures and updates from you, our friends and family!

The first Christmas after we were married, we were so excited to make our first Christmas card. We remember hand making and sending a custom card that year; and over 40 years of custom Christmas postcards later, we are still going strong!

Enjoy all the holiday lights, the Christmas music, your wonderful families.... We also thank God for having us experience Marriage Encounter and 'changing' our marriage forever!

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Mindful Marriage Moments



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Mike & Joni Stallings

Give Back to NME

Don't forget National Marriage Encounter when you buy Christmas gifts and make your year-end contribution lists. **AmazonSmile Foundation** gives a small percentage of your purchase amount to NME.



Remember all the wonderful experiences you gained through Marriage Encounter and think what it means to couples who haven't shared it yet. Whether you send a check to the National Office, c/o K & J Babcock or **donate** through the NME website, your donations are all tax-deductible. Please donate online or by mail before the end of December for a 2015 tax deduction. Of course, donations are welcome in 2016 any time.

Weekend/Event Testimonials

"Marriage Encounter has made a large difference in our lives. Going from not wanting to go on the weekend to being involved at the local and national levels has changed our lives - from she & he to we & God. A small seed that was planted a long time ago has made a profound difference in our lives."

- Midwestern guy



Please send us your personal testimonials or ones from past or current weekends. We will only identify them by location as above. If your upcoming weekends don't appear on the list below, send us the dates asap. - **NME News Team**

Weekend/Event Dates

December

December 5-6 – New Mexico



*God gave you a gift of
86,400 seconds today.
Have you used one to say
"thank you"? - William
Arthur Ward*

Take time during this potentially hectic season to use one or several seconds to thank your spouse and others around you. Tell them that you love them, too. Then talk with your spouse about other ways to use your seconds and minutes off and on during the rest of the month.



Prayer Network

Please pray for the encountering couples and presenting teams before, during, and after the winter NME weekends listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

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 email subject line.

December 12-13 – Twin Cities ME

2016 Dates

February

February 6-7 – North Texas

February 10-12 – Central Texas

February 13-14 – Jefferson City



Another Tool for Your Marriage Maintenance Kit

Note the Mindful Marriage Moments on the left. We came across this quotation in two books and a DVD marriage series. Perhaps you might want to check into that program: ***Your Time-Starved Marriage***. Central Iowa Marriage Encounter is using this series as a part of its Marriage Nights. So, if you are looking for something new for your marriage or your small group sessions, give it a try.



A Christmas Gift

Here is a marvelous seasonal video for you to view. Be sure to watch it to the end. **Click here.**

Then consider the tie in to the Mindful Marriage Moments - tell someone you love them. Even better, sign up for the 2016 NME Conference - **The Gift**.

Find **details** and a registration form on the NME website.



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