

Worldwide Marriage Encounter



MIKE: Hi Hon, I'm home! Where's the mail?

DIANA: Hi. I'm in the kitchen.

MIKE: How was your day?

DIANA: Not so good. The credit card bill came today.

MIKE: That's nice. Where are the kids?

DIANA: Oh, the kids? Kelsey got an A on her math test, Jessica finished first in the swim meet, Stephanie finished my last tube of lipstick on the bathroom wall and Christopher flushed another hot wheel down the toilet.

MIKE: That's nice. Have you seen the remote?

DIANA: How did your project go at work?

MIKE: Funding fell through. There may be some layoffs.

DIANA: That's nice dear. OK, your dinner's in the fridge. I'm late for Girl Scouts. I'll be back at 8, see you later.

MIKE: Bye. Where'd you say the remote is?

(Pause.)

Sound familiar? Wonder what happened to the newly wed couple you once were that talked endlessly about living happily ever after? Well that's why we're here today. To tell you how making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can bring the honeymoon back to your relationship.

How many of you have continued your education or training for your jobs? I have been to seminars and training classes in every job I have held since I started working at age 16, too many years ago. Yet the only thing that I had done prior to November of 2004 to be better in my marriage was meet with Pastor Maun prior to Diana and I getting married 6 years ago.

DIANA - We knew our marriage wasn't perfect but it was pretty close, we survived blending a family, and creating a whole new one. We even survived a critical infant, and two untimely deaths, but the key words were survived. Once we went on a marriage encounter weekend we learned how to do more than just survive. We learned how to communicate and that skinny little path we walked down has become wide open road. Don't get me wrong, we are still going to have our share of bumps, but now even bumps are less of a struggle.

MIKE - As much as being less of a struggle those little bumps have turned into growing points and lessons. We have rediscovered the art of communicating our feelings, and understanding each others feelings. Instead of the conversation that we opened with, although we do still have them once in a while, we are now communicating on a deeper level. This is all thanks to our Marriage Encounter Weekend over a year ago. Many people, including members of our family, friends and our church family have told us that they noticed a difference in us after our weekend. Now we would like some of you to experience the joy and romance of the weekend that we experienced.

DIANA – Now let me tell you what marriage encounter is not. It is not to solve troubled marriages, it may make them worse. It is not open sharing, conversations between your spouse and you are just that, between the two of you in the privacy of your own room. It is not a place to go to make friends or impress anyone with the exception of your spouse. Marriage encounter is

designed for a man and a woman that are married. The weekend is for couples of all ages, all stages of their faith who sincerely want to grow and have their marriage be the best that it can possible be by finding new meaning and deeper joys through the presentations. It is a structured weekend that presents many ideas about marriage and effective communication in an interesting and sometimes funny manner.

MIKE – Marriage Encounter is a weekend away from home and other responsibilities. You and your spouse will spend the weekend in your own room and go to presentations Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. Friday begins at approximately 7:00 PM and Sundays sessions are over by about 3:00 PM, and this includes a church type service, daily devotions and meals. Think about it, a weekend away from home, chores, work and nothing to do but concentrate on your spouse and your relationship. There is a \$50 registration fee. The weekend includes hotel room, 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Marriage encounter is a not for profit organization that is entirely self supporting. At the end of the weekend you will be given the opportunity to make a donation to help cover the expenses. You will be asked to give what you can but please do not miss the weekend because of finances. Diana and I thank Pastor Maun for the opportunity to speak today and we thank you for listening. I will be available following the service for any questions you may have. There are weekends coming up in the very near future, February 10 – 12 in Rehoboth DE and March 24 – 26 in Avalon NJ. There are openings in each weekend and we do have registrations available for you with us today. God Bless and have a wonderful day.