

# Love Notes

Pennsylvania Regional Mennonite and Brethren Marriage Encounter

Summer 2011

## Upcoming 2011 ME Encounters

**July 15-17, 2011**

Kenbrook, Lebanon, PA

**October 14-16, 2011**

Winnipeg, MB, Canada

**October 21-23, 2011**

Kenbrook, Lebanon, PA

**October 28-30, 2011**

Walter Falls, ON, Canada

## Engaged Encounters

Held at Kenbrook Bible Camp  
Lebanon, PA

**July 15-17, 2011**

**September 9-11, 2011**

**September 30-October 2, 2011**

**December 2-4, 2011**

## Save the Date

**FEBRUARY 4, 2012**

ROMANTIC NIGHT OUT  
YODER'S RESTURANT

The King Family will provide  
inspiration through words and music

Mennonite & Brethren  
Marriage Encounter

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## WHY WE LOVE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER!

Nearly 22 years ago, Nevin and I attended our first Marriage Encounter. A friend, Idella Otto, had been telling me we need to go to ME. I finally persuaded Nevin we needed to go, so we sent in our application and waited. We received notice there was room on our desired weekend. (For your information - It is good to apply early since some weekends have more applicants than spaces and there is a waiting list, especially for Engaged Encounter.)

Our weekend was held at Black Rock Camp near Quarryville, so Nevin took hiking shoes and I took 3 or 4 books expecting to have a lot of leisure time to hike and read. Obviously neither of us had any idea what we were about to experience.

When we arrived we were greeted by a couple offering to carry our bags and were shown to our rooms. That was nice! When we went to the meeting room the weekend started with the instruction to "give the gift of time to your spouse and please remove your watch for the weekend".

WOW! I did not expect that. I was a clock watcher and that was very hard for me to do, but I did it. **(This is no longer a requirement.**

☺) I will confess several of the first sessions were difficult as the presenters focused on thoughts about ourselves and about God.

But as the weekend progressed, Nevin and I began to talk and share about things we had never

talked about before. We had always talked, but it was mostly about things and activities and "please pass the salt" or "who called today". At ME we began to talk about our thoughts and feelings. That was new territory for us and somewhat scary, but also very rewarding.

We cried together and laughed together at different times throughout the weekend, and when Sunday afternoon came, we really didn't know if we wanted to leave. We had learned new ways to dialogue and we knew our marriage would never be the same again. PTL!!

When we got home our teenage daughter and son wondered, "How was it?" We said, "Wonderful!" Then we informed them that we had learned new ways to dialogue this weekend and whenever our bedroom door is closed, we



are not to be disturbed unless the house is on fire or someone's life is in danger. We overheard our daughter tell one of her friends, "Mom and Dad were at Marriage Encounter and said they learned new ways to dialogue and apparently some of those ways don't even use words." ☺

There is much more we could say about our weekend and the results it produced in our marriage. The feelings of trust, caring, openness and freedom we experienced between the two of us, helped me to be open to deal with some childhood issues that had created much bondage and dysfunction in my life. With the help of a Christian counselor, God's healing power and Nevin's support, our lives will never be the same. Praise the Lord for Marriage Encounter and the couples who faithfully present, weekend after weekend. Thank you.

*Mary N. Boll*

## *What Others Are Saying About Marriage Encounter*

Thank you so much for one of the best weekends of our lives. We are truly thankful for the teaching and experiences that we shared with you and especially with each other. We are looking forward to what God is doing through ME and the couples that attend.

Blessings, Joe and Pam

Fantastic! We've become more open and honest with ourselves and with each other. We look forward to using the communication tools we were given and to dating more regularly.

The weekend was just what we needed. Thank you for sharing from your hearts.

## *What Couples Are Saying About Engaged Encounter*

Because of this weekend both of us have come closer to God. My fiancé received Christ into his heart this weekend and is ready to make a life-time commitment to God and me. Thank you for this!!! We enjoyed our weekend. Thanks for your openness and honesty with all subjects, sensitive or not. This weekend provided us the opportunity to plan our MARRIAGE and not worry about working on our house or planning our wedding.

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR** a challenging, fulfilling position that helps build marriages? The Lancaster area Mennonite/Brethren Marriage and Engaged Encounter is looking for a part time Administrator who is a member of an Anabaptist Church. This person will co-ordinate weekend scheduling and keep appropriate records. Organizational and computer skills a plus. Some graphic design ability helpful. Pleasant phone voice. For more information and/or questions, contact Nevin & Mary Boll @ 717-627-1611 (jnboll@dejazzd.com) or Bob & Naomi Gochenaur @ 717-464-4369 (bngochenaur@verizon.net)

## **NOTICE**

*Looking for a Marriage – Building summer retreat? Refresh your marriage at the Brook... there is no age limit on joy! Attend the updated Mennonite and Brethren Marriage Encounter, July 15-17 at Kenbrook, Lebanon, PA. Focus on your spouse and learn how to love, listen and share more deeply than ever before. Consider gifting another couple with the application fee for their own Marriage Encounter weekend.*