

MARRIAGES TRANSFORMED

STORIES AND MORE FROM 2022



United Marriage Encounter

GABE AND DAWN *duran*

**MARYLAND WEEKEND ATTENDEE,
NOVEMBER 2022**

We weren't sure what to expect from our Encounter Weekend. We had a good marriage, but we were looking forward to having time away to focus on strengthening it. We'd been to marriage retreats in the past and always found them valuable – but today we couldn't tell you why. When we realized that the emphasis for the weekend would be on communication, and more specifically about communicating feelings, we knew we had arrived at something our marriage desperately needed. Neither of us articulate feelings well, but it's even harder for my husband. The fact that he embraced the opportunity and successfully articulated his emotions for the first time in more than 21 years of marriage is nothing short of a miracle. When we learned on Sunday how purposefully our UME experience was bathed in prayer, we understood how this miracle came to fruition.

Our encounter was the stimulus for an entirely transformed marriage. Now our marriage is not merely good, but on the road to awesome. The depth of gratitude we have for everyone involved in our weekend can never be sufficiently expressed. May you be blessed beyond measure as you have blessed us.

CHRIS AND NAOMI *sicks*

**COLORADO SPRINGS WEEKEND REFRESHER ATTENDEE,
OCTOBER 2022**

When Chris initially told me about his desire to attend a UME weekend, I was hesitant, and even a bit resistant. We were 18 months into our marriage and blended family, and I was pretty convinced a weekend away was not going to ease our tension and my burnout. Chris' first wife passed away from cancer, and we were now trying to raise three grieving teenagers together, while working toward bringing my special needs, teenage nephew home from a residential placement. The weekend was just a couple of months after we would be blending siblings! It was terrible timing. However, God had other plans. I begrudgingly agreed to go, and made preparations for respite care, begging God to help David transition smoothly enough for us to actually attend.

The weekend was such hard work! Though our marriage was just in the beginning stages, the shark infested waters of blending a family had already include several scrapes. I wasn't hopeful that a marriage retreat would bring any deep healing, and I wasn't too keen on opening up wounds that were trying to heal. Our start with dialogue was rocky, but by the end of the weekend, we had experienced deep compassion and Christ like love for one-another! We headed home committed to the 60-day guarantee and rearranged our schedule to accommodate a daily 10 and 10.

READ MORE AT UNITEDMARRIAGE.COM



WARREN AND ANDREA

goff

1988 SOUTHEAST FLORIDA WEEKEND ATTENDEE,
CELEBRATING 41 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Thank you for your anniversary greetings. We can honestly say that had it not been for United Marriage Encounter we may not be celebrating 41 years today. We married as very selfish, immature teenagers who had both been somewhat pampered by their mothers. We had a lot of growing up to do. We had been married for 5 years and Warren did not want children but I did. At 25 years old we attended our first Marriage Encounter weekend in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and were taught the tools to communicate well.

At first Warren was very resistant, but by Sunday his heart had softened and he opened up beautifully in the 90/90. It almost scared me, but I saw God working and the support we felt was amazing. We continued working on our communication with our core group and 5 months later our beautiful first daughter was conceived. Three children later, and 7 gorgeous little grandsons, we see the hand of God in using UME to protect and strengthen our marriage. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



RICHARD AND SARA

guenther

HEART OF ILLINOIS WEEKEND ATTENDEE,
OCTOBER 2022

We decided to go to a local UME weekend when some friends recommended it to us. We had already been to five different marriage counselors over the course of our 36 year marriage. Nothing ever seemed to give us tools that we could consistently use with good success. We were pretty much ready to be done with our marriage as we fought so often and it created so much stress in our lives.

We went to the UME weekend and I was ready to leave on the first night! We were encouraged to stick it out and stay the whole weekend to give them a chance to show us all of the teaching. Saturday morning we had a breakthrough and it just kept growing throughout the weekend. The 90/90 Sunday morning clinched it for us and now we have tools to help us through things we see differently. We've had more than our share of challenges since the weekend, but are driven to keep going back to the UME pattern we were shown to work them out.



Vision

OUR VISION IS TO TRANSFORM, EDIFY, AND NURTURE ONE-MAN, ONE-WOMAN MARRIAGES LEADING TO STRONGER CHRIST-CENTERED MARRIAGES, FAMILIES, AND A COMMUNITY OF CARING COUPLES.

Mission

IN RESPONSE TO OUR CALL, WE OFFER OUR WEEKEND EXPERIENCE AND A COMMUNITY OF CARING COUPLES WHO ARE COMMITTED TO HAVING A STAKE IN OTHER MARRIAGES. WE WILL CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT CAN HELP TRANSFORM MARRIAGES AROUND THE WORLD. BY FOLLOWING OUR MISSION AND PROCLAIMING GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE, WE BELIEVE WE CAN INFLUENCE THE WORLD FOR CHRIST.

Year to Date

	14	WEEKENDS COMPLETED
	146	COUPLES ENCOUNTERED
	16	MARYLAND HAD THE LARGEST WEEKEND
	25	IA/IL HAD THE MOST COUPLES ENCOUNTERED
	178	ANNUAL MARRIAGE BUILDERS
	60%	AMB FUNDED WEEKEND COSTS
	55%	DONOR RETENTION

Dear friends,

Most of 2022 is behind us. Bouncing back from COVID has had its challenges but is also brought with it new perspectives, new ideas for our Weekends, and the value of relationships. We each had different experiences, but many of us learned to value our marriages and our families. We learned how quickly we could lose someone and how quickly we could change our priorities. In 2021 we began to have Weekends, and in 2022 we increased our number of Weekends significantly as we found COVID regulations loosened their grip on restrictions that had to be followed. We had more Weekends; they were small but very powerful. We had stories of transformation from Maryland to Colorado. Some communities restored their sing-offs and afterglow traditions, and others have adopted ZOOM connections to those that want to attend from remote locations. Your generosity was responsible for allowing couples to attend without the ability to pay for their Weekend. Your financial gifts covered more than 60% of the cost of our Weekends, allowing the Communities to get a Green Light on their Weekends with small numbers. Your gifts made a difference. May God Bless you richly this holiday season. Pam and I thank you so much for supporting our efforts to bring God's Plan for marriage to couples worldwide.

with thanks,



Steve Chapman
Executive Director