



## Attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend Can Help Ensure a Vital Church



### Four Key Vitality Drivers

- 1) Small Groups
- 2) Effective Lay Leadership
- 3) Pastors
- 4) Worship

### Marriage Encounter and Small Groups

Studies have shown that more vital churches have more small groups. To make the most of their Marriage Encounter Experience, all “Encountered” couples are encouraged to participate in the ME Community, including attending small group gatherings that are usually scheduled monthly. The fellowship and confidences shared in these groups create strong bonds that allow the group to provide comfort and support. The church can be a comfortable setting for these groups to gather.

### Marriage Encounter and Effective Lay Leadership

Effectiveness of lay leadership has a strong impact on vitality, and effective lay leaders demonstrate vital personal faith. Couples who have been on a Marriage Encounter Weekend learn that God is at the center of every successful marriage. Encountered couples tend to become more involved in the church, usually as a couple. And, an interesting fact, many have heard the calling to ministry after attending their Weekend.

### Marriage Encounter and Pastors

Pastors who were rated as effective at developing, coaching and mentoring lay leaders are more likely to have highly vital churches. Pastors who attend Marriage Encounter Weekends discover that they are able to mentor, influence and inspire their congregations in a new way by modeling an enriched marriage relationship.

### Marriage Encounter and Worship

As effective lay leaders, most Marriage Encounter attendees are regular worship attendees and enjoy participating in the worship service in a variety of ways. Couples are challenged on the Weekend to help achieve the Marriage Encounter mission to build better relationships, change the world and renew the church. Having discovered God as central to their marriage, they wish to be closer to Him in all areas of their lives.