



International Confederation of Christian Family Movements



THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ORIGINAL MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER By Pat and Debbie Walsh USA

On the weekend of August 23rd, 24th and 25th, we, Pat and Debbie Walsh, experienced the Original Marriage Encounter. Years ago, we had experienced a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. We found that the two were quite different. The Worldwide Marriage Encounter mainly directed us to focus on our feelings and the importance of dialogue. At the time we had not been aware that the Worldwide Marriage Encounter had shifted the focus of the original vision; but we both did feel that something was missing- that there had to be something superceding feelings and dialogue in importance. Learning about, and then experiencing, the Original Marriage Encounter helped us to clearly understand that we are individuals, but also a couple joined by God with a mission to mirror His Image by living out His Plan for marriage, which is UNITY. It was not a retreat, nor group therapy, and definitely not promoted as a separate Movement in itself. However, the enthusiasm and willingness to reach out to other couples was quite evident among the participants, and that desire is unquestionably gaining in momentum . Plans are already under way for a second Southern California Original Marriage Encounter experience in the near future.