



International Confederation of Christian Family Movements



BOOMERANG THROWERS WANTED OR HOW TO EXPAND CFM By Bob & Irene Tomonto Miami, FL, USA

Boomerang, n, [native Australian name] A bent or curved piece of hard wood used as a missile by the native Australians, which can be thrown as to return to the thrower.

Over the years, we tried every possible way to expand CFM. We even wrote a booklet for the National Board called "Share the Good News..." which was used as the national expansion plan for many years. All of this was met with mixed results. Finally after many years of service to CFM we retired to devote ourselves to ministry to families on the parish level.

Shortly after that we were invited by Bishop Agustin A. Roman of Miami to develop a program to bring young married couples back to the church after the wedding. After a number of false starts, we developed the COVENANT EXPERIENCE, as a parish based, low-cost, marriage enrichment program. While we initially targeted the program for newly married couples we found that couples of all ages profited equally from the program. We found that couples improved their marriages and their commitment to the Lord who is the third person in each marriage. Couples began to be "turned on" to parish activities and to each other. What we did not expect was that at the end of the four follow-up meetings couples wanted to continue in the small group meetings. OF COURSE THE ANSWER WAS THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT.

We have found that one of more new CFM groups were formed at the end of each COVENANT EXPERIENCE weekend. Moreover, the couples in these groups continued in CFM and social action longer than couples recruited by other means.

We found that by concentrating on ministry to married couples rather than expansion of CFM we actually performed a valid ministry to many couples and in the process also started more CFM groups than before. We found that by throwing away organizational goals and concentrating on ministry the results came back in the form of requests for something more. That is why we are looking for boomerang throwers.



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People are not turned-on by a request to join an organization. They are interested in improving their marriage and if that process produces results then they want to continue with it. People are too busy today to join just another organization. They want to satisfy more basic needs of intimacy, companionship and finding friends in the Lord and in the community.

Soon our friends were asking how the COVENANT EXPERIENCE could be used in the Spanish speaking part of our community. The participant materials were translated into Spanish and the program has been highly successful in our multicultural city.

For more information on how the COVENANT EXPERIENCE can help you minister to married couples and expand CFM see our website at:

www.TheCovenantExperience.com

then go out and throw your own boomerangs.