Get CONNECTed

This is Get CONNECTed, a NAS Structure Pillar Newsletter to keep you up to date on the development of CONNECT, the new WWME Administration System.

In this issue of Get CONNECTed, we would like to share our answers to some of the questions about WWME CONNECT we have received.

What is WWME CONNECT?

WWME CONNECT is Worldwide Marriage Encounter's new Database Management System, replacing the old system, Weekend Admin System (aka the WAS).

Why do we absolutely need it?

A Database Management System allows WWME NAS to collect, store and process data, keeping information organized and easily accessible for everyone across WWME NAS. It serves as the interface to wwme.org for defining locations and dates for Experiences and accepting applications. It will also ensure the data we collect is protected in compliance with current privacy laws. WWME CONNECT will allow the:

- Community Pillar to maintain Sharing Group information, schedule Renewals and Enrichments.
- Structure Pillar to gather data for statistical reports.
- Team Pillar to maintain Team information and their presenting status.
- Weekend Pillar to manage Experience activities, including facilities, applications, and prayer couples.

Why do we have to move from the Weekend Admin System or the WAS?

The WAS was first developed in 1995 – 30 years ago! While the WAS has served us well, it is struggling to run on current computer platforms. Our IT Help Desk has done an amazing job keeping it up and running but it is failing and can't go on forever.

How useful will WWME CONNECT be?

We think VERY useful in helping you manage WWME Experiences and Enrichments. We hope to demonstrate how useful to each of you in the coming months.

worldwide
marriage
encounter

Get CONNECTed

Is there a phase/transition perio d when moving from WAS to CONNECT ?

Yes. The plan is to get non-WAS users started with CONNECT. During this period, as issues arise, the developers will make final changes/corrections to the program. Next, all users of CONNECT and the WAS will stop using both programs. This will allow the developers to merge the WAS database with the new CONNECT database. They will also switch over the wwme.org on-line submitted applications link from the WAS to CONNECT.

When is this all going to happen?

Our hope is in the December/January timeframe. This is the time of year when the least number of Experiences/Enrichments are hosted, and we therefore hope the disruption due to the change will be minimal.

Why has it taken so long to finalize WWME CONNECT?

For a number of reasons...

- When a change is made in one part of the program, other parts of the program are affected and therefore need attention from the developers to get them working again and from the testers to verify everything is working properly again.
- As we have gotten more testers involved, there have been more suggestions on how to improve CONNECT. While this will lead to a better product for all of us to use, it does take time to develop and test any changes.
- The majority of the work being performed on CONNECT is being done by volunteer WWME missionary disciples – who also have work, family and other WWME demands. And while committed to getting CONNECT up and running, sometimes these other demands need to come first.

Will CONNECT have all the features we currently have in the WAS?

About 90% of the functions in the WAS will be available in CONNECT from day one, the completion of Phase I. The rest of the functionality will be available in the future, after the completion of Phase II.

worldwide
marriage
encounter

Get CONNECTed

Why not wait until all the functionality in the WAS is available in CONNECT before rolling it out?

A couple of reasons…

- Our hope is that a rollout this time of year (December/January), will have the least impact on Experiences/Enrichments.
- There are Encounters who are currently not in the WAS and desperately need CONNECT to be available to them to receive applications and manage their Experiences' data.
- All of us have been waiting a long time for CONNECT and we don't want to delay any longer.
- NOTE: There will be challenges no matter when this happens. We pray for your patience and understanding as we address any issues that may arise.

Will there be training and a user manual?

Yes to both. We know that having information at your fingertips when you need it is a must. We plan to have training videos, user manuals, and training sessions. More details to come on each of these in the coming weeks.

This is a CHANGE! What's in it for me?

We believe…

- CONNECT is more intuitive and therefore easier to use.
- CONNECT will allow you to access information across Encounters and Regions.
- CONNECT emails will no longer be blocked by some email software companies.

You didn't answer my question. How can I get it answered?

Send your question to us in an email to: tom.julie.gennaro@wwme.org and we will do our best to answer it.

Finally, we have a prayer request…

Please pray for all involved with this project for patience, persistence, and a positive attitude as they develop, test, fix, test again, repeat as needed and then rollout, train, and finally work with WWME CONNECT.

worldwide
marriage
encounter