

From: MTM Foundation [charleschandler@mtmfoundation.ccsend.com] on behalf of MTM Foundation [mtmfoundation@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 11:35 AM
To: mtmfoundation@verizon.net
Subject: Tools of Liberation



Ministering to Ministers Foundation, Inc. Newsletter
June 29, 2011

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In This Issue

[Four Tools of Liberation](#)

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Click this link to let us know the kind of articles we could provide that you would find enlightening and interesting.

Four Tools That Brought Liberation

Friends were one of the four key tools that God used to bring liberation and healing to my family and me after we experienced a forced termination that was very traumatic.

The other three tools included absorbing the truths of God's Word and then applying those truths immediately into our lives, the MTM Wellness Retreat, and our families.

When our church family found out what The Gang of Four had done to me, they became enraged! They tripled the amount of severance that The Gang of Four had offered. Tripled!

Then they took up a love offering for me that amounted to 3 months of complete compensation. Hundreds of families sent us love letters, which were placed in two 3-ring binders to review when times were rough that summer. And that's just a small part of the response of the people of God at that church.

Samples of individual responses include:

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Foundation in its ministry
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Ministering to Ministers
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MTM Website

Future Wellness Retreats

July 11-15, 2011
Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City, TN
Co-Sponsored by
Norton Institute for
Congregational Health
Carson-Newman College

July 25-29, 2011
Samford University
Birmingham, AL
Co-Sponsored by
Samford University

For additional information go to the
MTM Website:

[MTM WEBSITE](#)

"Mark, we love you. You were there when we put Mama in the nursing home."

"Mark, here's my checkbook (from an international friend). I'll put money in. YOU spend it!" He actually and literally gave me his check book to use! Although I NEVER used it, I was over-whelmed with joy at his practical demonstration of agape!

"Mark, would you and your wife like to spend a week at our condo on Hilton Head Island free of charge?"

"Mark, someone has paid for your daughters to continue taking their piano lessons." As my wife and I pared every possible expense to lighten our load, paying for piano lesson for both girls was on the chopping block.

I never found out who paid for their piano lessons and don't guess it really matters. What matters is that one of those daughters graduated four years later with a degree in music education and went on to earn post-graduate degrees in music education and teaches music in the public schools in the county where she lives. Her career received a HUGE endorsement when the still-to-this-day unknown friend volunteered to pay for the piano lessons that both of my daughters were taking!

Our second daughter took her knowledge of how to play the piano, received some basic instructions in how to play the guitar, and has led worship at numerous Bible studies in which she's been involved, including some Bible studies in Maui!

Now that years have passed and the trauma has diminished a little, I look back on what those friends did for my family and me during our dark night of the soul. It's easier for me to see now that it was God Almighty Himself at work in our lives through the phone calls, letters, e-mails, and conversations with those friends, most of whom still remain in close touch with me more than a decade after the devilment!

I review my two notebooks often, most of the time when I want to amplify my joy during my quiet time with God. Being a full-time vocational minister to me means that part of my job includes trying my best to give pastoral care to the members of the church that I'm serving. One of the biggest senses of satisfaction in full-time vocational ministry is to be able to come home and bask in the thought that I did exactly what God wanted me to do that day.

It's MUCH more difficult for care-givers to be on the receiving end. There were literally hundreds and hundreds of individual acts of love that we experienced during those awful days more than 10 years ago. While I still have an awkward time being on the

What's MTM all about?

Our Mission:

The Ministering to Ministers (MTM) Foundation seeks to be advocates for clergy and their families in all faith groups who are experiencing personal or professional crisis due to deteriorating employment or congregation-clergy relationships.

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RECEIVING end of care, I've come to realize that if I don't allow people to care for me, I'm robbing them of the joy that I have discovered in giving. I also have a much better understanding of the Bible verse that says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a difficult time." Prov 17:17 (Holman)

Mark



Past Issues of *MTM Messenger* on Line

Click this link, [MTM Messenger](#), if you would like to read past issues of the MTM Messenger. Interesting articles, personal testimonies and other information are found in each issue.



Cathy Ralcewicz

We Need Our Village

We have all heard the phrase, "It takes a village..." As you can see by the testimony given in this month's issue, Mark experienced just that. A "village" walked with Mark and his family as they struggled through the waves of emotion and pain, and times of despair and hopelessness. This "village" supported the family with love, prayers, and financial needs.

Part of that "village" was the MTM Foundation, which provided the opportunity for Mark and his wife to attend a five day *MTM Healthy Transitions Wellness Retreat for Ministers and Spouses*. This retreat afforded them time to be with others who had also experienced the very same pain of forced termination. It was a time when they could share their story and know they weren't alone. Through the sessions during that week they were able to learn more about themselves, learn about family systems, learn how to cope with anger and resolving disputes; they also gained insight into how to lead by empowering, and caring for themselves physically, spiritually and with humor; they also learned about developing a support group. They gained many tools for their toolboxes to face the world again.

The format for the *Healthy Transitions Wellness Retreat* was created over 16 years ago and has evolved to what it is today. The next retreat, which will be held at Carson-Newman College the week of July 11-15, will be the **100th Wellness Retreat**, through which MTM has ministered to 978

participants. After the next two retreats, this number will increase to over 1,000 ministers and spouses. This does not account for the thousands of others to whom MTM has ministered by phone, personal contact, through newsletters, email, and speaking engagements.

We need your help! Weekly, we are receiving more and more calls from ministers who are experiencing the same pain of forced termination that Mark and his wife experienced, and many others have experienced before them. **We hope that the rest of the "village" - including family, friends, church members, and denominational entities - will take the next step and make a donation to MTM so that we can continue to offer these Wellness Retreats and to be advocates for those who are experiencing the pain of conflict and/or forced termination in their churches.** You may choose to make a donation to MTM in honor of, or in memory of, someone who made a significant difference in your life. If so, please indicate that on your check.

Make a tax deductible donation today by sending a check to "MTM Foundation" and mailing it to 2641 Cromwell Rd., Richmond, VA 23235, or you may make a donation on-line by clicking on [DONATE](#) here.

Cathy Ralcewicz
Ministry Assistant and Director of Development

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