

MTMFoundation

From: MTM Foundation [charleschandler@mtmfoundation.ccsend.com] on behalf of MTM Foundation [mtmfoundation@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, January 07, 2011 11:10 AM
To: mtmfoundation@verizon.net
Subject: Unmerciful Harassment of My Family Led to My Commitment to MTM



Ministering to Ministers Foundation, Inc. Newsletter October, 2010

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Unmerciful Harassment of My Family Led to My Commitment to MTM

I am probably not a typical member of the MTM Board of Trustees: I have never been a minister or full time church worker and I have never been a member of a church that forced its pastor to leave. So why is MTM important to me? Why am I a member of the MTM Board of Trustees?

I first learned about the Ministering to Ministers Foundation from the Executive Director, Charles Chandler, and one of the founding members of the Board, Bill Irvin. Both of them are people whom I admire greatly for their commitment and their compassion. I learned from them about ministers who are forced to leave their churches, often because a small group of members may not like them. I learned that many ministers have no contracts and therefore do not have firm legal grounds on which to appeal their forced termination. They are often forced to resign with only minimal severance pay. I learned as well about the emotional and psychological pain that these ministers and their families suffer, as well as the economic and physical hardships they face as a result of their termination. Often, they must leave their homes and communities; a spouse may have to give up his or her job and children must leave their schools and friends.

But my commitment to MTM is also based on personal experience. A member of my family was harassed so unmercifully at work that she finally felt forced to leave a job

making a donation using a major credit card. The Ministering to Ministers Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

MTM Website

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.

Upcoming Retreats

November 15-19, 2010

Geneva Camp & Retreat Center
Holland, Michigan

Nov. 29 - December 3

Baptist Theological Seminary
Richmond, Virginia

January 10 - 14, 2011

Carson Springs
Newport, Tennessee

Contact us:

Charles H. Chandler, D.Min.
Executive Director

Ministering to Ministers
Foundation, Inc.

she loved. The pain and loss that she felt drove her into an ever-deepening cycle of depression. Tragically, she took her own life.

I feel fortunate to have had a full, exciting and rewarding career with the U.S. Government as a foreign service officer. But as a result of requirements of the personnel system, I had to retire before I was ready. Even though I have been able to do part-time work as a retiree and have also had wonderful experiences with travel and volunteer activities, this was a difficult experience for me. I can only imagine how much more difficult it is for ministers who have been called by God to minister to others, only to be forced to leave their ministry. "What does this mean?" they must ask themselves. "Has God withdrawn the call? What should I do now? Should I try to find another church in which to minister, or should I do something else? What can I do? What does God want me to do?" I can imagine that many of these ministers are angry with God. They also feel guilty because of their anger.

Fortunately for these ministers, there is MTM. MTM has organized wellness retreats which have helped hurting ministers and their spouses understand what happened to them and their feelings about it. The retreats have given them the opportunity to share their stories without fear of censorship. The retreats have renewed their confidence and their faith in themselves and in God; they have given them new skills for coping with their situation, making decisions about the future and acting on those decisions. The retreats have given them a fellowship of people with similar experiences from whom they can draw understanding, courage and strength-not just during the retreat, but long afterwards. In addition to the retreats, MTM has provided legal counsel and other assistance to ministers suffering from forced termination.

I have served on the MTM Board of Trustees for two years now. During that time, I have been moved by the stories of ministers and their families who have been wounded by forced termination. But I have also been inspired by their recoveries and even greater service to God and their fellow human beings, thanks in part to MTM. Their inspiring stories have given my own life new hope and focus. I have been inspired as well by the generosity and commitment of my fellow trustees, the MTM staff and the many volunteers who have contributed their time and talents to MTM's work. Ministering to Ministers Foundation has helped hundreds of ministers; yet there are so many more who need help. I am a member of the MTM Board of Trustees because I believe in what MTM has done and is doing and I want to help the foundation do even more in the future. With your help, and mine, it can. I hope you will seriously and prayerfully consider supporting MTM.

Greta Morris

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On-line Shopping Benefits M T M

More and more people are now shopping on-line. Usually the prices are cheaper because of less overhead expense. We at MTM would like to introduce you to a plan that enables the MTM ministry to benefit from your on-line shopping at many of the same stores where you have been shopping on-line. The Skyhouse Mall can be accessed through the [MTM Website](#). Approximately 100 stores are included in the mall. The names of the stores will be listed along with the percentage of your total purchase which will go to MTM. Though you will be shopping from the same store, for MTM to benefit you must go through the Skyhouse Mall. We are not trying to change your shopping habits, but **if you shop on-line, it makes sense to let the MTM ministry**

C.A.R.E. became the purpose of MTM:

Communicating
Advocating
Reclaiming
Equipping

**C.A.R.E. for ministers and churches as together
they reach people for Christ..**



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 issues.

benefit.

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