



The mission of Marble Retreat is to help bring healing, hope and restoration to those in vocational Christian ministry and the Church at large through Christ-centered brief intensive counseling.

Fall Edition 2009 • Providing Care since 1974 • Marble, Colorado

THE MACKENZIE REPORT

The Board of Directors is pleased and proud to announce that Mike and Kari MacKenzie have become Staff Associates for Marble Retreat. Mike and Kari each received their Doctorate of Ministry degrees from Lincoln Christian University in August, specializing in the care of ministers.

Mike, a Licensed Professional Counselor has an extensive background in business as well as counseling those in ministry. After working in business, including marketing and promotions for several years, Mike believed God was calling him to counseling ministry. His first ministry after graduating with a Masters in Counseling was as a Hospice chaplain. Then Mike, along with Kari, worked at Blessing Ranch, an intensive counseling center for Christian leaders and their spouses for two and a half years before returning to school to begin working on their doctorate degrees. In January 2003, Mike and Kari opened a Christian counseling private practice in Longmont, CO where they specialize in working with couples, especially those in ministry.

Kari has been a counselor for nine years and is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. She was a missionary in China for two years, before returning to the states to get her Masters in Counseling Degree. She was the director of a campus counseling center before moving to Colorado and joining the staff at Blessing Ranch.

Mike and Kari have been preparing to minister to ministers for over 12 years. Through time, experi-

ence, and education, God has been preparing them for a role with Marble Retreat.

Marble Retreat is thrilled to have Mike and Kari serve with us in a variety of ways, counseling for the retreats in Marble, as well as promoting the retreat around the country and organizing events for the ministry.

Mike and Kari have great fun hiking and camping with their dogs, Duke and Daisy who love to hike and camp with them. Mike is a regular Saturday morning hockey player. We hear he has a mean slap shot. We hope you will enjoy getting to know them in the coming days.



Mike & Kari MacKenzie

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A TRIBUTE

By Patti Cappa

Four thousand, 4,000 – that is a very big number. Now, multiply that by about 100 making 400,000. That’s an even bigger number and the approximate number of people who have been touched through the years by the ministry of Marble Retreat. By providing a safe place to wrestle with God, 4,000 people in leadership in the Christian world have been able to go home and serve their communities as pastors, para-church leaders, lay leaders and servant leaders, spreading the word of our Savior Jesus Christ to hundreds of others. I give tribute to those brave people who have come to our mountain top – exhausted, disappointed, hopeless, and in conflict.

I had the opportunity to think about all those who have come here in such a state of disrepair a few weeks ago. One evening, I was asked to attend a mass at the Benedictine Monastery in Snowmass about 50 miles from the retreat. It was a small affair with about 40 people in attendance. There were no musical instruments other than our vocal cords. The small chapel was quiet, cool, lights dim. The sacrifice of the mass has always been very moving to me from growing up in a Roman Catholic culture. We prepared for communion and heard scripture, “Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, gave it to his disciples saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” (Matt 26:26) We call it “communion”, our re-enactment of the last supper and a symbolic act remembering his sacrifice on the cross for us. Communion means “sharing with, participation”, and re-enacting the last supper allows us to participate with him.

As I returned to the group the next morning, I was struck by this group of people who had experienced communion by pouring out their pain to one another. They were half-way through their time here and had been honest, authentic and present for one another. They were participating in the sacred community of shared suffering. They, like Christ, had the courage to carry their own personal crosses and they each, in turn, came along side each other on the Via De La Rosa and helped carry each other’s crosses. All of their questions were not answered; they did not experience total and complete healing, but I am convinced that they experienced a subtle transformation of the heart that allows their perspective to be shifted, if ever so slightly, so that they can see God, themselves and each other with a greater clarity and greater compassion.

Therefore, this is a tribute to all those who have come and will come up to this mountain and bravely share in the communion of suffering, and find relief. I pray for those who have been here and will come. Like our Savior, it is a sacred sacrifice they make for themselves and for each other.

Do you want to be on our prayer team? Email Patti at pcappa@marbleretreat.org and she’ll put you on her email distribution list.

ALUMNI NOTES

STILL THERE

by John Gruber

Some with hope,
some with doubt.
Some with a life they
just can't figure out.

Some feel guilt,
some feel shame.
Some feel like they don't
want to play the game.

So they shared,
and they cried,
Tried to describe all
that they feel inside.

Deep within,
light broke through.
Spoke to the shadows
and what's really true.

You're still there,
You still care.

With arms open wide,
we can run to you.
With arms open wide,
you can see us through.

Child be still, I am here.
Don't let the noise and
whispers cause you fear.

Take my hand,
come with me.
I am the one who died
to set you free.

You're still there,
You still care.

With arms open wide,
we can run to you.
With arms open wide,
you can see us through.

*If you would like to hear this song,
you may access on the web at:
www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=622474&content=music*

I want you to know that my husband and I are still doing very well. Of course, we have our moments, but our time at Marble Retreat has been life-changing! Our defenses have come down and now we are able to really communicate with understanding and empathy—even with difficult issues. Know that we are praying for the ministry of Marble Retreat! If God can work a miracle in our marriage, I know He can work a miracle in the lives of the others who come to you for help! Thank you so much for giving your lives to help us and others like us! 2009 Alum



We came to Marble Retreat committed to each other and our marriage but really hurting and not wanting the next 20 years to be like the last. We found a new, strong flame of hope for our marriage/parenting and much needed healing for the deep hurts of the past, while discovering ways to honor each other in our communication and actions. 2009 Alum



Hey, Steve and Patti!

I've been thinking about you and the group a ton the last few weeks. As of today, it's three weeks till the one year mark of all of us meeting and starting our time at Marble. WOW, the time sure has gone fast!

To think a year ago, I was a nervous wreck about going to the retreat and the people I would meet there! Glad I met the ones I did and that they were at the retreat with me!

I can't help but wonder if everyone is in a better place like I find I am? I think about the changes that have happened over the last year and I can't say that there was any one that made a huge difference, but many little things, - talks, thoughts, insights, encounters. All of it has brought me to this point where I find that I'm doing better.

Now, I just feel powerful, strong, and confident in who I am and what God is doing in me. HOPE! For peace, strength, healing! I have finally truly forgiven those I needed to forgive. This is news that I couldn't NOT share with everyone, those that began this journey with me almost a year ago. I feel blessed to have experienced Marble Retreat, to have encountered new friends, and to find that healing is possible when you hold onto HOPE! 2008 Alum

MONEY ALWAYS NEEDED AT MARBLE RETREAT

Money is always an issue in a non-profit organization and these days it seems to be even more of an issue. Many non-profits and churches are reporting a significant decrease in their donations. The reality of these hard facts can feel like we are in the desert, but as Patsy Drummond reminds us, "a wilderness is dotted with oases that can support a large variety of life." Please consider providing financially for Marble Retreat that we may continue to provide this special oasis for those who are needing a safe place for refreshment, solace and to experience change. We appreciate all who give with their finances and their prayers.

LIVING IN THE WILDERNESS

By Patsy Drummond, Board of Directors

I have always been drawn to the children of Israel's journey out of Egypt to the Promised Land. The parallels one can draw from them are remarkable. How many times have I doubted God, grumbled about my circumstances, complained about my situations, felt hopeless, blamed God? The list goes on and on. How many times have I felt that I was in a desert or wilderness, forsaken by God?

While taking a Bible study this fall, I learned something that has really impacted my life. Did you know that there is a difference between a desert and a wilderness? I quite often use them interchangeably, but Priscilla Shirer, in her book, *One in a Million*, points out that there is a big difference. A desert is a large, dry, arid area that supports very little plant or animal life, while a wilderness is dotted with oases that can support a variety of these. Scripture tells us that God led them into the "wilderness". His plan was to give them a place of shelter from the hot sun, water for their thirst, and nourishment for their bodies. At first sight, I'm sure the Israelites thought this place was a desert, but as they traveled on they saw grassy areas, upland plains and, yes, enough water for them and their livestock. God's plan was not to lead them into a desert, a place of hopelessness and despair, but into a wilderness, a place of hope and provision.

Do you feel that you are in a barren "desert" on your life journey? Take hope! God is teaching you something He wants you to learn and will provide exactly what you need, at exactly the right time, if you will trust Him to be your guide. The journey will not be easy, but God loves you and will not forsake you. He will lead you in places that will help to accomplish what He has in store for you. Priscilla points out, "your wilderness is purposefully and sovereignly spotted with oasis after oasis, grassy knoll after grassy knoll, at just the right time to provide you the nourishment you need. God's people were able to withstand the journey because God led them not through an arid desert, but into a wilderness complete with natural rest stops."

Our "Moses" today is the Holy Spirit and, even though we can't see him, He is there to empower, comfort and encourage us along our journey. It is much easier to trust and thank God in times of ease than in times of trials. Keep your eyes focused on God and claim His promises that He will never leave or forsake you and that He will never place more on you that you can bear without providing a way of escape. These escapes may be as simple as a call from a friend or as unexpected as a new job offer. Whatever it is, remember that God knows the perfect refreshment for you. Keep on keeping on. Our God is a great God who can do even more than we can imagine. Remember though, His time is not ours. He is always on time, but never early! Be watchful and EXPECT God's oasis.

Grammar & spell proofreading provided by Joyce Yoder,
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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

INTRODUCING MARBLE RETREAT'S 4-DAY REV MARITAL INTENSIVE SESSIONS FOR ONE ALUMNI COUPLE PER DATE!!!!

Attention all Marble Retreat Alums! Call it rev, call it revitalization, call it revival, call it reverent, or think of it as revving up your marriage. The board and staff have long been concerned about follow-up for all of you that have been through our 8-day program. To meet that need, we are delighted to now offer a new 4-Day Rev for one alumni couple per date. Services include a total of 12 hours of counseling, 6 hours on Thursday and 6 hours on Friday with 2 counselors. Saturday and Sunday, the lodge is all yours to enjoy! The kitchen will be available for use at any time, or there are cafés in nearby Redstone. Neither hosting nor meals will be provided; each attending couple will be able to enjoy the privacy of the lodge the entire stay. Arrival will be on Wednesday evening and departure will be early Monday morning. Come on up and enjoy the Lord's blessings in refreshing your lives. You'll be glad you did!

Steve and Patti recently conducted one prototype session with a couple. Here is what the husband had to say,

"Steve and Patti,

We can't thank you enough for your investment in our lives. The two of you have showed us what true love looks like. The way you listen, how you speak, expression of your emotions, the tools you give, and your love for the Lord and each other! Steve and Patti, the two of you are one of a kind! Keep up the good work! We love you!"

Below is our group schedule with the 4-day intensive in green.



GROUP SCHEDULE FOR 2010

8-day sessions

(includes the new 4-day Revitalization sessions for one couple each)

<p>January 5 – January 14</p> <p>January 21-January 24, 4-Day REV</p> <p>January 26 – February 4</p> <p>February 9 – February 18*</p> <p>February 25-February 28, 4-Day REV</p> <p>March 23-April 1</p> <p>April 6 – April 15 *</p> <p>April 20 – April 29</p> <p>May 4 – May 13</p> <p>May 18 – May 27</p> <p>June 15 - June 24</p> <p>July 1- July 4, 4-Day REV</p> <p>July 6 – July 15</p>	<p>July 20 – July 29*</p> <p>August 3 – August 12</p> <p>August 17 - August 26</p> <p>August 31 - September 9 *</p> <p>September 14 - September 23</p> <p>September 30 – October 3, 4-Day REV</p> <p>October 12 – October 21*</p> <p>October 28 – October 31, 4-Day REV</p> <p>November 4 – November 7, 4-Day REV</p> <p>November 9 - 18</p> <p>November 30 – December 9*</p> <p>December 16 – December 19, 4-Day REV</p>
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**Indicates group is open to all believers. All other listed groups are for clergy only.*

Session dates are subject to change.

Please call to confirm a reservation prior to booking flights.

*8-day groups, when making travel plans, plan to arrive Tuesday late afternoon and depart on Thursday morning of the following week.
4-Day Revitalizations are for Marble Alums only, one couple per date! When making travel plans, plan to arrive on Wednesday late afternoon and depart Monday morning 4 days later with counseling services on Thursday and Friday.*

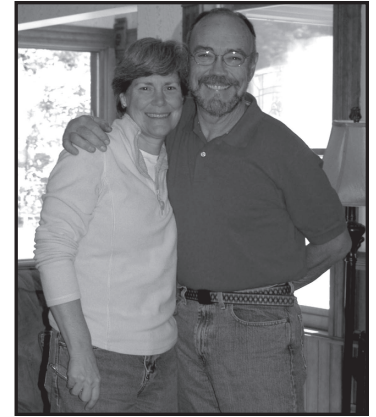
LOOK INSIDE!

Please look inside for news about our new offering of a 4-day REV retreat for Alums only. We also encourage you to read “The MacKenzie Report”, “Tribute to Alums”, and “Living in the Wilderness”.

Please remember, we continue to serve:

- Married Couples
- Single People
- People in Vocational Ministry
- People in Lay Ministries
- All Believers

We hope that you will refer those who need us to our retreat. We also have scholarships available for those in vocational ministry and will work out payment plans with no interest for everyone who comes. It continues to be a sacred privilege to help those who are suffering and needing help.



Steve & Patti Cappa

Alums, please remember the on-line Forum accessed through our website is still available for you.

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please notify us at ministrycare@marbleretreat.org.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list,
please let us know electronically or simply call us toll free at 888-216-2725.

Fall 2009

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