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The Greatest of These Is Love

“But the greatest of these is love,” the “greatest” in what sense? One could argue that love is the greatest in bringing healing to the soul. Sometimes when prospective clients call Marble Retreat they ask the question in one way or another, “What kind of program is Marble Retreat?” What they are trying to decide is whether they believe what we do will truly make a change in their lives. And while it is important that we use proven therapeutic techniques to best help those who come, we also believe that deepest healing will come through the love of God. What a blessing it is to be the messengers of God’s love to a hurting soul!

Look inside to see stories of how the love of God and others brought healing into the lives of Christian Leaders.



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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.

Spring 2016

A Pastor's Testimony



The ministry of Marble Retreat heals the healers and brings the truth and grace of God to those who take it to others. When a pastor, missionary, or other Christian leader stays in their ministry role and is even healthier in that role, the positive ripple effect to the church and community is exponential. Your support of Marble Retreat not only helps the Christian leader get the help they need, but through their healing many others are blessed as well. Below you will read a testimony from a senior pastor who came to Marble Retreat wondering if his time in ministry was done. As you will see, his time was not done and not only is he living a freer life, his congregation has been blessed.

“We are doing really, really well. The Lord continues to lead us on an incredible adventure and I remain so grateful for all you led us through and taught us at Marble - it was truly a breakthrough time for us.

Our return to church was incredible - we arrived back to a packed house and a standing ovation...which still brings tears to

my eyes. Having crashed out in such public style and to return to such an outpouring of love was truly healing for my soul.

And of course that has just been the beginning. While I was away many, many new leaders emerged and so I have come back to a church full of life. Since returning I have spoken openly about my struggles and that has sparked a new openness and vulnerability across the whole church, which is exciting. In fact, it feels like this is all marking a new season in the life of the church.

More specifically, I am doing well on the life balance stuff - I have instituted a Monday Sabbath for the whole staff team (which has gone down well - and which I love - I can't believe we didn't do it earlier) and I am making a bunch of changes to the staff team and structure which, along with all the new leaders, is daily freeing me up to breath more - fantastic!

The bottom line is that I am doing well and continuing the journey you guys started us on. There is a long way to go but I am perhaps much less concerned about the destination and it still feels great to have come out from under that cloud! So thank you again!”

Your support of Marble Retreat not only offers redeeming love to a Christian leader, but it impacts their congregation and those they serve. Thank You.

181 Bannockburn, Marble, Colorado 81623

P.O. Box 176, Carbondale, CO • 81623 • 970.963.2499 • 970.963.0217 (fax)

MinistryCare@marbleretreat.org • www.marbleretreat.org

The Blessing of a Scholarship



"After a difficult season in ministry, my wife and I sensed a need to receive input and regain perspective. As we were researching ministry resources, we learned about Marble Retreat. Later, a ministry couple we deeply respect shared with us that they had been greatly blessed by the ministry of Marble Retreat, and encouraged us to go. When we called for more information it became clear that, without a scholarship, attending would be financially out of our reach. Thankfully, through someone's loving sacrifice and generosity there were scholarship funds available to help subsidize our registration.

Let me share a little bit of how we were blessed. We arrived at Marble, questioning if we should continue in pastoral ministry; questioning our ability to continue leading and feeling like we had somehow failed. We left Marble affirmed in our calling, knowing we are loved, and with a renewed capacity for loving and leading our congregation.

To those who gave sacrificially and helped make our Marble Retreat experience a reality, please receive our grateful thanks. You blessed us immensely."

Sacrifices



"We took out a second mortgage on our house."

"I left my well-paying job to go into ministry."

"We dipped into our retirement funds."

"We agreed to a 1/3 reduction in pay."

"We sold everything we had in a yard sale and left for Africa."

These are just a handful of the sacrifices we have heard that pastors and missionaries have made for their ministries, for helping someone in need, and for reaching the lost. Many of them never

knew the "unthinkable" would happen; they would lose their ministry position, the organization would pull out of that country, they would get cancer, their child would be diagnosed with a debilitating disability, they would lose their spouse, or any other life changing tragedy would hit.

When Marble Retreat began, the heartbeat of the ministry was to give back to those in full-time ministry who are out there giving so much. We have always understood that the population we serve may be under paid for the sacrifices they are making to serve God's Kingdom. Therefore, we have always had the policy that Marble Retreat would not let financial need get in the way of someone who needs to come. This has meant we offer discounts to those who desperately need our services but can't afford it. Over the years we have placed high priority on raising scholarship funds and have done it through fund-raising events, applying for grants, and appealing to churches and individuals. The amount we raise and the amount we need both fluctuate, making it a little unpredictable.

This year we have had many Christian leaders attend our retreats who need considerable scholarship help. This has exhausted our scholarship fund. We continue to give scholarships because we believe the investment in a pastor, missionary, pastoral couple, or Christian Leader is worth it and we trust God will provide.

The bottom line is that we have given \$26,580 more than what we have in our scholarship fund.

If you can help in any way to give back to those who have given so much for others, you can donate online through our website or use the provided envelope and mark "scholarship fund." We hope to raise this \$26,580 and more for our scholarship fund so we can continue to assist those who are leading the church forward in our world. Thank you.



WELCOME TO A NEW BOARD MEMBER



Larry L. Dupper, FHFMA

In March we were blessed to welcome a new board member to our team. Larry Dupper has been the Chief Financial Officer for Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colorado since 1998. Previous positions in Mr. Dupper's healthcare career include CEO, CFO, and Corporate Regional Finance Director primarily in Colorado and Missouri. Mr. Dupper has been in healthcare administration since 1975.

Mr. Dupper and his wife Pam are the parents of four children. The family enjoys skiing, backpacking, kayaking, Jeeping, and most recently snowmobiling in Colorado and Utah. A native of Colorado, Mr. Dupper has also been a board member of various business, community and religious organizations. Mr. Dupper is currently the President, Board of Directors of the Western Healthcare Alliance, and Chairman of the Board of The Colorado Network (both healthcare non-profit organizations).

Grilled Retreat Romaine



DIRECTIONS

Start by washing and preparing the Romaine carefully. Slice 1"-2" off the tops and carefully cut approximately 1/8 "off the base; be sure to leave a portion of the stalk to keep the head together.

Cut through the center of the stalk to split the head into halves.

Pull away any leafy portions that are coming off and place halves on a cookie sheet.

Brush a liberal amount of olive oil on the inside of the cut half. Sprinkle on the seasoning salt.

Preheat grill to 400 degrees.

Place the lettuce halves onto grill with the cut side down. Keep a close watch, check for grill marks across the romaine and remove them back to the cookie sheet.

Start building the rest of the ingredients onto the halves. Begin with drizzling tbsp. of the balsamic vinegar and 1 tbsp. of the warm bacon grease onto the halves.

Sprinkle on the feta cheese, bacon bits and pepper; add the blue cheese dressing and the tomato halves then finish with the shredded carrots.

Serve on a separate salad plate or alongside a steak. Serves 6 people.

INGREDIENTS

3 heads of Romaine lettuce

Olive oil

Seasoning salt

1 tbsp. Balsamic vinegar

1 tbsp. Bacon grease

Feta cheese

Bacon bits

Pepper

Blue cheese dressing

Tomato halves

Carrots (shredded)

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Clinical Director

Kari MacKenzie, D. Min., M.A.
Executive Director

Janelle Edmiston
Business Manager

Louis McBurney, M.D.
(1938 - 2009)
Co-Founder

Melissa McBurney
Co-Founder

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