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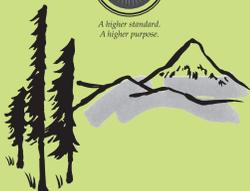
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## FOUNDERS

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

**Melissa McBurney**  
Co-Founder



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.

Winter 2019

## A White Stone with a New Name Written on It

Marble, Colorado is home to Marble Retreat and to a Marble stone quarry. The largest single block of marble ever quarried in the U.S. came out of Marble and was used for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Lincoln Memorial was partially built out of marble from Marble, Colorado.

At the Marble Retreat lodge you will see pieces of this white rock placed all around. And on these rocks are written words, Scriptures, and names. It has become a tradition that when an 8-day counseling intensive wraps up, the participants create a stone of remembrance capturing what happened during their time at Marble Retreat. Some examples of what you see written on these marble pieces are: **Hope, Embraced, Heard, Accepted, Validated, Connected, Guided, Loved, Hope Filled, Worthy, Strong, Reestablishing Trust, Shame No More, Restored, Free, Secure, Chosen, Valuable, Seeing Each Other Through a Different Lens, Life Changing, Empathy Wins, So Grateful, Safe, Renewed, Extreme Shame MAKEOVER, New Found Friends in Christ.**

What often happens is that these Christian leaders arrive with one name and leave with a new one. Revelation 2:17 says ***“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches...I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.”***

A pastor comes with the name “burned out” or “washed up” and leaves with the name “Refreshed” and “Renewed.” A missionary comes with the name “shame” and leaves

with the name “Loved and Accepted.” A ministry couple comes with the name “marital failures” and leaves with the name “One.”

Recently a missionary came for burnout and staff conflict, causing her to leave the field early. She had several names for herself, some of them being “failure, selfish, and unwanted.” She was filled with self-criticism and believed something was deeply, inherently wrong with her. Trauma earlier in her life began shame filled self-labels that were “confirmed” on the mission field. Through sharing her trauma, this missionary began trading the names “dirty and unlovable” to “Clean and Loved,” from “failure” to “Hurting and in Need of Help,” from “unwanted” to “Chosen,” and from “selfish” to “One Who Loves.”

By the grace of God many who come to Marble Retreat are victorious over their old names and are gifted a new name carrying them forward into fully living, loving and serving God.

## How You Can Be a Part

For over 45 years, Marble Retreat has been the place for Christian leaders to find healing for their shame, sin, trauma, brokenness, and fatigue. We could not carry on this ministry without your assistance. Fifty percent of our operating budget is still dependent on the contributions of people like you. This is the only way Marble Retreat can continue to keep our costs low for our guests. Thank you for your generous support and prayers throughout the year! As you think about year-end giving, please consider partnering with us as we partner with God to give new life and a new name to His servants.

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ministrycare@marbleretreat.org • marbleretreat.org

# Quotes from Recent Alumni

- *"I can't stop talking about my time at Marble Retreat. It was undoubtedly one of the very best weeks of my life! It will serve as a spiritual marker at one of the key times in my life, where God drastically altered my trajectory through significant healing. I continue to be filled with joy. I cannot thank Kari and Mike enough for investing in me. I so loved our group and we continue to group text. Bob and Lisa were perfect as hosts. I could continue gushing, but I just want to be clear that God is using you to ensure that Marble Retreat continues to be a place of deep healing, genuine community, and life change. I am truly more healthy and whole because of my time in Marble. Never doubt that you are making an eternal difference that will ripple out into so many other lives!"*
- *"It is a powerful thing to see truth emerge and change others. Then to see that same truth change yourself in the midst of others."*
- *"I gained unexplainable progress on behalf of the wisdom and the perception of others."*
- *"I am so grateful for my experience at Marble Retreat, it truly felt like being in a microcosm of heaven. The Lord has gifted and equipped you (Mike and Kari) to be powerful conduits of His healing. I am thankful I was one of the recipients. It is your abundant reservoir of compassion and care that most deeply touched and healed my heart, reconnecting me with God's."*

## 45th Anniversary Celebration

In early October, following our semi-annual board meeting, we had our 45th Anniversary Celebration Event at Fellowship Bible Church in Colorado Springs. It featured Danny Oertli leading us in worship and several alumni giving their testimonies of how Marble Retreat impacted their lives. Also, all three generations of directors were represented with Melissa McBurney, Steve and Patti Cappa, and Mike and Kari MacKenzie all sharing from their experiences at this ministry over the years.

It was a great evening of fellowship, worship, gratitude, and celebration of what God has done through this ministry for Christian leaders over the past 45 years. Praise God!



Danny Oertli, singer, songwriter and author, leads in worship.



Melissa McBurney, Co-Founder, with Patti and Steve Cappa, Directors 2003-2013.



Danny and Rayna Oertli with Bonny and Larry Dearing, long time board member.

Would you like to receive our newsletter and other updates electronically? If so, please email our office at [ministrycare@marbleretreat.org](mailto:ministrycare@marbleretreat.org).

# VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR:

## Russ and Deb Poll

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."*

– **Sherry Anderson**

Since moving to Marble, CO nearly two years ago, Russ and Deb Poll have quickly become indispensable volunteers for Marble Retreat. Their willingness to jump in whenever called upon has been a huge blessing. They work hard, they work well, and do it with a fantastic spirit. From plumbing to wood splitting to hosting and so much more, they have been such a blessing!

Thank you, Russ and Deb! You receive our **Volunteers of the Year Award**. We recognize your Christ-like service to this ministry. Like all of our volunteers, without you we couldn't do what we do. Please know your role is having Kingdom impact in Marble and beyond.



Russ and Deb Poll

## We Appreciate our Volunteers

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"* – **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

We see our volunteers at Marble Retreat as so much more than volunteers. They are friends of the ministry, they are part of the team, and they are part of the Marble family. For the staff, they are a source of relief, comfort, and help.

This past year, volunteers from all over split wood, built a railing, stained, cleaned, cooked, unclogged drains, hosted groups, helped with mailings and many other tasks. When it seems like there is too much to be done, volunteers step in and lighten the load to make it all possible.

We are thankful that when our volunteers are asked, or ask themselves, "What are you doing for others?" they can answer, "We serve at Marble Retreat!" We are so thankful for each of you and your servant hearts!

Please contact the Marble Retreat office if you are interested in volunteering at Marble Retreat in some way.

*Marble Retreat solely exists and continues to touch lives and hearts only because of our gracious God and the prayer and financial support of His people.*

*Please consider a year-end gift to:*

- our **Scholarship Fund**
- our **General Fund**
- our **Wish List**
- or in honor of our **45th Anniversary.**

**Thank you!**

### STAFF

**Mike MacKenzie, D. Min., L.P.C.**

*Clinical Director*

**Kari MacKenzie, D. Min., M.A.**

*Executive Director*

**Cheryl Yarrow**

*Office Manager*

**Bob Rue**

*Manager of Hosting and Maintenance*

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## A Year of Blessings

As we sit to write this, Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we have so much for which to be thankful. God is so good and the blessings He provides are abundant. We are so grateful for the blessings of 2019 as we look back over the year. Specifically, Marble Retreat experienced another great year blessed by God. We once again had the opportunity to serve record numbers of clients. What a blessing to watch God's transforming work in the lives of leaders. We were blessed to be able to give \$43,385 in scholarship assistance this fiscal year, thanks to the generosity of supporters like yourself. We have been blessed by many volunteers who gave of their energy and time to improve our campus, to host, to serve our clients, to stock us up on wood for the winter and a variety of other sacrificial acts of service. We also celebrated 45 years of serving Christian Leaders this year! It was a great year to reflect on the faithfulness of God over the past 45 years. Marble Retreat attended the American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference in Nashville, TN this Fall. It was a wonderful week of networking as well as ministry. Mike and Kari led a workshop at the conference that was well attended and hosted a Ministry Leader's luncheon that was also well attended by ministry leaders. Mike and Kari once again taught a Doctor of Ministry course at the Marble Retreat lodge on counseling Christian Leaders. Marble Retreat also welcomed a new board member this year, Julie Ray Brown. It was an abundant year! We hope you are encouraged as you read the enclosed and see what God has been doing in and through the ministry of Marble Retreat and how you can get involved. May God bless you this Advent season and in the coming new year.