

From: MTM Foundation [charleschandler@mtmfoundation.ccsend.com] on behalf of MTM Foundation [mtmfoundation@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 11:25 AM
To: mtmfoundation@verizon.net
Subject: Forced Termination - How it Affected My Family



Ministering to Ministers Foundation, Inc. Newsletter
August 31, 2011

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Forced Termination: Impact Upon Families

-My perspective across nearly forty years-

I wonder how many of the "gang of three" have thought about the impact that their actions will have upon the family of the minister that they decided should leave "for the good of the church?" From my own personal experiences nearly forty years ago, and as I have worked with hurting souls through MTM, I have yet to hear anyone mention this concern as having been expressed to those ministers.

In many situations it is the spouse who ends up carrying the greatest burden. Although we now have many women in the ministry, the majority of ministerial spouses are women who typically feel responsible for seeing that their household runs smoothly, providing emotional support for their minister husbands and protecting the children from hurt and insecurity.

Today, these women frequently also hold jobs and have careers of their own that must also be balanced

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MTM Website



Chapel of Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin, recent host of MTM Wellness Retreat

Future Wellness Retreats

November 14 - 18, 2011
Geneva Camp and Conference Center
Holland, Michigan

December 5 - 9, 2011
Baptist Theological Seminary of
Richmond
Richmond, Michigan

For additional information go to the
MTM Website:

[MTM WEBSITE](#)

with their responsibilities as a wife and mother. Actually, these are the lucky ones because they have an identity other than that of the pastor's wife. They have a built-in support system apart from the congregation and know that there will at least be some income during this time of turmoil.

Those who have devoted themselves to supporting the work of their minister husbands and have taken on many church responsibilities may not have taken the time and energy to develop a much-needed group of friends outside of the church. Who do they turn to for support and encouragement when the pressure becomes too great as they try to be upbeat and positive for the family? How do they reassure their children that all is safe and well?

As a young woman in my thirties with two elementary age daughters I found it was extremely difficult to deal with my disappointment, fear and anger at the very time that I was trying to hold the family together. Both my husband and I experienced depression as a result of his forced termination. As my husband's depression lingered and he became less able to cope even with the help of medication and both family and individual counseling, the load on my shoulders seemed to become staggering. My faith was challenged in a way I never expected. Christian people didn't act like that, I thought. Why did God let this happen, not once but twice to our family? How could I continue to teach my daughters about a loving God when I was in such pain? My husband was going through his own pain and had no reserve to help me with mine.

I was able to move to full time from my previous part time position but was barely able to support the family financially. The emotional strain however, was more and more difficult. With the help of a skilled counselor, I regained my emotional health.

Then the truly unthinkable happened. Never in my life did I think I would seek a separation. After much prayer to discern God's will, it became apparent that in our situation, my husband and I should separate. Separation was later followed by a divorce at a time when my oldest daughter was entering puberty. Her anger and confusion was taken out on me, of course. She continued to rebel in her teen years and especially after I remarried. After college, two years in the Peace Corp, and graduate school, she has become a wonderful, responsible, capable woman who is married, has a daughter and is successful in her career with the US State Department. To my disappointment however, she has not embraced the church nor is she raising her daughter in the Christian faith.

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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Past Issues of *MTM Messenger* on Line

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My younger daughter, still single at age 44, has become a dedicated Christian and lives a life of commitment to God, recently taking a month solo mission trip to Uganda to "support my brothers and sisters in the faith."

My faith journey has taught me that God will lead you into paths that you never could imagine. My experience with my former husband's forced terminations, as well as my career as a psychologist in the public schools, led me to work with MTM to help others who have experienced the same struggles I once faced.

It is not just the minister who is seriously affected by forced termination. The experience is systemic and impacts the whole family. Homes can become broken and faith shattered, and children are affected for life. In spite of the many painful experiences, God brought us through to new, rewarding beginnings.

Patricia R.

Turner

Announcing...

Ken Medema in Concert!

November 19, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Christ Memorial Reformed Church
595 Graafschap Road
Holland, Michigan 49423

All proceeds from ticket sales benefit the
Ministering to Ministers Foundation, Inc.

Ken Medema is a Christian singer, song writer and improviser "who sees with ears wide open! He has been called a 'blind photographer.'" Ken will perform music using his talents of humor, inspiration, and improvisation, and his unique ability to interact with the audience, to entertain you.

We invite you to attend the upcoming concert to support the MTM mission and ministry. You may contact us at [More Information](#) or call

you would like to read past issues of the MTM Messenger. Interesting articles, personal testimonies and other information are found in each issue.

1-804-594-2556.

Tickets will go on sale September 1! Go to [Medema Concert Tickets and Information](#)

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