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Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2010 11:50 AM
To: mtmfoundation@verizon.net
Subject: "The gang of four blocked the door."



Ministering to Ministers Foundation, Inc. Newsletter
June, 2010

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[MTM Website](#)

The Gang of Four Blocked the Door
"I'm still jumpy after ten years."

It was Monday, 5 June 2000. It was 8:42 p.m. EDT. The deacons' meeting was over, so I headed downstairs to my dimly lit office.

After entering, a noise attracted my attention to the door of my office. The "Gang of Four" was there, demanding my instant resignation and threatened that if I didn't, they would get to me through my wife and two teenage daughters.

My initial reaction was to run, but the "Gang of Four" had the door blocked. Adrenaline immediately surged through my body and continued non-stop for the rest of the week. I felt nauseated and numb. I lost 21 pounds in five days.

I refused to resign that night and left immediately to go tell my wife, and then tell my daughters what had happened. I didn't tell them about the threats. I watched helplessly as each one of their worlds crashed in around them. That was just the beginning of a trauma that I compare to standing at the edge

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.

of Hell, looking down into the pits.

It's been 10 years. The faithfulness of some of God's people in that church, the help that was offered by MTM, the compassion of the congregation I'm now serving, and the work of God Himself have slowly helped us heal.

I still suffer from a moderate case of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and get an adrenaline rush every time someone says, "Can I see you in my office for a few minutes?" I jump at the sound of loud, unexpected noises. I can't help it. The part of my brain that used to deal with those kinds of things was destroyed on 5 June 2000.

Upcoming Retreats

July 12-16, 2010

Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City, Tennessee
Co-sponsored by Norton
Institute for Congregational
Health at
Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City, Tennessee

July 26-30, 2010

Samford University
Birmingham, Alabama
Co-sponsored by Samford
University, Birmingham,
Alabama

August 30 - September 3

Chanco on the James
Spring Grove, Virginia

The trauma that churches, ministers, and the minister's family experience from forced termination has years and years of repercussions for all parties involved.

It's been 10 years for me and counting.

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.

Contact us:

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Shopping on-line 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

Richmond, VA 23235

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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. You may find the link at the bottom of the left column of the home page of the MTM website. 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 are doing on-line shopping, it makes sense to let the MTM ministry benefit.

**"Healthy ministers help produce
healthy churches
and healthy churches help produce
healthy communities."**

LIFE AND FAITH TOUR

--Two Concerts in JULY--

Celebrate your faith while supporting MTM Foundation: The Life and Faith Tour is coming to a city near you! This one-of-a-kind Christian concert tour is bringing top contemporary musicians to Atlanta, GA, and Rockingham, NC, during July 2010. Invite your friends and family along to celebrate the joys of family commitment, religious heritage and the American ideal - all while listening to your favorite Christian bands! **Karen Kingsbury, #1 New York Times Best Selling Author, will be the speaker.**

When tickets are purchased on-line, \$10 from the price of each ticket sold will go to MTM when you choose MTM from the list of organizations. Click this link for tickets:

[Life and Faith Tour Tickets](#)

Sing along to songs you know by heart, and discover some new favorites. Cheer on popular artists like MercyMe, Shenandoah and Amy Grant. Enjoy a chuckle with Christian comedians Jeff Allen and David Ferrell. Mingle with thousands of concert-goers that share your values. And for the kid in all of us, hang out with everyone's favorite animated vegetables - the Veggie Tales!

The two remaining concert stops are:

July 10 - Rockingham, NC

July 24 - Atlanta, GA

Order your tickets on line to benefit MTM Foundation's ministry.

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