

“What can I do?”

I've always like Jesus' disciple Andrew. Rather obscure in most respects, he nevertheless is important to a couple of stories in the gospels. In one, he introduces a lad willing to share his lunch with Jesus who takes it, blesses it and, in the sharing that follows, thousands are fed. In the second story, Greeks at the festival ask Phillip if they might see Jesus. For whatever reason, he seeks out Andrew about it, who then introduces them. (John 6 and 8.)

Andrew is a gatekeeper, a door opener, an introducer, and God grant us more of them! Introductions, helping people to connect, is a powerful, instrumental, honorable ministry.

Each month over 1,700 Protestant clergy are terminated or forced to resign in the United States. The Barna Institute says that a pastor in the United States is forced out every six minutes. Sixty seven percent of those affected will face forced termination more than once. In many cases, termination is immediate. Family life is disrupted. Churches may decline in the wake of such experiences.

We need not wring our hands before this epidemic. In answer to the question, “*But what can I do?*” we simply ask you to *introduce persons to the Ministering to Ministers Foundation (MTM).*

- Introduce ministers who have endured a forced termination to MTM.
- Introduce ministers who are experiencing difficult, even toxic environments in ministry to MTM.
- Introduce ministers to the retreats and resources of MTM for the sake of health promotion and renewal.
- Introduce the spouses of ministers to this ministry so that if the day ever comes when their minister needs help, they know where to go.
- Introduce church leaders, especially those who have experienced difficult leave-taking with pastors or staff members, to MTM.
- Introduce sympathetic souls to an investment of their life through volunteering with MTM.
- Introduce the idea of financial support for MTM to friends, deacons, and churches for the sake of those who serve the church.
- Introduce yourself as an advocate for ministers through Facebook or by Email. For instance, in the words of another: “*I am a member of Ministering to Ministers Foundation, a non-profit organization that exists solely to provide comfort, free legal advice and free professional counseling to pastors experiencing forced termination or other job-related stress. If you know a pastor who may be struggling, please ask him or her to check us out at www.mtmfoundation.org and then call us at 804.594.2556. We have helped thousands of pastors over the last 22 years.*”

May I add the modifier *immediately*? Their lives, their families, and their ministries are not to be left waiting and to wane.

Thank you for helping others in the Andrew-inspired ministry of referral to MTM!

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