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Spiritual Renewal and Restoration for Clergy ♦ Renewal Retreats

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As a non-denominational *Pastor Care* ministry, we are a counseling and care resource for pastors, church staff, missionaries and other ministry leaders.

*The primary venue for our ministry to spiritual leaders is our **Renewal Retreat/Intensive**.*

These nine-day Intensives are renewal-based, spiritual respites that address *strategic clergy issues ...* issues — which left unaddressed — tend to become **ministry** and **marriage killers**.

Below is an update of our most recent **Intensive** (10/25 — 11/3/2011).



Like many **Retreats**, this one began with a phone call from a pastor's wife who was researching clergy care ministries. In this case, she was hoping to find a ministry who could not only provide intensive counseling for her and her husband, but one who would care for them (having been deeply hurt by their congregation and forced to resign). After several more phone conversations, they decided they would like to proceed with completing our *Registration*. However, they felt they would need a "financial miracle" to afford the Retreat *tuition*.

At the core of many clergy concerns are often **leadership issues**. Whether symptoms of problems involve stress and burnout, forced termination, deep wounding, marriage issues or moral failure — *most problems pastors wrestle with have something to do with leadership ... or their setting and keeping their biblical priorities*. In this case, both of the above played a part in what culminated in their church asking them to leave (only seven months after calling them to serve). However, this couple was as beat up, wounded and discouraged as just about any couple we have cared for in thirteen years! For shepherds of God's flocks, the most serious wounding they can experience is to be "*sheep-bit*." Their discouragement in the face of this forced termination was *devastating*.

As it turned out, our couple did receive a financial miracle of sorts. When they put out the word that they needed to come on a pastor care retreat, several sources appeared "out of nowhere" and supplied much needed funds. In addition, we had two families at FBC who stepped up to help fund a \$1,000.00 scholarship help for the couple — which completed the tuition and made it possible for our couple to come.

In first-class accommodations, serving gourmet meals, Renewal Ministries uses beautiful mountain surroundings and inviting amenities as backdrop to explore with clergy couples *spiritual leadership responsibilities* and *skills* required in marriage and ministry. **Intensives** (counseling one clergy couple at a time) are couched in safe, nurturing surroundings of **rest, renewal and spiritual care**. For whatever reason, God seems to favor the **Retreat** environment as a place where He can get the attention of a pastor couple and really speak to their hearts — *so they can hear*.

Pastors' needs are greater than they were 25 years ago.

Pastors may need to find a safe haven where conversations are held in confidence and they're ministered to by people who know what their needs are.

Renewal Ministries knows the life of a pastor and can step in to be an Aaron to Moses. (They) can walk in with the proper adjustments and healing for a person ... that no other organization can.

— H. B. LONDON
V.P. Pastoral Ministries
FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Our goal is to provide the best atmosphere possible for that to take place. Encouragement and care ... in safe, nurturing surroundings.

*Renewal Ministries provides an environment of care and counsel where a person may experience **the renewing presence of God** in a pristine mountain sanctuary.* On **Intensives**, we conduct one-on-one discovery sessions and provide *encouragement* and *dialogue* as catalyst for the ways God may speak or minister to a clergy couple. This is what we refer to as **The Jesus Model of ministry** — ***“Building and restoring lives in the Kingdom through care, counsel and the Word of God!”***

Well, over the nine days God did a work in their lives. At times, it was hard. Very hard. We call them **“Intensives”** for a reason. At a point, we thought the ground we needed to cover was too hard and the hearts of this couple were too raw with hurt to go on. But God prevailed and ministered awesome results in their lives. Below is the pastor's complete quote (from lifted from our **Guest Book**). This is in response to their having just completed a nine-day **Intensive**.

“Thank you for being faithful warriors for the Lord! In every battle there's always a need for a 'MASH' unit to provide safety and healing for the wounded (with the goal of restoring them to health so that they might return to the battle). Thank you for providing that place of safety and healing for two weary soldiers!”

*“Your love, patient listening and insightful observations will be long-remembered! The Lord has done a great work in our hearts during this season (on Retreat) and we are sure He will bring it to completion. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers for the decisions and changes yet to come — and be assured that your loving counsel has made a **major positive impact!** We love you both. God bless you!” — Virginia Pastor, Church of God*

The bottom line is that we can't do this without *you*. These kinds of results come only because you *prayerfully* and *financially* support this pastor care ministry. Thank you for your kind hearts and generous spirits. Thank you for allowing God's financial resources to flow through you to finally touch those whom God has anointed and appointed to lead His Church. You are the *linchpin* that connects your heart for pastors with “boots on the ground.” Pastors are blessed — and *we are blessed* because you have responded to God's voice and invested in *Changed Lives* in the Kingdom.

May the treasures you are laying up in Heaven have its reward beyond measure.

If you have any questions or comments, let's chat. Please call **(303) 467-0777** or toll-free **(888) 27 PSALM**.

Serving His Shepherds,

Blair & Wendy