

PastorCare

West Michigan

Helping Pastors Soar

August, 2012

We pray that you are enjoying this warm summer. It has been unusual both in excessive heat and lack of rain. We pray all is well with you and your families. Sue and I had the privilege of spending a week at Cedar Campus with a wonderful group of pastors and families the week of July 14-20, 2012. The Pastors' Seminar is a program designed to minister to those who are themselves in ministry. Scot Bale is the Executive Director of Cedar Campus, and because he is familiar with my ministry with PastorCare, he invited me to be the speaker.



Cedar Campus is located 45 minutes east of the Mackinac Bridge in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, on the beautiful shores of Lake Huron. Cedar Campus is operated primarily as a year round training center for college students. It is owned and operated by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, an inter-denominational student organization on college and university campuses. It was wonderful to spend time with our friend Scot Bale who is thriving in his fifth summer as Executive Director of Cedar Campus.



I had a great time during Sunday morning worship, engaging eighteen pastors, spouses, and their kids in the message. Monday through Thursday I spoke to just the pastors and spouses. The theme we explored for the week was: *The Adventure of Faith . . . Learning to Trust God*. Sue and I participated in one of the small groups with four other pastor couples. We met every day to discuss the subject matter I presented, or whatever people in the group wanted to talk about. The afternoons were devoted to free time and fun with their families.



We enjoyed watching our new friends compete in the sailboat regatta. I also had a great time as part of the 10 person crew in the beautifully crafted canoe, which was built by a staff member from trees on Cedar Campus.



We made ourselves available during the afternoon free time to the pastors and spouses who wanted to process confidential matters. I spent Tuesday afternoon with one couple. Sue and I spent Thursday afternoon with another couple. We listened, we prayed, we encouraged, and we watched God work in their hearts with His transforming power. Both times God demonstrated His ability to restore hope in the lives of these pastors and spouses. We could see the difference in their eyes and in their whole demeanor. We agreed that it made spending our week of vacation in this way absolutely worth it!

Another pastor in the group asked for some time alone with me. As we walked together through the woods he shared his journey of faith, his ministry experience as an Associate Pastor, and his desire to become a Senior Pastor. After listening to his heart, and seeking wisdom from the Holy Spirit, I shared a few thoughts and insights which he found to be very helpful. His wife was thankful for the opportunity to spend some time alone with Sue that evening. We believe God has great plans for this couple and their family.

By God's grace, I was able to coach and encourage 55 pastors and ministry leaders from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. Time and time again I witnessed the power of God working in their hearts to bring healing, hope, and transformation. We thank you for your prayer support and financial support. If God moves you to send a financial contribution, checks may be made payable to PastorCare West Michigan. **Please mail to:** PastorCare West Michigan, 1632 Waterbury Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Blessings!

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