

PastorCare

West Michigan
Helping Pastors Soar

December, 2012

I recently received a letter of thanks and gratitude from a pastor in Indiana. I had the privilege of coaching Pastor Mark and Debbie Wingler through a season of intense pain and suffering in their ministry and in their family. We became close friends in the process. I believe Mark's words will encourage you, bless you, while affirming the value and need for our ministry with PastorCare.

About two years ago I was in the midst of a crushing battle in my congregation. One of my elders had begun an attack on me and my family during the time when my daughter was deathly ill. He enlisted our music minister and several people from the congregation to wage an attack on my salary, our lifestyle, and my effectiveness of leadership within the church.

I was at a place where I wasn't sure if I should just leave the church, leave the ministry, or leave planet Earth altogether. The Lord directed me to call PastorCare and I spoke at length on the phone with John Wesley Smith about my situation and time of difficulty, not knowing that John himself was going through a period of time and questioning of his responsibility and administration of PastorCare.



Rev. Mark Wingler

John immediately told me that he was on his way with no requirement for a fee or other compensation. There were no other commitments from us. He was just concerned with our church and the health of our leadership. Within two days, John was in our town, came to a congregational meeting, and met with the leadership of the church to steer us in the right direction.

After much time in prayer, and the Lords leading, John gave very sound leadership, business, and biblical advice for us to rectify the situation that was in our body. John was able to specifically identify the problem areas and he gave us options how to handle them. He also recommended a strategic plan to alleviate the difficulties that we were going through. There was not a time where John pushed his agenda or his philosophy. It was all done in a very helpful, supportive, and creative manner. During our time together John and I became friends, and I know that I always have someone that I can call in a time of need.

Recently I had the occasion to be driving down the road and the Lord brought John to mind. I was able to call him and to explain to him the things that are going on in our body. Currently, I am so happy to relate that things in our congregation are good. Financially, we are sound, due to the grace of the givers in our congregation and their faithfulness to God. Relationally, our church is healthy. There were some who chose to

go their separate ways and that has been a good thing for the health of our church. God has replaced them with other leaders, and workers. I related to John recently on the phone that my prayer time has completely been revolutionized, going from the things that I need and the difficulties in the road that we have walked together, to many, many moments of Thanksgiving in the Lord, just continuing to bring to mind the blessings that we have.



Rev. Mark and Debbie Wingler

I regard John as a close personal friend, but also a valuable resource to the churches of the Midwest. I thank God for John, and for those who support him and made his time with me possible. John very definitely has continued to build the kingdom by supporting the pastors that he helps.

*For those of you who are in the ministry, be blessed and encouraged by these words and know that God has placed people in our lives to put us in the place where we can do the very best to grow the kingdom of God.
Pastor Mark*

My passion for the ministry of PastorCare continues to burn deep and strong in my heart. It has been a privilege and a blessing to coach and encourage 39 pastors and 8 spouses since July 1, 2012. I was also able to bless and encourage another 45 pastors and spouses in workshops that I was invited to lead.



Sue and I depend on your prayer support and financial support to make our ministry possible. Please remember us generously in your **year-end giving**. I also invite you to consider becoming **monthly financial supporters**. No amount is too small to be helpful.

Please make your checks payable to PastorCare West Michigan, 1632 Waterbury Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.

Sue and I thank you with all our hearts!

Blessings!

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