

PastorCare

West Michigan

Helping Pastors Soar

February, 2012

God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good! Do I hear a resounding AMEN? Praise the Lord! Sue and I can joyfully testify that God is good—all the time! We are so thankful to have the privilege of encouraging, coaching, and blessing pastors and spouses, and sometimes their children. For the past nine years Sue has been in full support of my calling to invest my life into the lives of pastors and their families. By God's grace I have earned their trust, respect, and confidence. Because the Holy Spirit is so faithful, He guides me in His way of coaching and encouraging these precious saints and servants of the Most High God.

Ministry is all about our relationship with God and our relationships with others. Because I have the opportunity to be involved in their lives during their times of need and pain, we develop deep and lasting friendships. The next time they are in a difficult situation, they have someone safe and confidential to turn to—and they do.

I would like to introduce you to my friends, Rev. Carlos and Donna Liese.



I believe it will bless and encourage you to read the letter Pastor Carlos wrote, expressing his gratitude for what he received through our ministry with PastorCare.

Dear John,

We had been at the church for over twenty years. Throughout those years, our people had loved my wife and me in very real and tangible ways. Pastoring an inner city church had its share of pain and hardships, but through

it all the church loved their pastor. Only a year earlier they had taken a huge step by following my leadership and calling an additional staff member. Our hopes were high and our dreams seemed to mirror God's.

When the spirit of the church body began to shift, I couldn't understand what was happening. We experienced more and more conflict. Issues that had never bothered anyone started to divide us. People began to take sides. Our leadership team was not healthy either. Differences of philosophy and methods started to divide us too. Was this spiritual warfare? I started to daydream about working at something else. I didn't sleep well. I felt trapped. I was doubting my own judgment. I really needed some help.

That was when our Pastor of Education and Administration suggested I call John Smith with PastorCare. I kept putting it off for reasons I don't even know myself. My associate contacted John, who in turn called me. We set up a meeting at his office in Grand Rapids and my wife and I went to see him in January, 2007. I'm so very glad we did. He actually understood me. He knew I felt trapped. I was carrying way too much alone. He would say, "Give credit to the check in your spirit." But he also had a way of correcting some of my assumptions without making me feel stupid. I needed someone like that.

John became a sounding board, a counselor and a mentor. The Church and I had many difficult decisions to make. I cannot put into words how helpful it was to be able to resource John's wisdom and humble insight. He would say, "You don't have to be accusatorial, but ask a lot of questions — the sooner the better. Don't wait for the magic moment all the time."

We are in the fourth month after our first meeting and a great many things have changed at our church. The darkest clouds are gone. We are healing. The Church is healing. Having enlisted John as an accountability partner as we walked through our own valley of the shadow of death, contributed greatly to our being able to look back over the process and feel confident that we handled things honorably. I am truly grateful to God for the help we received from John and the ministry of PastorCare.

Carlos Liese

On Saturday, September 15, 2012 the Baptist State Convention of Michigan is hosting a "mega" equipping conference for pastors, leaders and members of all of their churches throughout the state. Rev. Carlos Liese invited me to lead one of the break-out sessions that will be offered twice that day. He wrote, "Many of our pastors are hurting and have no idea who to turn to. We can encourage, but you provide more knowledgeable and trained insights than your average guy like me could."

I received and accepted this invitation as a wonderful opportunity from God to bless and encourage many of the pastors He draws to that conference. Please mark this date on your calendar and join me in praying that God will use me for His Kingdom purposes in the lives of those pastors.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this ministry. We can't make it without your prayer support. My request is for you to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to our ministry with PastorCare.

Checks can be made payable to PastorCare West Michigan.

Please mail to: 1632 Waterbury Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508

In the grip of His grace!

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