

# PastorCare

West Michigan  
*Helping Pastors Soar*

October, 2012

I was honored to be invited to be one of the workshop leaders at the 2012 Michigan Baptists Church Equipping Conference, on Saturday, September 15, at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Roseville, MI (by Detroit). On Friday evening they hosted a faculty dinner for the workshop leaders. During the introductions, Sue and I discovered we were the only non-Baptists in the room.



After the dinner, introductions, and brief program, Sue and I set up our PastorCare booth in the main foyer. Later that evening, when we arrived at our hotel, Sue asked me how I felt about being the only non-Baptist person leading a workshop. I told her I feel honored to be invited and included. Over the years, I have coached and encouraged many Baptist pastors.



Rev. Carlos Liese is the one who invited me to lead the workshop. He is so thankful for the coaching he received from me a few years ago when he was serving as the Senior Pastor of First Spanish Baptist Church in Detroit. For the past couple of years, Carlos has been serving as the Language Ministries Leader, for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. He wanted to share the blessing of PastorCare with the other Baptist pastors in the conference.



The title of my workshop was *Resources for Hurting Pastors*. I thought about choosing a more creative title, but I didn't want to trick anyone into attending and have them surprised by the content of my presentation. My workshop was offered twice. I was not surprised that the crowds were small. It takes a lot of courage to attend a workshop for hurting pastors when your peers can see you. I decided that if only two or three pastors attended the session, I would share my heart with them with the same level of passion as if there were two or three hundred in the room. Each pastor who attended was very thankful for what I shared and the resource materials I made available to them. I also collected their contact information for follow up. We intentionally did not take photos of the pastors who attended the workshop to protect their privacy.

I prepared my presentation with the understanding that the second session would be video-taped. They wanted to make my seminar available online for pastors who were not able to attend the session. If you are interested in watching it, you may go to [www.e-quip.net](http://www.e-quip.net) and search for the workshop title, *Resources for Hurting Pastors*.

I invited my friend, Rev. Dick Sochacki, to join me because he leads a ministry to pastors in the Detroit area. Dick has been the Director of Barnabas Ministries of Michigan for 19 years. He did a wonderful job sharing for five minutes near the end of my presentation at both sessions. Dick also interacted with pastors and church leaders at our booth.



Sue and I had a great time connecting with pastors, spouses, and family members around our booth. We made some wonderful new friends who would be glad to adopt us into their family. The conference ended at 4:10 p.m., but we continued to coach and encourage pastors until 6:00 p.m. It brought back memories from when we were serving at New Life Community Church in Sayville, NY — where we were often the last ones to leave the building.

We are so thankful for your prayer support and financial support! We can't do this without you! **Checks can be made payable to PastorCare West Michigan. Mailing address: 1632 Waterbury Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.**

Blessings!

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