



The mission of Marble Retreat is to help bring healing, hope and restoration to those in vocational Christian ministry and the Church at large through Christ-centered brief intensive counseling.

Spring Edition 2007 • Providing Care since 1974 • Marble, Colorado

PASSIONATE PATIENCE

By Patti Cappa

Recently, Steve and I were asked to do a devotional at a church on the front range of Colorado. We were speaking to a group of volunteers who have a variety of helping roles in and outside of the church, including lay counseling, financial counseling and helping at risk youth, among other things. These people are walking alongside people in need, people in trouble, people who are suffering.

In preparing for the devotional, I was reminded of my first year of training as a marriage and family counselor. When I first began my professional journey to “mourn with those who mourn” in a day full of back to back appointments, I would get so tired. No one ever made an appointment to tell me about their recent joyful experience. I remember asking the Lord as I was beginning my work as a counselor, “Why so much suffering Lord? What’s the point?” This inquiry led me to Romans 5:1-5(NIV): “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” It wasn’t an answer to my “why” question, but it gave me hope that the suffering we all experience can result in some pretty amazing side effects. Through pain and suffering, we can become more patient, more persevering, have our characters deepened and most importantly, suffering increases our hope. This is not a hope that things will be the way we want them to be, but a hope in Christ Jesus and our ultimate salvation. In other words, suffering increases our faith by increasing our intimate knowledge of who God is.

As helpers, whether by vocation or as the priesthood of all believers, we must remember that when we accompany someone on their journey of suffering, that we also suffer. It hurts when we sit with someone who is hurting. It’s supposed to affect us if we’re truly carrying each other’s burdens. We are made of flesh that is porous, not out of a bullet proof vest. The hurts that others experience can and do penetrate our own souls and we suffer too. The good news is that we, as accompanists, can also benefit from pretty amazing side effects from that suffering. I love the way Eugene Peterson in *The Message* writes Romans 5: “By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us-set us right with him, make us fit for him-we have it all together with God because of our master Jesus. And that’s not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand-out in the wide open spaces of God’s grace and glory, standing tall and shouting praise.

There’s more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we’re never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary-we can’t round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit.”

(continued on next page)

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and let us know.

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PASSIONATE PATIENCE (CONTINUED)

I love the description of a “passionate patience” or the word picture of “tempered steel of virtue.” We can all use more of both. I want my suffering and those around me to lead to such descriptions of our characters. But, mostly, I want suffering to lead to that alert expectancy to see what God is going to do next and to feel and accept a hope in our salvation that doesn’t disappoint us. Passionate patience is not passive. It sounds like an action verb that is vibrant, purposeful. I want that kind of patience. It is a patience that I want to participate in.

I have always wrestled with the concept of experiencing joy while my heart is breaking. The NIV translation says to “rejoice in our sufferings”. I confess that has still alluded me and perhaps as I age I will grow into that wisdom. However, right now I can relate better to The Message which says, “we continue to shout our praise even when hemmed in with troubles.” That prescription to praise God even during our suffering makes great sense. In fact, to continue to know who God is when we suffer is one of those side effects of suffering. We praise God because of who we know him to be, not because he makes our suffering or troubles disappear. Sometimes our troubles do disappear, but sometimes they do not. Can we praise him no matter the course of life? I truly have hope that we can.

Of course, we are not to sabotage ourselves to experience suffering in hopes of these positive side effects. Doesn’t suffering have a way of finding us? I know it has had a way of finding me. Suffering is part of living on this earth of ours- no need to look for it. But, when it does visit you or you are accompanying someone else, please remember these side benefits and continue to praise God for who he is in your life and the eternal salvation that is yours. These side effects will lead to hope. And remember; share your hope with others. A little bit goes a long way! By the way, you might as well “stand tall and shout praise” while you are at it!

ATTENTION! WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS!

Please know that I am still in need of prayer partners for this ministry. Prayer is vital to the battles we encounter here. If you would like to join us in upholding this ministry in prayer, please e-mail me at: pcappa@marbleretreat.org. I will put you on my prayer distribution list. Thank you in advance for considering taking on such a awesome job.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

We are grateful for the many ways you give to the retreat. We had a good turnout from our year-end appeal and kept up with last year. Thanks to all of you who participate in giving. Our fees do not cover even half of our budget from year to year so we are in definite need of your continuing participation. Our spring appeal is in the works. We hope you consider participating. Please remember that you can give though our website electronically. Just click on the “Donate” button and it will direct you. You may also give by Visa or Master Card via letter or phone. Of course, the wonderful old fashioned way of check writing is still a very welcome way to give.

Again, we appreciate all of your support as we maintain this ministry to the standards that it has been called to uphold. For those of you who have been here, we hope that it has been a beneficial and worthwhile experience for you. Another way that you have helped is through your referrals. We often hear that a personal friend or colleague has sent someone to us and often times that friend is an alum of the program. That gives us great encouragement and we hope you continue in this very important action. Spread the word when the Lord gives you opportunity.

TESTIMONIES FROM OUR ALUMS

“I so look forward to opening the mailings from Marble Retreat. It’s so enjoyable to learn what is happening and how God is blessing your ministry. We are doing well and often comment on how our Marble Retreat experience altered our relationship and marriage so positively. Thank God, thank you and the entire team at Marble Retreat.”

“For a few days in September, we “retreated” with 3 other couples amongst 10,000 foot peaks in the Rockies. We enjoyed time for being quiet, reflecting, meeting with a husband and wife counseling team and spending time with the other couples. It was amazing to see how God worked within us and others. God enabled us to process many things we had never worked through together. We are experiencing a marriage that is stronger than ever. We are thankful to the Lord for his provision of this remarkable time away, for His healing hand on our lives and relationship, and for the fruits we anticipate in our marriage, family and ministry.”

JOYCE YODER NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

We are proud to have named Joyce Yoder as Volunteer of the Year for 2005/2006. She has been checking our newsletters for the last few years for grammatical errors. She is a very important person as she keeps the face of Marble Retreat looking clean and intelligible. Joyce had this to say about volunteering for Marble Retreat, “A few years ago, I read Marble Retreat’s newsletter and saw ways that I could help improve their publication. I contacted Steve and Patti and asked them if they had anyone proofreading for them. They gladly received my suggestions and asked if I would continue to proofread for them in the future. I believe in the work of Marble Retreat, so I readily agreed to offer my services to them. Keep up the good work, Steve and Patti and Marble Retreat. May God continue to bless you and those you serve.” Thank you Joyce!!!!



Joyce Yoder

WHAT’S GOIN’ ON?

By Louis and Melissa McBurney

I just realized that there’s a whole generation who’ve never heard my slow drawl begin morning groups with “Well, what’s goin’ on?” We may have to come up with a new title for our column. Maybe some Swahili or Thai greeting would be appropriate.

Our mission ministry has become our focus and is both interesting and challenging for us, as well as an effective intervention for the missionaries who have come. We are still amazed at the wide geographical area they represent and the fascinating experiences they are living. In Thailand we worked with a couple from Thailand who work primarily in Burma, a couple who work all over SE Asia in translation work, and an ex-pilot who has served in many parts of the Pacific. Africa brought us individuals from Mexico, India, Kenya, Bavaria, and the U.S., who are serving in every corner of Africa. Their problems were also highly varied, but their commitment to the Lord and desire to find healing in their relationships were bonding factors. We saw significant breakthroughs for them. Enough to keep our commitment level high and our gratitude over-flowing for your support which provides for this exciting ministry. If you read Col 1: 6 you can’t be surprised that God is also in groups on the other side of the world.



Melissa & Louis

WE WELCOME THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Last October we welcomed three new board members from around the country. We would like to introduce you to them.



Mary Helen Noland

Mary Helen Noland has been a friend to Marble Retreat for several years. She is from Dallas, Texas and brings her marketing expertise to our board. She currently works as Admissions Director of Trinity Christian Academy in Dallas. She loves the mission of Marble Retreat and is delighted to take on this new responsibility. So are we!



Bruce Robinson

Bruce Robinson hails from right here in our valley, the town of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He is President and Regional Manager of Alpine Banks in the Colorado River Valley Region and we are blessed to have someone with his business acumen as a neighbor and now a board member of Marble Retreat.

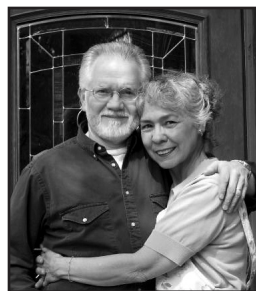


Patsy Drummond

Patsy Drummond is a new friend of Marble Retreat from Charlotte, North Carolina. Besides being an accomplished pianist, we can call her a professional volunteer having served on a variety of boards for the last several years. We are grateful to add her years of volunteering and fundraising experience to our ranks!

EVA'S MEXICAN RICE

- 2 cups long grain rice
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions
- 1/4 cup kernel corn, fresh or frozen
- 1/4 cup petite peas, frozen
- 2 T sliced black olives (optional)
- 2 T diced fresh tomatoes
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. chicken flavored granules
- 4 cups boiling water



Henry and Eva

In a 2 qt. pot, heat vegetable oil and add rice. Stir frequently and allow rice to slightly brown. Add green onions and sauté with rice for a few minutes. Drain any excess oil that remains in the pot.

Carefully add boiling water to rice & onion mixture. Add salt, chicken granules, and all the veggies. Bring water to a soft boil. Cover, turn heat to low, and allow to cook for 20 minutes on stovetop. Serves 10.

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A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

8-DAY UPDATE

It rolls off the tongue kind of nicely, doesn't it? Try it: "8-Day Update." Well, like saying it rolls off the tongue readily, our new model, implemented beginning last March, has gone very, very well! We are all pleased with how God has blessed the ministry with this radical departure from our longstanding 12-day model. It was a huge paradigm shift and we approached this with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. Nonetheless, the benefits were almost immediately noticeable. First off, our inquiries and enrollment have remained brisk and stable, with our groups consistently filling up, even through the traditionally slow winter season. This has allowed us to serve more people and to better meet our mission goal: *"Helping to bring healing, hope and restoration to those in vocational Christian ministry and the Church at large through Christ-centered brief intensive counseling"*. Further blessings have come in the form of the new model making it easier for families with children to arrange for childcare back home, as a shorter stay facilitates this. Moreover, those who remain in ministry now only miss one Sunday rather than two. Mid-week air travel costs are less than those of weekend flights, which was required of our previous model. Of course, the cost for our services is also reduced making it more affordable. We, as a staff, have experienced our own unforeseen benefits in that we now enjoy a 5-day hiatus between each group, giving Patti and me extra time to travel and promote the ministry and allowing Henry & Eva added time to prepare the lodge for the following group, making for a less frenetic pace between our services. In addition, we all enjoy the possibility of relaxing a bit between our service and, therefore, living out a healthier ministry lifestyle, something we "preach" about to those who come! Furthermore, we now schedule about 21 groups within a year, up from a typical year of 16-17 groups, which, of course, allows us to serve more people and even better fulfill our mission. Most important, our evaluations remain the same as when we utilized the 12-day model-consistently positive and affirming. We thank God for the inspiration of this new model and the continued effectiveness of our approach in the lives of those who come, in Christ, seeking solace and comfort for troubled lives. We thank all of you for your continued support, both financially and through prayer!



GROUP SCHEDULE FOR 2007

8-day sessions

(Participants arrive Tuesday late afternoon and depart Thursday morning 8 days later)

April 10- 19

April 24 – May 3

May 8 – 17 *

May 22 - 31

June 5 - 14

June 19 – 28 *

July 10 - 19

July 24 – August 2

August 7 – 16 *

August 21 - 30

Sept. 4 - 13

Sept. 18 - 27

Oct. 9 – 18 *

Oct. 23 – Nov. 1

Nov. 6 - 15

Dec. 4 – 13 *

* Indicates group is open to all believers. All other listed groups are for clergy only.

Sessions are limited to eight people total. If married, your spouse is required to attend with you.

Session dates are subject to change on occasion. Please call to confirm a reservation prior to booking flights. When making travel plans, plan to arrive Tuesday late afternoon and depart Thursday morning.

A GROUP'S WELCOME

It is difficult to explain all that happens at Marble Retreat though we know that we talked, we cried, we laughed, we played and we worked hard! A recent group left a note on the group room door to welcome a new group arriving a few short days later. Here is what they wrote:

Hey Gang-

We're glad you're here. Jesus is waiting in this upper room to meet with you, love you, teach you and guide you.

Just as he met with the 12, he is here for you and your group.

Just open your mind, heart and will to Him. He will meet you and take you to a better place in your life. A place of quiet rest, a place of truth and release. Please know that you're in our prayers – love ya all!

Matthew 11:28-30

We welcome each new participant to see what God will do in this place. We are privileged and honored to sit amongst you. We hope that the new insights gained will be useful for the rest of your lives.

Happy Easter,
Steve and Patti



Patti and Steve

NEWS FLASH

Marble Retreat Alumni! We will soon be hosting a website based discussion group facilitated by our counseling staff. Visit our website for the latest exciting news on this upcoming follow-up service.

Spring 2007

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