



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 2008 • Providing Care since 1974 • Marble, Colorado

THE MAN FROM UZ

By Steve Cappa

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

-Anne Bradstreet

It's never too late to start doing what is right.

-Charles Swindoll

My, do these aforementioned quotes ring true for me! It is an early winter morning here as I sit at my desk, overlooking the results of heavy snows (about 136" so far this season!) we've received up here at Marble Retreat. In so doing, I ponder God's great love for us, demonstrated in the natural beauty of the land. However, I also reflect over the past year of our lives and am aghast at the many challenges the Cappas have faced. It is in my nature to turn to the book of Job for comfort and understanding. Job has proven itself to be the most useful book, as I've used the examples found in its writings for over 20 years now, especially when it comes to counseling and encouraging people. There's a powerful model for suffering and support to be found in this book. Oh, you all know Job. He's *"blameless, and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil (Job 1:8b)."* Poor Job is "tested" by Satan through God's permission, loses essentially EVERYTHING, is launched into abject comprehensive loss, wrestles with his faith though never loses it, and in the midst of it all along come those boys, Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. Those first seven days of their company with him are the best: *"... they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. . . Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was (Job 1:11-13)."* Of course, then it all goes bad as they become impatient with his grief (as if Job, himself, wasn't impatient with his grief!) and start to conger up brainy but futile ideas to get him moving again (so

they can get home!). This, as Scriptures unfolds, is to the detriment of all involved, as one's grief is not to be rushed. And so it goes . . . much time passes for Job and, wonderfully and eventually, God restores him to an even deeper and richer relationship than before.

Last May, 2007, overnight Patti was diagnosed with Renal Cell Carcinoma! As for me, the rich words of Job, with equal speed to the onset of Patti's cancer, became MY words! Now I was in Job's sandals! Throughout Patti's ordeal, I wailed, bargained with and petitioned God and certainly felt tested myself. I make no claims to being "blameless or shunning evil," but I sure did identify with Job during that horrific time. Wonderfully, many, many dear friends came to my side, some literally, and provided support, presence and prayer. Unlike Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, none seemed impatient with all of this. Of course, as you readers now know from our previous newsletter, the outcome has been wonderful! Patti has not only survived the surgery but is daily being restored to good health and is mostly recovered now from the ravages of such an invasive surgery.

And then there was the other day – in part because of the stress that I went through with Patti's ordeal – I arranged a medical check-up with my physician and, while listening to my heart, he noticed what he thought to be PVCs (pre-ventricular contractions). As a result, he ordered a cardiac stress test/imaging. That stress test not only revealed what was first suspected, regular PVCs, but also the imaging revealed that at some point in my life I'd suffered a heart attack!!! The news was stunning and frightening, especially since I felt no symptoms at all! I now felt like I was carrying a time bomb in my chest and immediately set out to schedule a cardiac consult. There were no cardiologists available in the region for over 2 weeks and I initially resolved myself to try my best to live with this ongoing fear. I prayed and petitioned God for mercy and asked our church to join me in prayer to somehow find an opening with a cardiologist much sooner: *"Shall we accept good from*

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God, and not trouble (Job 1:10b)?” Oh, how I was holding onto this steadfast faith! About two days later while preparing for bed, I felt a very slight pain at the upper joint of my left shoulder (I’m left hand dominant and that shoulder’s been clicking and popping for years now!), then felt slightly dizzy and broke out into a sweat. I laid down on the bed and the symptoms immediately subsided. With the news I now held, I was taking every little symptom very seriously. Into the Emergency Room I went and they ran a battery of tests that all proved negative, except for the already known fact that I was still experiencing the PVCs. What did happen, however, is the attending physician, in “conspiracy” with my personal physician, who just happened to be on call, got me admitted into the cardiac unit for the night! Voila, I had my desperately needed cardiac consult all scheduled for the next day!!!! The cardiologist visited with me that next morning and strongly recommended a heart catheterization, which we scheduled for the following Monday morning. So, back into the hospital I went for this invasive and mildly risky procedure. All went even better than expected, since we all really anticipated a restricted artery or two, which would require at least the insertion of some heart stents, an increasingly common procedure. As it turned out, not only were all of my arteries clean as a whistle, but he also ruled out the previously diagnosed heart attack! We were all elated and greatly relieved: *“I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted (Job 42:1-2).”*

God is good and I, too, like Job, know that He can do all things and, obviously, has further plans for me in this earthly Kingdom. I therefore forge ahead in service to Him through this wonderful ministry, caring for my fellow believers and clergy who come hurting, many with broken hearts themselves. . .

Let me repeat: *“Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble (Job 1:10b)?”* Be strong and steadfast in your faith. Amen!

WHAT’S GOING ON?

By Louis and Melissa McBurney

I’m writing this with a heavy heart. We just got a Christmas card back with an “unable to forward” stamp. It was addressed to a friend who has been a significant mentor and inspiration to us for years. Since Melissa is a genius on the internet, she went to work to locate him. She got more than we bargained for and more than we really wanted to discover. There were some very nasty articles condemning this highly esteemed man, accusing him of marital infidelity, which allegedly had gone on for years.



We don’t know if there is any truth in the shameful indictments, but we know it at least caused them to move. We sent a note expressing our condolences for what he and his wife must have been going through during the process. We’re also hopeful that there have been supportive, loving friends there to help them deal with this distressing situation. After his years of loving ministry to thousands, they deserve to be forgiven and restored, not viciously attacked.

The experience has also made me realize again that none of us are immune from the temptations of this world. We’ve seen hundreds of couples at Marble Retreat who have gone through devastating consequences of succumbing

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If you would like to be removed from our mailing list,
please let us know electronically or simply call us toll free at 888-216-2725.

Do you want to be on our prayer team? Email Patti at pcappa@marbleretreat.org
and she’ll put you on her email distribution list.

to sexual sin. All have known the dangers. None have intended to cause the hurt that came, and most have had some warning bells ringing in their heads.

As I write this, I also know that some of you are in that position of choosing some behavior which could end in disaster. Wake up! Stop it! Run for help as fast as you can! Don't believe that you can somehow enjoy the "pleasures of sin for a season" and not reap a harvest of pain. I so deeply wish our friend had not chosen to ignore what he himself had eloquently advised. Only you can make the wise choice.

EVA'S ENCHILADA CHICKEN CASSEROLE

2-3 chicken breasts cooked and shredded
5-6 garlic cloves, peeled and sliced thin
1 Tablespoon flour
1 small can sliced black olives
Grated Jack and Cheddar cheese
¼ Cup vegetable oil

1 medium onion chopped
1 Cup Las Palmas Enchilada Sauce
2 Tablespoons Gebhardt's Chili Powder
1 small can Ortega chopped green chillies
Corn tortillas (La Favorita brand if possible) cut into fourths
1 Cup hot water

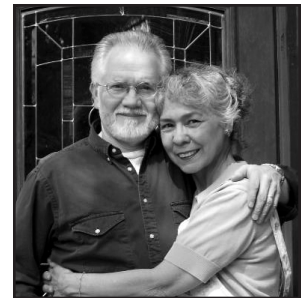
Sauce:

Lightly brown sliced garlic in ¼ cup oil. Add 1 Tablespoon of flour to oil and garlic and stir. Add to this about 1 cup of hot water and stir to smooth. Add 2 Tablespoons Gebhardt's Chili Powder and tomato sauce and Las Palmas Sauce. You may add salt and oregano to taste. Set sauce aside. If you prefer a spicier sauce, add more Las Palmas.

Layer Casserole as follows:

Spoon sauce in the bottom of the casserole dish. Cover sauce on bottom of dish with pieces of corn tortillas. Layer shredded chicken, onion, green chili, olives and cheeses. Second layer of tortillas and cover with plenty of sauce. Repeat layers as above.

Bake covered in oven about 40 minutes at 350 degrees.



Henry & Eva

A SALUTE TO THE CAPPAS

By Louis McBurney



Cappas First Board Meeting as Directors

Five busy years ago this February, Marble Retreat Board of Directors met at a conference center near Salado, Texas. Our main agenda item was to get to know Steve and Patti Cappa. They shared with us their sense of calling to this ministry. We were all overcome with joyful tears as we heard them tell us how God had been preparing them for Marble and what definite answers to prayer had affirmed their call.

Now, five years and a life time later, we are even more convinced that God was especially gracious in giving us the Cappas. They have brought significant changes that have strengthened the program. It really is true about "old dogs and new tricks" and I'd probably be the last to admit that any new tricks were necessary. Yet, the changes made have been vital to the ministry being effective in a changing world. (Our son gave me a tee-shirt for Christmas that said, "traveling at 33 rpm in an iPod world". Well, I've been feeling pretty bold about shifting to 45 rpm.)

Sure enough, internet access, electronic giving, an updated website, shorter groups, broader outreach, and some research evaluation have enhanced the effectiveness of Marble Retreat. This old dog is relieved to not have to learn the new tricks.

Another salute is in order for the way Steve and Patti have dealt with the many stresses that have faced them. The changes faced by their family, the demands of an intensive counseling practice, the financial pressures that never seem to go away, the administrative load of following an old dog, and, of course, their recent health issues have tested their metal and their faith. Both have met the tests.

We're just glad that they had such a strong, compelling call from the Lord. That has sustained them, as it has the ministry for 35 years.

Congratulations and thanks to Steve and Patti for 5 wonderful years of dedicated service!!

EASTER DRESSES

By Patti Cappa

As a little girl, new clothes were very rare. My mom was a single mother supporting us on her own. A wonderful memory for me in those early years was the once a year trek to the local department store for my little sister and my Easter dresses, the only dresses for the year. One year, we even bought Easter bonnets and little white gloves to go with them. All of those dresses were so important and I bet I can make a list and describe every dress I acquired through those childhood years. Now, not to feel sorry for me with only one dress a year. I was a very skinny little girl in the mid to late 60's, and I could wear those dresses year after year and the shorter they got, the better they were as far as I was concerned.



Patti - Easter 1968

Fast forward to my first job after college. I was a counselor taking care of children in a 100 bed county facility for abused and neglected children. The first few months, I took care of every age group from 2 weeks old to emancipation at 18 years old. Before long, I found myself working permanently with the children in the pre-teen unit, ages 5 to 12. We could have as few as 10 kids to as many as 30 at any one time. We took care of all their needs when they arrived via the police department. We had them in protective custody in a locked compound. The building sat with juvenile hall on one side, the county jail on the other, and the dog pound next to the jail. It was a real garden spot.

I worked every weekend and noticed that there were lovely donated dresses in the laundry room. I was given permission by the laundry staff to use those dresses for the upcoming Easter Sunday. On that morning, I helped the little girls put these beautiful dresses on their battered and bruised bodies. I fixed their hair any way they wanted with braids, pony tails, barrettes. Our facility had a group of volunteers who came every Sunday morning to share worship songs and Bible stories with the children. That Easter morning, the children lined up to enter the room and, when I opened the door and the girls filed into the room, all became silent. Suddenly, you heard the oohs and ahhs of the group as they watched the girls find their seats in their beautiful dresses. The smiles from the older children and the adults were tender. I know that those little girls felt like royalty for the first time in their young lives. They were feeling loved, cared for and valued and for some or all, it was the very first time. In short, they each felt like a princess. This activity of picking out dresses on Saturday and wearing them for the Sunday morning church service became a weekly ritual. When the children were placed in the homes of relatives, foster care or adoption, they would leave with that special dress tucked in their paper sack of belongings.

There is a sweet epilogue to this story. One of the little girls I cared for in the county facility had special needs. After we both finally left that facility for good, I kept in contact with her as she went from group home to foster care to being adopted. I first met her in the facility when she was about 5 and probably had my last meeting with her when she was about 15. At that last meeting, she had been living with her adoptive parents for some years. She told me that she had traded that Easter dress of long ago for that eternal dress of salvation. Was I amazed that she decided to believe that Jesus was who he said he was? Yes. Was I amazed that she loved Jesus as her Savior? Yes. But, what amazed me the most was, despite her very painful first years of suffering in her life, she knew how much God loved her. Do you?

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

ALUMNI NOTES

Again and again, we are stunned by what God has wrought in our hearts. We know there was hard work done before, during and after (and continues). We are amazed by how things were orchestrated for us. But our Marble Retreat experience was cornerstone for moving beyond where we were when we arrived. Thank you, thank you. And please, thank again, the Board and individuals who helped make it possible through their financial gifts.



Greetings...just a few lines to say...“hello”. This week marks three years since we came to your place for help. God has been good. We are doing well and we continue to get better. I can truthfully proclaim now that what happened to me was an act of God because He loves me, He desires more for my life and He purged my sin (not saying it wasn't painful, for it truly was and is)...I give God the praise for your ministry. It is much needed. I thank you!



Words cannot express how much this past week has meant to us! God has worked through each of you in a very powerful way...I am excited to see how God will continue to change me. Thanks for your prayers and friendship.

P.S. I came looking for strength, but I instead found wisdom...it is your wisdom that gave me strength.



Thank you so much for your ministry to us this past week. I felt your love and compassion and it made it easy to open up. You are a very special couple. I am amazed how God has used this week in my life. I would never have imagined it to go this way (so well).

LOTS OF SNOW THIS WINTER

We are getting lots of snow this winter, with 3 feet accumulated over just one weekend. Henry has had many headaches with our snow-plow, which he uses to maintain the road from the lodge to the mailboxes, about a mile down the road. It has been breaking with almost every snow fall. We are putting out the word that a new one is needed to keep the roads clear and to diminish the expense of repairs. Please let us know if you can provide a snow-plow, new or gently used. (Not that it is possible to gently use a snow-plow, but the need for a plow is a great concern.)

Our other retreat vehicles are also getting old and tired and often need repairs. If you know of anyone or if you would like to donate an all wheel-drive or four-wheel drive vehicle for the retreat, let us know.

You may also give financially through our website on the “donate” button, or by credit card or check with the enclosed envelope.



GROUP SCHEDULE FOR 2008

Marble Retreat

8-day sessions

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

April 1 - 10	June 3 - 12	August 5 - 14*	October 14 - 23*
April 15 - 24	June 17 - 26*	August 19 - 28	October 28 - November 6
April 29 - May 8*	July 8 - 17	September 2 - 11	November 11 - 20
May 13 - 22	July 22 - 31	September 16 - 25	December 2 - 11*

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

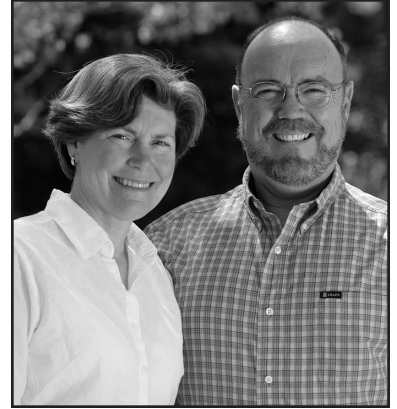
Sessions are limited to eight people total. If married, your spouse is required to attend with you.

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.

IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS!

We hadn't realized it had been five years since we became the earthly directors of this ministry until Louis and Melissa wrote the front page article. The time has gone by very quickly. We say "earthly" directors because it is obvious to us that the Lord has had His grip on this ministry from the very beginning. We don't always know how the decisions we make will influence the ministry, but we have prayerful hope they will all be positive. We are so blessed and humbled to have the ministry flourish and continue with such consistency. We continue to see hearts soften and truth revealed even when it is difficult to hear and see. The ingredients that made this ministry successful in the 70's continue in the new millennium with a few, very subtle changes. Thank you for continuing to refer people to us and supporting the work through your prayers and financial and physical gifts. We are looking forward to many more years here at Marble Retreat!



Patti & Steve

Spring 2008

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