

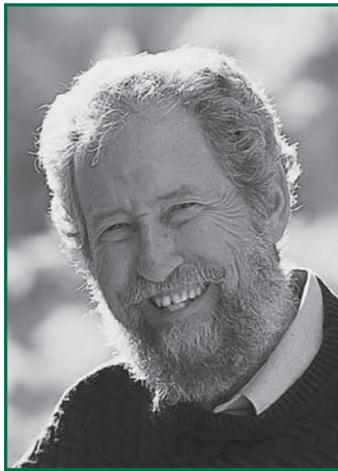


The mission of Marble Retreat is to help bring healing, hope and restoration to those in vocational Christian ministry and the Church at large through Christ-centered brief intensive counseling.

Spring Edition 2009 • Providing Care since 1974 • Marble, Colorado

A Celebration of the Life of Louis McBurney

February 14, 1938 - January 20, 2009



Dr. Paul Louis McBurney entered the Church Triumphant on January 20, 2009 in Glenwood Springs. He was born on Valentine's Day, 1938 in Temple, TX to Robert and Louise McBurney.

Louis graduated from Temple High School and, as an honor student, was appointed to

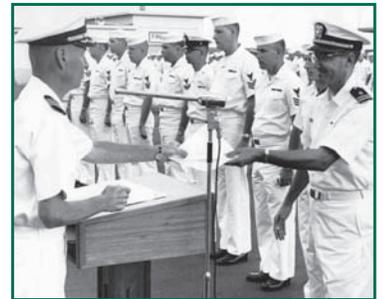
the Naval Academy. However, because of eyesight issues, he was unable to accept. Undeterred, he applied to Baylor University for a theatre scholarship, but "somehow" the letter of acceptance never arrived in the mail. Again, he adjusted his plans and decided to pursue a medical degree.

Louis' tenacity is nowhere better illustrated than his love for Melissa Morris McBurney. He set his sights on marrying her when she moved to Temple as a high school junior. When she had different plans, he patiently waited for seven years until she "saw the light"



and realized they were meant for each other. They married in 1961 and started their family while Louis attended Baylor Medical School in Houston, with the births of Bruce and Andrea.

Still determined to serve his country, Louis joined the Navy as an ensign his senior year of medical school and the McBurney family travels began when he was assigned to be base doctor at



the Naval Communications Station in Oahu. After his service was completed in Hawaii, with new baby Brent in tow, the family moved to Rochester, Minnesota, where he completed his Psychiatric studies at the Mayo Clinic. Then on to England for one year, working as registrar in two hospitals near London.

Louis and Melissa's faith led them to answer a call to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, where they worked tenaciously to establish a refuge for clergy in need of counseling as a result of stresses that come from serving in the ministry of Christ. In 1973, Marble Retreat was born and for thirty years the McBurneys worked side by side, ministering to over 3000 church leaders in Colorado and in mission fields around the world in Africa, Thailand, Indonesia and beyond. Never afraid to tackle difficult issues, Louis' ministry was also expressed through authorship of countless articles in professional magazines and the

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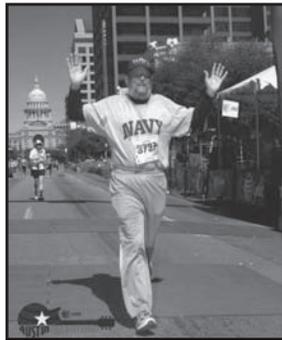
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books *Every Pastor Needs a Pastor* and *Real Questions, Real Answers About Sex*. He and Melissa were honored in 2001 with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association of Christian Counselors.



Louis was active around the Roaring Fork Valley, serving as an elder since the inception of the Church at Redstone and as an avid hiker, skier, and camper. Residents watched him jogging along highway 133 as he trained for two marathons - one when he turned 65 and again in 2008 for his 70th birthday. His travels took him to all 7 continents, where he made lasting friendships on each journey.

Louis loved passionately his Lord, his family and his friends. He saw life as an adventure to be embraced and savored to the fullest. He was a gifted listener, who provided love and support to stranger and friend alike. His ministry touched lives in ways that can never be measured. As he joins the company of saints, his life will be celebrated by thousands of friends and his loving family: Melissa, his wife; children: Bruce, Andrea and Brent and their families; sisters: Alice and Ann and brother, Robert.



Psalm 91:1-2

*Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

This I declare about the Lord:

*He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
he is my God, and I trust him.*



THE JOURNAL OF LOUIS MCBURNEY

A FEW CHOSEN EXERPTS

Louis kept a journal during the development of his and Melissa's vision for Marble Retreat and of the actual building of the retreat itself. We have picked a few passages from that journal to alert us of Louis and Melissa's unique and courageous journey of birthing this ministry. During this time, they were also doing seminars, conferences, writing a book about the needs of pastors and meeting with ministry leaders getting the word out about Marble Retreat. We hope you enjoy their journey from afar.

February 16, 1974

After God closed the door on the Naval Academy and a career in drama, He opened the way for medicine and subsequently for psychiatry. In the last half of the psychiatry residency, we began to seek His will for our life's work. During one short period I had two ministers in therapy, and knew of three others who felt they needed help, but for one reason or another would not enter therapy. At the same time we began to hear and read of a growing awareness in the Christian world of the problems of the minister and his need for help. A combination of new awareness, a growing desire to serve in this area, and the inspiration of Francis Schaeffer's L'abri opened the possibility of a mountain retreat for psychotherapy for ministers. A trip to Colorado on vacation a few months previously had brought to our attention the Marble development. We had bought one lot purely for speculation and inquired about three others which were, unfortunately, sold and unavailable. As the retreat question began to become serious, I asked God for a sign. If HE wanted us to have the retreat, make those lots available, a choice spot for a mountain lodge. About two weeks later and without any further inquiry from me the Ski Area Sales Office wrote that those lots can now be purchased.

July 6, 1974 ~ Psalm 121

Many frustrating months have passed since the previous entry. I felt as though we've been on a roller coaster of slow and tedious up-hill climbs with mountain-top exhilarating joy followed by new lows as the next problem presents. I would be dishonest if I do not admit that I have felt depressed about many of these obstacles and at times have doubted the original call. I would also be dishonest if I did not realize and admit the sufficiency of the Lord. He continues to overcome the barriers, He sustains us materially and emotionally, and He continues to provide encouragement from time to time.

September 16, 1974 ~ Psalm 23

The Lord seemed to speak to me through the Psalms and by reminding me of His marvelous way of working out the obstacles to say that the mountain lots are the site He has ordained. Therefore, unless He closes the door completely – and there are plenty of opportunities for that -- we will proceed with building on the rocks.

March 5, 1975 ~ John 14:13-14

These have been eventful months. We completed our well and installed the pump, then buried the power cable which is ready to be connected in the spring. In January, our attorney went to Denver to investigate the status of the title and reported little hope of any progress before late summer. At his advice we engaged a bankruptcy specialist in Denver who looked into the matter in mid-February and reported a hopeless state of confusion in the bankruptcy proceedings and estimated a year to 18 month wait. We continued to

believe that the Lord could work things out and trusted enough to stand on that faith in a February newsletter. Yesterday, I began to make some phone calls after visiting two lien holders in Denver and discovered that they are the only two remaining on the lot we want to build the retreat on. They have agreed to supply the deeds and title insurance as well as pay the back taxes and sign the release of lien forms necessary! The Lord has done it again and we are joyful that He rewards our faith so dramatically.

October 25, 1976 ~ Hebrews 11:1

The days have been fairly flying by. The roof rafters are now in place and the building is almost completely framed and closed in – and not a day too soon, there were some snowflakes flying around the open attic this afternoon. It is such a thrill to walk around the Retreat building and look forward to its use in our ministry.

March 29, 1977 ~ Psalm 139 and Psalm 127:1

We have had exciting days. The Retreat building is almost completed and is such a testimony of God's goodness. We hope to have it finished in time for a pastor's wives retreat in May, Melissa will lead it – women only!

August 30, 1977 (Last Entry)

The dedication on June 19, 1977 was a beautiful and joyful experience. We think 150-175 attended to help us praise Him for His faithfulness. Melissa thanked the Father and Bruce, Andrea and Brent (the McBurney children) in a special way. Ed Bratcher, Scott Middleton and Byrn Williamson (the first board of directors) each made comments about the need for the retreat and committed each of us to helping meet that need. Rebecca Self sang – gloriously – with Judy Barrett's accompaniment. We read the Word and told of His miracles and prayed our thanksgiving.



Louis and Melissa with the original 3 board members: Ed Bratcher, Bryn Williamson, MD and Scott Middleton, MD.
March 2008

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



The Upper Crystal River Valley below Marble Retreat

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4, 14

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it, or taking from it.

Thus has God done that he may be revered.



GROUP SCHEDULE FOR 2009

8-day sessions

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

Mar. 10-19	May 12 - 21	July 21-30*	Sept. 15-24
Mar. 24-April 2	June 2-11*	August 4 – August 13	Oct. 13-22
April 14 - 23 *	June 16-25	August 18-27	Oct. 27-Nov. 5*
April 28 – May 7	July 7-16	Sept 1-10 *	Nov. 10 - 19
			Dec. 1 – 10*

**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.

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please notify us at ministrycare@marbleretreat.org.

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.

OUR LOSS IS HEAVEN'S GAIN

This winter we said good bye to Louis McBurney. He died on January 20, 2009. Louis, along with his wife Melissa, was our visionary for Marble Retreat. Moreover, he was a visionary for the care of those in Christian service for well over 35 years. He will be sadly missed by all of us connected with Marble Retreat and so many family members and friends. His legacy continues not only through the services that continue here, but also by many ministries to clergy that Louis mentored around the world. The McBurney family is asking that gifts in Louis' memory be sent to Marble Retreat.



*Louis McBurney
circa 1977*

*Now faith is being sure
of what we hope for and
certain of what we do not see.*

Hebrews 11:1

Spring 2009

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