

Ministers' Silent Prayer Retreats



An Explanation

Since 1992 our Network has been conducting the annual Ministers' Silent Prayer Retreats. This brochure intends to explain the retreat's vital importance and the benefits to the retreatants.

The Retreat

The retreats are patterned after a format developed in the mid-1500's and used by many denominations all over the world since that time. Utilizing the Scriptures retreatants are challenged in five 1/2 hour sessions and in the quiet times thereafter to **Become More like Jesus** in their ministry and in their personal and home lives.

The Challenge

These retreats are for ministers who want to spend time in God's presence, experiencing God's love and knowing the Lord in a better way. In addition, the retreatant may have personal issues to bring before God in a timely manner.

In 2 Corinthians Paul reminds us that ministers all face the challenge of keeping their Faith intact (and in fact growing it) when he says:

“Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the Faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give your self regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is (still) in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.”

In these retreats the Network provides its ministers an opportunity to receive such “regular checkups.” The retreats may speak to ministers experiencing things like:

- ~lackluster prayer lives
- ~struggles with habitual sin
- ~waning ministerial zeal
- ~a general discontent with life
- ~marriage difficulties
- ~personal financial problems
- ~weariness and burn-out
- ~a questioning of their life choices

The Director

Although the Holy Spirit is the actual Director of these retreats, our on-site director from the start has been Pastor Pete Fischer, retired AG minister out of our church in Port Washington. Pastor Fischer, a long-time retreatant himself, brings to us both an extensive background in conducting such retreats as well as a passion for what the Holy Spirit will do for those who are willing to go off in silence and provide Him with an opportunity.

The Silence

The distinctive of these retreats is the silence. Retreatants maintain silence throughout, including the free times between the sessions, mealtimes and evenings. As one of the giants of the Faith once said, ***“If you want to know God, be silent.”*** During the retreats all efforts are made to drown out all noise but the voice of the Lord. In that regard, private rooms are provided for all retreatants.

The Sites, Dates and Cost

Retreats are held at Assembly Park in mid-September, Spencer Lake in early October and virtually during the Fall/Winter of each year. All efforts are made to keep the cost affordable with financial aid being available whenever needed.



**Wisconsin Northern Michigan
Ministries Network**