

▶ Read how a pastor found the paradox of ministry through his own journey of pain.

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▶ Discover how God can free your church and your pastor through the business link.

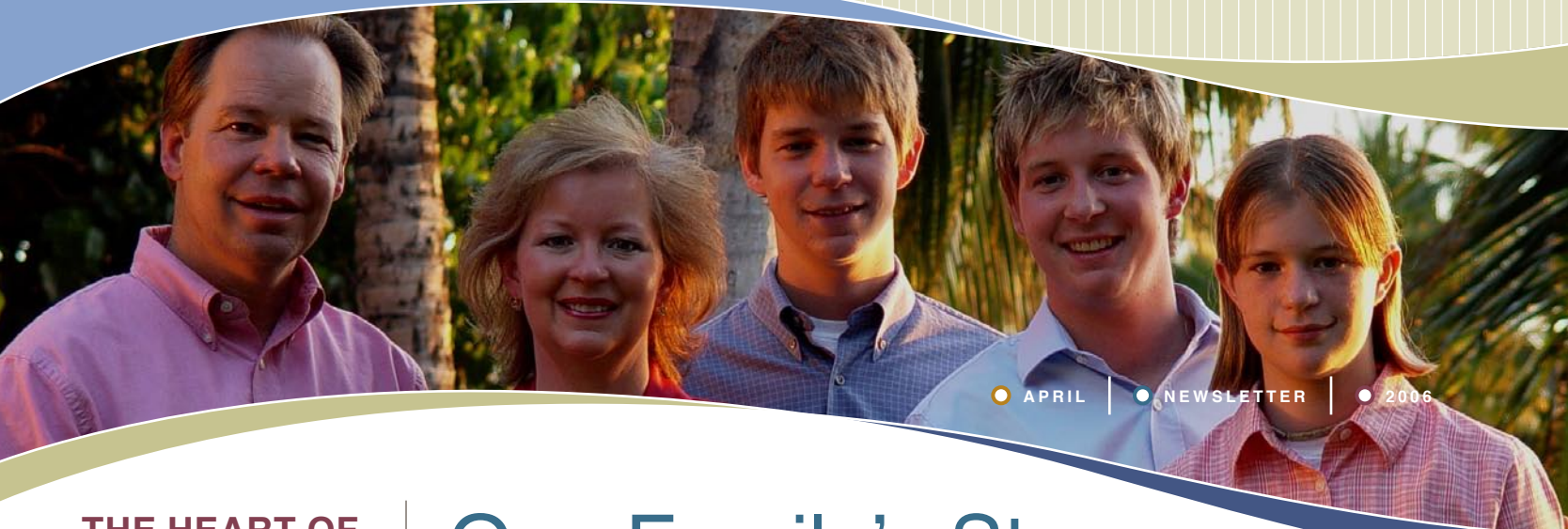
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▶ Share the vision of Ken Stults, former pastor and PastorCare Board Member.

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▶ Read how in stepping down, Director John Smith stepped ahead.

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THE HEART OF PASTORCARE

PastorCare is a faith-based, non-profit national clergy support network that exists to help hurting pastors and their families by providing local access to mentoring and support. Services include:

- | confidential friendship
- | employment networking
- | health care
- | hospitality hosts
- | mentoring
- | prayer intercessors

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THE GREAT LAKES REGION

One Family's Story

Most people see a move from behind a pulpit to the business workplace as a move *away* from the pastorate. For me, just the opposite has been true.

Sue and I met when I was studying to be a business major. During the early years of our marriage, I sensed God calling me to ministry, and He blessed us with a ten-year ministry in Grandville, Michigan.

Sue and I didn't realize during those years that a painful segue from ministry was looming. Eventually, our church leadership underwent transition, and integrity required that we resign. But after years of pouring out our lives, we didn't receive a single call of condolence or expression of support from our church family when we left.

We were devastated, but Sue and I found help through Paraklesis Ministries, where we learned the priority of forgiveness. Without the biblical counseling we received, we would never have moved forward.

Not long afterwards, I was with my kids at a movie. I saw a couple of teenagers dressed in black with tattoos and piercings. For the first time, I was drawn to kids like that. Two months earlier I would have seen them through religious eyes and thought, "Poor kids, I need to help you." Now my eyes fixated on theirs and I realized, "I'm just like you."

A year later God told me He wanted me to always see myself with that same need of Him and that same need of grace. My painful experience took away the "answer man" and left me as a person the world can relate to.

I'm now a pastor in the business world. I'm not an answer man, but I see the depth of hurt in people. My ministry is a paradox. I've had as great a ministry outside the ministerial role as from behind a pulpit. In business, in walking with others in their hurt, I've been able to embrace my true calling.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bob and Bette Smith, D.P.M.
Mark Vander Meer, M.Div.*

Grace Team:

Three PastorCare team members (names not listed) are available to walk alongside Christian leaders desiring to gain victory over pornography addiction. These individuals have experienced freedom from bondage in this area and desire to serve as confidential friends, mentors, and encouragers to others engaged in the struggle.

The Business Link: A Gift to Your Church, a Gift to Your Pastor



Churches often struggle to pay their pastors salaries that can provide for their needs. They are often asked to live below the median of their boards or professionals with similar degrees. The strain on their families can be great, and the financial burden often falls on their spouses.

Gary and Susie Ream met at Grand Rapids Baptist College in the seventies. Their early years of ministry placed financial responsibility upon Susie, as Gary served in church associate positions, then attempted to return to graduate school. The door closed on several ministry opportunities, and in spite of Susie's health problems, she continued to work.

Eventually, the Reams moved back to Michigan from a pastorate in Illinois, and finances continued to be sparse as Gary worked doing painting and carpentry. But after several years, a pastorate opened in western Michigan, resulting in twelve years of blessing.

But growth never comes without a price. A church

power struggle began, and Gary's salary was cut in half as funds declined. During this time, Susie required a medical leave from work, then found it necessary to stop working entirely. Suddenly, the Reams were facing the loss of Susie's income and insurance, in addition to Gary's 50% cut in salary. After fifteen years of loving ministry, the Reams knew it was time to begin healing and providing for their own financial stability.

Gary saw God's calling to develop a business that would take the financial burden from his wife and his church and allow him to provide for his family. That business, developed with EcoQuest International, has allowed Gary not only to provide for his family, but to begin developing support services for missionaries and churches. Through the financial freedom the Reams are gaining through Gary's business, they are training with Life Skills International (Paul Hegstrom, Colorado). They have also received valuable insights through Alongside ministries and PastorCare.

The business link has been a gift to the Reams, their church, and those who will receive Gary and Susie's training under the new ministry that God is entrusting to them for this stage of their ministry journey. The Reams thank God for opening this door of opportunity that will allow them to use their gifts in churches across the nation and around the world.

THE NEED.

70% of pastors feel that they are grossly underpaid.

50% of pastors would leave the ministry if they had another means of income.

PastorCare is a faith ministry. Our funding comes from individuals who believe in our mission. All contributions are tax deductible, as PastorCare is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Any gift you are able to send will be used to expand our outreach to pastors and their families. We thank you in advance for your generosity. Contributions can be sent directly to the PastorCare Great Lakes Treasurer, Mr. Curt Chadwick, CPA, 121 Mill St., Saranac, MI 48881.

Introducing Ken Stults



For Ken Stults, life has always been about relationships. His love for people took him down a path where a pulpit sometimes separated him from people in need. But in recent years, God has taken the pulpit out of the pathway and placed Ken in a ministry where his gift for building relationships is building the kingdom of God.

Ken felt God's call into ministry while he was a college student and serving as a youth pastor in Muskegon, Michigan. He met his wife Sharon while he was a student, and they later moved to the Chicago area, where Ken earned a Master of Divinity.

Soon after graduation, Sharon and Ken were called to serve Reformed congregations in western Michigan. It was during Ken's tenure in his second church as Senior Pastor that conflict arose, and he submitted his resignation.

Ken expected God would move him back into ministry. He was right – God did, but not

behind a pulpit. Today Ken is one of Nationwide Insurance Agency's most successful business owners, producing over \$3.5 million in annual sales out of 2 offices. Within that role, he finds himself facing needy men and women every day and is given the opportunity to develop relationships with people at all levels.

Recently a client revealed that his wife had left him. Ken pushed the paperwork aside and turned the conversation to spiritual things. They prayed together, and Ken invited his client to church. He came, and today this couple is growing together in a local church, and their marriage is healing.

"I'm the insurance guy now," Ken shares. "I'm safe. People open up to me because they know I really care and they're not skeptical because they think I'm paid to do it."

As a PastorCare Board member, Ken is sensitive to men and women who are struggling with the demands of ministry and is delighted to be in a position of support, creating the infrastructure for an organization that comes alongside pastors and their families.

"I'm incredibly impressed with the caliber of people God is bringing together to minister through PastorCare. It's a privilege to be part of the team."

HELPFUL BOOKS FOR PASTORS AND CHURCHES

Crushed: The Perilous Journey Called Ministry

by Gary L. Pinion

Pinion offers help to churches refocusing for effective ministry.

The Will of God as a Way of Life: Finding and Following the Will of God
by Gerald Sittser

This book shows how it is possible to live out God's perfect will, even when we have landed in serious trouble because of our decisions

Been Wronged Lately?: Biblical Remedies in an Age of Litigation
by David Garrett

An attorney, Garrett identifies an epidemic of subsurface conflict in today's church and presents principles of Christian dispute resolution.

Before You Quit
by Blaine Allen

Allen provides tools to help those in ministry review expectations evaluate roots of dissatisfaction, and assess physical, emotional, and spiritual strengths.

Character Forged from Conflict: Staying Connected to God During Controversy
by Gary Preston

Preston speaks with candor about the realities of the ministry and points pastors to God, offering hope for grace and comfort in suffering.

Passing the Leadership Baton

At the March Board Meeting, Renwick Brutus was elected Board Chairman and Larry Orange was elected Vice-Chairman. The leadership and constituency of PastorCare would like to express their sincere thanks to Mark Barber for serving as Chairman for PastorCare's critical first year of ministry.

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PastorCare would like to express its thanks to the following companies who have donated office furniture and equipment:

Gerrit's Appliance
Don Geers

Keane Consulting
Jeff Oxford

Miedema Cement Contractor
Bruce Miedema

Office Outlet
Jeff and Lori Cullin

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Warren VanKampen

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Art Palmer

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Shelly Beach, Editor

From the Director's Heart



Individuals who leave the business world to enter the pastorate are typically celebrated. The transition is often seen as crossing the threshold onto the sacred ground of "ministry." However, when pastors enter the business world, the church's response is often very different.

Western culture, and even the Western church, has divided our world into "secular" and "sacred." Pastors stepping from behind their pulpits are often viewed as stepping down from "real" ministry to something less significant. More often than not, they face the stigma of shame and failure.

I have the highest respect for pastors who have experienced forced exits and have then pursued successful business ventures. God is using them to minister to people they never would have met had they been known as "pastors."

If you know a former pastor who is now involved in business, bless them with a word of encouragement and an attitude of grace. It will mean more to them than you can imagine.

In January, 2005 I did something few people would consider doing. I went into a start-up ministry and a start-up business at the same time. Both ventures required huge amounts of time, energy, and capital. As my responsibilities continued to increase in the business as well as

the ministry, I began feeling stretched in too many ways.

At the fifteen month mark, I realized I had to make a choice. I met with some trusted friends and asked for their wisdom, advice, and help. I followed their unanimous recommendation and submitted my resignation from BroadBand Telephony Systems, effective March 27, 2006.

Few people would likely have been willing to do what I did in the start-up phase of the VoIP phone company. However, there are many people who can do what is needed at this point in the company and do it much more effectively than I can. A good leader knows when it is time to step aside and let someone more qualified take the company to the next level.

I am feeling a sense of freedom, peace, and excitement to be able to focus my complete attention and energy on the ministry of PastorCare Great Lakes. There is nothing better that I can do with my life than to embrace God's call, pursue the passion He has created within my heart, and focus my effort and energy on what I do best – being a personal pastor to pastors and their families.

God has given us peace and assurance that He will provide for the needs of our family as we seek to raise our financial support as missionaries serving pastors and their families. Please join with us in any way you can in this awesome adventure.

Set free to pursue my passion and calling,

John W. Smith
Great Lakes Regional Director