

# TRI-STATE

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP

### Preachers' & Elders' Retreat – March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

#### **“Some Things I Missed on the Way to the Ministry” – by Phil LaMaster**

“Oh, the innocence of youth!” You do know what I am talking about don't you? It happens to everyone who has a dream of being effective in this event we call life. For the young minister it is simple, “We are going to save the world.” Everyone will listen to all we have to say and will help us in all we have to do because everyone wants to do what is right! We unwittingly believe that all who takes on the name of Christ really are on His side and want to do all that will glorify Him. If we will just say our prayers, read our Bible, give our money, and do right everything will turn out just fine.

Call me crazy if you wish, but that was my idea of what life in the ministry would be like. Boy was I ever wrong. How could I have been so mistaken about what real ministry would involve? Quite simply, I had a mistaken view of the work and of the world in which we live. I cannot remember who said it but it is true, “Christianity is not a playground, it is a battle ground.” Bluntly stated, “We are at war.”

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”*  
(Ephesians 6:10-13, NIV)

When I read Paul's words, it makes me realize that I had underestimated the enemy. Not only have I made that mistake, I also was woefully prepared for the battles that would come my way. Did they tell me about this war in Bible College? I can't really say that anyone ever told me what it would be like to serve in the church. Now part of that may have been the fact that I wasn't listening, but I will also tell you that if someone would have told me all that I would face I might have jumped ship on the ministry before I ever got started.

When my desire was to win the world and the greatest obstacles to accomplishing that task were coming from within the walls of the church I was surprised to say the least. Once again my ignorance of the Word was a hindrance to my understanding.

*"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."  
(2 Corinthians 11:13-15, NIV)*

Where would the workers of evil stage their battle? Well, on the fields of righteousness of course! Satan couldn't defeat Christ so his next best target would be those who would want to live for Christ. Now the last time I checked, that would be people like you and me. If they hated the Christ, why are we amazed when we are hated? If they undermined the Christ, why be amazed when we are undermined? If they killed Christ – do you get the picture? You see, this is a war! – Phil LaMaster

**Dear Preacher and/or Elder of the Gospel,**

Our first annual *"Preachers' & Elders' Retreat"* will be held March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 at Tri-State Christian Service Camp in Strasburg, Virginia. God loves you unconditionally, and we love you. This special retreat is being planned especially for you.

The title for this retreat is *"Wounded, Weak, and Weary."* There may be nothing worse in the world than to be a wounded soldier and no one seems to care. We will be looking at the battles that leave us wounded and what we can do to insure that the wounds are not fatal to our spiritual life.

Most of the time when someone asks, "How are you," we answer, "FINE." Fine means Frustrated, Irritated, Neurotic, or Edgy. Maybe you were there once. We need your insights. Possibly you are there now. You need our brotherhood. And if it has never happened to you, it is on the way...Come and get ready to overcome!

To register, please send the registration card to Ringgold Church of Christ or call the church at 301-824-2772. The retreat at Tri-State Christian Service Camp will begin on March 31<sup>st</sup> with a wonderful dinner at 6:00 PM. (Great Food!) The first session will start at 7:30 PM. We will end the retreat on April 1<sup>st</sup> with lunch provided. The cost will be \$15 a person with pre-registration by February 18<sup>th</sup>. Registrations after February 18<sup>th</sup> will be \$25.

I am looking forward to seeing you!



Don Conley

***Financial help is available for anyone needing assistance. Please, don't let money keep you away.***



The leaders of *Living Hope Ministry* are Phil and Rhonda LaMaster. They were born and raised in Scottsburg, Indiana, and graduated from Scottsburg High School in 1969. Phil went on to Cincinnati Bible College where he earned his B.S. in Christian Ministries in 1974. Rhonda graduated from Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, in 1973 with a B.A. in Elementary Education and earned a Master's Degree from Indiana University Southeast in 1996.



Being high school sweethearts, they were married in August of 1973. Phil has held ministries at Kenwood Heights Christian Church, Louisville, Kentucky, Liberty Church of Christ, Liberty, Indiana, Paoli Christian Church, Paoli, Indiana, and First Christian Church, Scottsburg, Indiana. Phil is currently working full time in organizing and operating *Living Hope Ministry*. Rhonda has had teaching jobs in Milan, Indiana, Louisville, Kentucky, and Paoli, Indiana. She is currently teaching math at Scottsburg Middle School and helping with *Living Hope Ministry*. Phil has been in the ministry for 35 years, and they have been married for 32 years. Phil and Rhonda have two children and one granddaughter.

In developing *Living Hope Ministry*, Phil and Rhonda want to continue their lifetime commitment to ministry by helping people who are struggling to find the one who can give them Living Hope.

**Living Hope Ministry**  
4109 South Taylor Road  
Scottsburg, IN 47170  
(812)752-2634  
<http://www.living-hope-ministry.com>

# MinistrytoMinisters

1. Personal support to ministers — Creating a safety net of support, everyone needs a safe place to go for help.
2. Training in the practical aspects of everyday ministry.
3. Setting up lines of accountability and teaching ministers how to find personal accountability partners.
4. Mentors — Teaming up effective ministry leaders with those who might need help or those who are struggling in the ministry.
5. Practical help in identifying the needs of a church body.
6. Practical help in identifying the needs of the individual ministers.
7. Sermon planning — Learning how to plan for the next quarter, the next six months, the next year in advance.
8. Calendar development for effective body life in the church.
9. Calendar control for effective work in the personal life of the minister.
10. Vision casting — Developing the ability to see the Lord's leading in everyday ministry.
11. Timing — Practical helps in the value of right-timing in all endeavors.

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## CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP

# Preachers' & Elders' Retreat

## “How to Do More Than Just Survive In Ministry”

March 31<sup>st</sup> & April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

### Monday Night:

6:00 PM	Registration & Check-in
6:30 – 7:15 PM	Dinner – “ <i>A Preachers' &amp; Elders' Feast</i> ”
7:00 – 8:30 PM	Praise & Worship Special Music Special Guest: Phil LaMaster <b>Topic: The Reality – “<i>Wounded – Weak – and Weary</i>”</b>
8:30 – 9:30 PM	Fellowship: Ice Cream Sundaes and Home-made Red Raspberry & Cherry Cobblers
9:30 – 10:45 PM	Concert of Prayer <b>Question – Answer &amp; Sharing Session: Phil LaMaster</b>
10:45 PM	Good Night! See You in the morning!

### Tuesday Morning:

8:00 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Praise & Worship Special Guest: Phil LaMaster <b>Topic: The Retreat – “<i>Who Can I Trust and How Do I Learn To Trust?</i>”</b>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:55 AM	Praise & Worship Special Guest: Phil LaMaster <b>Topic: The Resolve – “<i>If God Be For Us...</i>”</b>
NOON	LUNCH <i>Go and Be Men of Courage and Passion. Go and Be Men who are Godly Warriors.</i>

**(Pre-Registration by February 18<sup>th</sup> is \$15: Registration after February 18<sup>th</sup> is \$25)**  
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For More Information Call Ringgold Church of Christ at (301) 824- 2772