

The wife's perspective on men's ministry
by Charmane Deol

He Morphed!

When my husband, Phil, decided to attend a Saddleback men's retreat a few years ago, I was so excited because prior to this I was usually the one to bring up church, small groups, ministry or anything to do with God (read Phil's testimony).

While he was there, something so powerful happened to him because he would call me at every break with an excitement in his voice as he looked forward to the next gathering. I could hardly believe that this was happening to my "macho" husband. His heart was starting to soften.

Upon returning, he had so much to share. He just couldn't stop talking about how God was changing him.

Well, at the retreat he met a special man by the name of Kenny Luck. He sat with Kenny and some other guys and was very impressed by everyone's zeal for the Lord. I know he wanted that in his own life.

At the retreat Kenny told him about the Thursday morning Bible study and shortly after he started to attend. I really believe that without that connection time each week, he would not have continued on his new spiritual direction.

As time went on, I saw my husband's spiritual life totally morph. He started a quiet time consistently every morning before work. One time I got up at 4:00am and saw something on his closet floor. It was my husband kneeling before the Lord and praying. My heart was so full of joy!

I've also watched his knowledge of the Bible grow as he reads it every morning. Whenever I have a question, I now go to him for the answer. His heart has grown soft, and he is sensitive to what's happening around him in the world. To know him for the 10 years before and then to know him now – it's just a full turn around!

I can't even tell you what a feeling it is to have your husband be the spiritual head and motivator in the family. He is now the one making sure we attend church regularly. He is the one reading the Bible to my daughters and teaching them about the love of God.

It is priceless to have a husband that will bring up your children with the knowledge of our Savior. What a blessing that is! He is now the one helping to calm my nerves, and we keep each other accountable in our personal lives.

He is more like a partner than ever before. I look up to and admire him in so many ways because of the changed man he has become.

He used to be a man who would not invest much time in people outside of his family, but now Phil leads two small groups and fervently prays for all the prayer requests on a daily basis. I see his heart hurt for the poor, and I know that his feelings are sincere.

He has witnessed to so many people, and quite unashamedly! He is not afraid or embarrassed one bit to share his faith with anyone.

He Has a Heart

Another thing that has impacted me personally is Phil's new found ability to share his feelings and show his emotions. This was never easy for him before, and I really think that has come from the men's Bible study and the small groups within them.

Unlike women, men don't normally have the kind of relationship with their friends where they can talk about their real issues. In the environment on Thursday mornings, he can bear his soul and know that he will not be rejected or shunned because he is with other men that are there to do the very same thing.

What a phenomenal opportunity that is for a man. And, I know that our entire family has benefited from that in the many ways I have listed above along with countless others.

I can only imagine what our life would be like had he not made the decision to let God be in control of his life. But, I do know that it would not in any way resemble what it is today.

We are so committed to each other, through thick and thin. The Lord knows we have our issues, but He also knows that we are going to work through them with His help and guidance.

What a wonderful thing it is to build a marriage on that foundation, and I am so thankful to God for penetrating Phil's heart through the men's ministry and the change this has brought about in his life, my life, our family's life, and the lives of others Phil is able to touch for Jesus.

-Pastors.com-