



**2015?  
SPEAKING!  
COACHING!  
TEACHING!  
RETREATS!**

This is the perfect opportunity to call or email Marilyn

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## IF I AM TOO BUSY IN MY MINISTRY...

for church staff and volunteers

\* Whose opportunity for ministry am I usurping? Remember, we are called to be a priesthood of all believers. That means everyone has been given gifts by God to be used in the Body of Christ. If I am doing more than my share, then someone else is being deprived of their opportunity to serve, to make a difference, to use their God-given gifts.

\* I may well resent the very people I serve. My "Martyred Swedish Mother" act is not my most appealing role. Jesus calls us to love one another, not to host a Betty Crocker Suffer Off, to determine who is working the hardest, with the least appreciation.

\* Enlisting volunteers is not about asking others to help you with your ministry, but is about the creation of a ministry team. Together, as each brings unique gifts, we are so much stronger, more creative, and more passionate than any one of us can be alone.

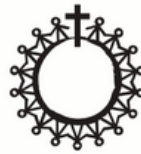
\* Is it time to clean out the "ministry closet"? Frequently, we add new ministries. Infrequently, if ever, do we stop doing ministries. Why not? Well, they used to work. We might hurt the feelings of those who built and loved them. We might seem ungrateful, as though we do not value the ministries that served us so well in the past. Open your clothes closet. Are the things you wore 20 years ago still in active service? Why not? Well, they don't fit your body or your lifestyle or the time in which we live. The same can be true of our "ministry closet." How can you tell? Do you have to work harder and harder to recruit both volunteers and participants? Does the ministry not get you the results you desire? Then, it may be time to celebrate that ministry, giving thanks to those who served, and gently remove it, making room for the new things God will bring us to do.

\* I may be creating the expectation that following Jesus is about running on your ankles, being miserable, exhausted, and chronically unhappy. I guarantee that this is not the way to "Go, make disciples."

\* I am probably not tending my own spiritual journey and spending time with the one who created and loves me beyond reason. That is no way to model living a life-transforming faith in Jesus Christ.

### NEED SOME HELP?

Do you need some help gaining perspective, evaluating your ministries, reestablishing your priorities, discerning where God is calling your congregation now, and engaging all to participate? This



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## TOO BUSY TO READ THIS? for families

### FOR FAMILIES:

Of course, you are too busy to read this! Why? Let me guess: work, school obligations, laundry, food preparation, house cleaning, childcare, elder care, carpools, kids' activities, adult activities, schedules that are over-full, exhaustion and sleep deprivation, financial worries, employment worries, health, mental health, chemical use, challenges in relationships ... and on and on and on it goes.

So, what can we possibly do?

### PRIORITIZE

*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Lk.12:34*

What really matters to your family? Do your calendar and expenditures really align with your values? Have this conversation as a family to examine if all are feeling safe, joyous, loved, and relaxed in time together ... and ask whether or not there is enough time together. Ask each person in your family to name one thing they can do individually to live your family priorities. Ask all to decide on one thing the family can do to live your values.

Where is God in your life? Where is your faith family? How do you love God back in service to God's world?

### ELEVATE RELATIONSHIPS

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14*

God made relationships the top priority when God send Jesus, to be here, to be fully present with us.

Look at each of the people in your life and see a child of God. Make time together a top priority. Be fully present. The number one source of sadness for children, ages 4-18, is that parents look at their smart phones more than at them! Listen to your child with everything you've got - your ears, your eyes, your heart.

Have everyone pitch in to do the tasks that need to be done. Be a community, in which all are essential participants, and in which all enjoy the benefits of time together.

### LIMIT COMMITMENTS

*"Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things." Luke 10:41*

Make a list of all of the things your family does and is committed to do. Decide what things you absolutely cherish, that make your life feel abundant. Limit each of you to a smaller number of commitments. Teach your kids to say "no," modeling doing that yourself. Trust me, less is more. Sabbath time is one of God's commandments. Take time to rest in God.

### DEBUNK THE MYTH OF EFFECTIVE MULTI-TASKING

*Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10*

I thought I was really good, efficient, and effective at multi-tasking ... only to read the research that deflated my smug bubble. In fact, we decrease accomplishments and increase anxiety by multi-tasking.

might be the time for coaching with Marilyn Sharpe, a ministry partner who will focus, inspire, and walk with you and your ministry team to follow where God is leading.

**CALL OR EMAIL NOW!**

The Book of Tao says, "Surrender to the luxury of just one thing." Luxury, indeed. And for me, it meant a serious surrender. For one week, try doing just one thing at a time. Turn off multiple screens. Turn off all of the sources of background or foreground noise. Focus. Be fully present with each precious person in your household. I promise, it will be so much easier.

**CELEBRATE**

... the people, the places, the opportunities, the good things that are already yours. Give thanks to God!

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**The Living Room Summit  
APRIL 28 - 30, 2015**

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