



Evangelical Free Church
of Hershey

*For the glory of God
and the good of people*

March 4, 2004

Dear George,

I am writing to thank you again for your ministry at our recent men's retreat. During and since the retreat I have received much feedback about the retreat generally and your part in it, and have not heard a negative comment. Prior to the retreat I was not sure how our men would respond to dramatic presentations of Scripture as the basis of a retreat, but we all were challenged and encouraged and things could not have gone better. The applications you drew from the stories were poignant and most relevant to the issues we face as men. You also brought alive passages that have been read many times, yet the familiar words seemed somehow different, fresh and inspiring.

The guys also really appreciated your transparency and availability throughout the weekend. Past speakers have done fine presentations, but then disappeared to study and prepare. You "hung out" with the guys much of the time, and many were personally touched by the time you spent with them.

An amazing thing about your messages was that they reached across the barriers that usually come up when you have a variety of people together. The 173 men at the retreat were drawn from six churches - urban, suburban and rural - ranged in age from 17 to 85, and cut across blue collar, unemployed, retired and white collar lines; yet the message was received by all. Space does not permit me to share the many stories relayed to me by men who appreciated your time with us and the ways God has worked in their lives. Suffice it to say, God worked mightily. Thank you for your willingness to be used.

On a personal level, I was touched by your presentation of the life of Christ and the points drawn from that. During your Scriptural presentation, as I looked around the room of men, I saw tears flowing down the cheeks of many, some rough and tumble, all staring with rapt attention as God ministered through His Word.

George, thank you again for leaving your family behind for the weekend to share with us from the Hershey area. God has worked in some amazing ways and I still hear from men who wish to get involved in small groups or who want to let God change them or their marriages. You truly were a blessing!

Serving together,

Gary T. Lathrop
Pastor for Men's Ministries and Community Life