



Stories of Renewal

Volume 7

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Medical Missionary Finds Healing and Hope

Dr. Cynthia Calla, a missionary medical doctor, was evacuated from Cambodia during a coup in 1997. MRI sent a counselor to Bangkok to assist in debriefing her and 24 other missionaries. After the debriefing week, MRI continued to minister to Dr. Calla in the US. We gave her, in her words, "space and grace." She not only received healing from the trauma but was able to deal with the burnout she was experiencing in her life. Dr. Calla, twenty years later, is now working with AIDS patients in Africa and thriving. She recently wrote the following to us, "I think that perseverance in ministry is a great need among ministers in this day and time when the world around us seems to be going crazy and people are losing their moorings. So many missionaries and pastors I know have quit the ministry. In my walk, your ministry helped me to persevere after Cambodia when I wanted to resign; you saved my missionary career."

Sharing at Christian Counseling Training

I wanted to thank all of you for the blessing you were to me during the Christian counseling training. Not only did I receive many ideas and tools that will directly apply to my ministry setting but I personally was challenged and encouraged. I'm still processing everything we talked about and probably will be for a long time!

Thank you for sharing your stories, experience, and wisdom. I so appreciate all that you do at MRAP and hope that I'll be able to participate in more trainings in the future.

Missionary to Northern Asia

You Are Part of All This

A veteran missionary from Africa was leaving after his last appointment. He turned, pointed at the counselor and proclaimed with emphasis, "You are part of all of this!" In counseling he had described his evangelistic crusades in Africa. In one crusade 70,000 persons had signed commitment to Christ cards. The counselor was overwhelmed with the thought that he had a part in the outcome of the crusade.

Cocoon of God's Love

MRI is a cocoon of God's healing love. When you walk into the facility you can feel the presence of the Lord. It is no wonder, because every moment they are open, God's word is being communicated at some level. The staff of MRI could be described as God's love with skin on. We were recipients of "perfect love casts out all fear". The love they displayed through the power of the Holy Spirit silenced the enemy of fear. Each encounter we had while at MRI pointed to the light of God's word. As they wrapped us in the word of God, freedom took residence in our hearts. We would no longer be missionaries today if it were not for MRI. They loved our crippled beings back to health.

Missionaries to Africa

Thank you for your loving service and ministry to missionaries, pastors and their families who come to you often confused, tired, depressed and broken.

May God continue to bless and strengthen each of you as you pour God's love into so many others!

Pastor's Wife in the Northwest

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Hearts and Minds Transformed

Our family was accepted, encouraged, taught and welcomed in a way that has begun to transform our hearts and minds. By God's love and grace we had this opportunity – but thank you for everything! If obedience is success, we believe you are successful!

Pastors from Montana

A Safe Place

We want to thank you for providing a safe place where we can share our deepest need and greatest pain. And knowing we won't be judged for it. Thank you for so graciously being with us thru some of our darkest days. You helped us to know, see and feel God's grace and forgiveness. We have come to understand so many of God's truths and you have given us real tools to use to help us grow in Christ and to grow closer in relationships. Thank you for listening/loving and carefully and prayerfully giving us so much hope. We see Jesus in you!

With all our love and appreciation!

Pastor from the Northwest

A Missionary Family from India Speaks

After many years in overseas fieldwork, we sought a service that could best debrief our family transition back to the USA. MRI staff were above our expectations. They were caring, gracious and full of insight as they walked us through some healthy steps in learning to "grieve well." We also learned from them some invaluable tools for healthy communication and decision making. Our family is better for it. Thank you MRI staff!

Dad

I feel like the MRI staff were not just walking us through a program, rather, they helped us navigate as we walk through some difficult transition. Rather than grieving our past, I have more hope to look back with joy, celebrating what God has done. With some new communication tools from MRI, I also feel more equipped to communicate with my teenage children. Thank you!

Mom

This is not a thank you card, it's a hug with a fold in it. You guys have done so much to help our family and we are extremely thankful for everything you have taught us. We have grown so much as a family and through your help we have realized there is more to learn.

What I, as a teenager, really loved about MRI, was how, despite my age, I was taken seriously. And that even though I was younger, my story and my words were given just as much importance as my parents'. I loved sharing anecdotes with the staff and only wish I could have heard more. The skills they taught us were also really helpful, and somethings I hope to use in my life, down the road.

Daughter

As a teenager, I thought that going into MRI would be good for my family and that it would benefit us tremendously. That happened yes, but something happened I wasn't really thinking about. I benefitted as a lone individual. Not only was I taken seriously, but the fact that there were people to share certain things with that had been pent up inside me was a good feeling. The life skills they taught us from decision making to biblical meditation are all things I plan to use in my future.

Son