

# Broom Tree Ministries

Two Testimonies from a Broom Tree Retreat

Marc and Shane Schwichtenberg - Mt. Prospect, IL

## Push The Reset Button

Don't you love a good reset button? You might find one on a video game that you love to play, but just some how can't get past level 1. Or maybe you push that small round reset button after watching your bowling ball struggle to topple all the pins over. Regardless of where you use it, you'll always experience a fresh start. I pushed the reset button with God this week! Did you know He has one? It can come in many forms. It might be a simple prayer, a devotion, or picking up your Bible. For me, it was a spiritual retreat. I spent 5 days in solitude with God and my husband at a picturesque lodge in upper Michigan called The Shack. The retreat was lead by Broom Tree Ministries. They lead FREE spiritual retreats for pastors and their wives. Yes, you read it right, FREE! Talk about a reset button! We wandered through the woods, slept in late, read books, discussed life, paddled around the lake, and ate banana splits! (The Shack is famous for serving banana splits EVERY night... did I mention I gained 10 pounds?) The retreat is structure free. There are no time lines, just food times! The rest of the time is on your own. No computers, TV, phone, newspaper, children. Ahhh... quiet... The primary goal is to get alone, to find a sense of peace, so that you can hear God's small still voice. Some people may find it hard to do, but I loved every minute of it. I learned so much about God, myself and my husband. Most importantly, I learned that God loves me, unconditionally. No matter what I did, where I've been, and who was with me - God loves me. He's been waiting for me to rest in His arms like I did this week. And I'm in love with Him too. Are you? It's weird, I know, to think of it that way. But, God calls us into a relationship with Him. The more you know someone, the more you love them. So, go ahead, push the reset button. How? Maybe take 5 minutes right now to crack your Bible open to Psalm 139. Hear God say how much He loves you, how much He knows you, and that He can't wait to spend more time with you.

Shane



## Fresh Wind - Fresh Fire

*My first Broom Tree retreat was three years ago here at the Shack Country Inn. Coming again brought back this wonderful memory:*

It was my first experience with this type of retreat. I was not aware of how tired I was but knew I was getting a very nasty cold. A free retreat with my wife and all I could do was sleep and sneeze. In the few moments I was awake during the day, I read Jim Cymbala's book, "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire".

The exhaustion remained until midnight of the third day there. I awoke - wide awake - clear headed and knew that I had a very special appointment with God near the lake. When I got up, Shane woke up and asked me where I was going. I told her I had to go down near the water to meet with God. "Just don't walk on the water", she cautioned.

So I went down to the lake and sat down in the wet grass. It was so still that the lake was like a mirror. Time passed and I waited to hear from Him in this beautiful quiet place He created. Then after about 30 minutes a very large bonfire burst into flames across the lake. Fresh fire I thought to myself in awe. Who starts a bonfire at this hour? As I watched it burn my practical American male mind told me not to 'over spiritualize' this - besides - there was absolutely no wind. And then it came with gusts and billows stirring the water into instantaneous froth. Now it was time to listen - I was on Holy ground.

What confirmation - what peace - what a gift. Though three days of the retreat were lost due to a cold - this moment made up for any 'lost' time!

Marc



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