

What Others are Saying about the Transforming Center

"The Transforming Center's retreats for pastors and leaders are just what I was looking for—a carefully crafted retreat series that integrates spiritual disciplines, community and leadership. If you are hungry for God, a leader, and in search of integration that produces discernment, this retreat is made to order."

—Barney Ford, Vice President
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

"This was the Best Spiritual Growth Experience of my life. I want to do this every year."
—Cheryl M.

"When I first read Ruth Barton's article on corporate spiritual discernment (Discerning God's Will Together: Discovering a Process of Leadership Discernment) I knew immediately she was saying something that I had not heard a lot in my leadership circles. After sharing the article with our elders and leadership team our hearts were united in wanting to learn more about a Spirit led process of discerning the will of God in community.

When Ruth led us in a retreat on corporate spiritual discernment we not only gained invaluable insight into the process but I can truly say that God revealed himself to us in a way that none of us ever expected. As Ruth guided us to practice what we were learning along the way God led us to a unanimous decision around a real church issue on which there was great division. We all marveled at what he did and were given great hope of how we can come together to become indifferent to everything but his will.

We have now made a commitment to journey with Ruth and the Transforming Center in their Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: An Invitation to Transforming Community. There is tremendous hunger among our leadership for more of what we have tasted."

—Senior Pastor, Tempe, Arizona

"I have led retreats and gone away for personal retreats for planning and message preparation, but this was the first time I went away for a guided retreat experience -- where I was solely a participant. The most stretching and rewarding part was the two extended periods of silence -- given to spend some significant time alone with God.

The value of a guided experience is that you are challenged to think about various questions. Instead of giving yourself the quick 'Sunday School answer' you give yourself permission to 'sit with the question' for a longer period of time. With the extended time, God begins to strip away the facades and masks we tend to hide behind.

After a long walk and some periodic seasons of prayer, I gained some clarity on some questions that have perplexed me for some time. The answers came slowly and are not yet fully answered -- but some significant pieces came together because I slowed the RPM's long enough to give God a chance to address my heartfelt questions."

—Pieter Van Waarde, Sr. Pastor, Woodcrest Chapel,
Columbia, Missouri

"My participation in the Transforming Community has been deeply replenishing. Each of the retreats has been outstanding, ushering me into intense experiences of solitude and community. I always leave feeling my thirsty soul has been rejuvenated."

—David Hughes, Pastor, First Baptist Church
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

"Thank you for all the ways you have helped me find Christ in my life as a pastor. My most recent thanks is for helping to bring this reality to my church family through the Sacred Rhythms retreat. As a result of my experience with the Transforming Center, I am now sharing life with my congregation in new and beautiful ways. This church that I love so much is touched by Christ's presence through the Transforming Center."

—Clare Loughrige, Sr. Pastor
Crossroads Church and Ministries, Marshall, Michigan

"Thank you for your participation in our Director Conference. Only God knew how much your insights and encouragement were needed by our directors. From the early evaluations already completed, it is so very clear that participants were hungry for the call to silence and solitude. Through you, God is calling clearly to many weary souls – including my own."

—Jinny Bult De Jong, President, Kids Hope USA

"The best thing we bring to ministry is our own transforming self." Most of what I have read or heard about Christian leadership in the past few years tends to focus on the importance of competency, skill, passion, and giftedness. These are all critical pieces to the life of a leader, but it seems to me that the core issue is the character and soul of a leader."

—Lynn Buckles, Director of Spiritual Development and Community Life
Crossroads Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky

"For me personally, the past two years (our staff community's two year learning process *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*) have transformed the way I see myself, my community, my identity in ministry, but most importantly my intimacy with God. I am learning to engage in the spiritual practices in a way that truly brings life to my soul. I am at a much healthier place to lead. I know that I will never be the same as a result of ministry of The Transforming Center."

—Lynn Buckles, Director of Spiritual Development and Community Life
Crossroads Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky

"Many thanks for your book *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*. It is being fruitful in the lives of the folks I work with here in Tennessee. Everyone on the Young Life staff in the state of Tennessee is reading it together over the next couple of months and our staff here in Knoxville reads and discusses a chapter each week at our staff meeting. It is a true gift (and challenge) to all of us in vocational ministry."

—Jim Branch, Area Director, Young Life
Knoxville, Tennessee

"I wanted to let you know that I gave a copy of *Sacred Rhythms* to all of Community Care Staff and they all loved it. It is really connecting with all of us. We have committed to quarterly retreats as a staff and have also adjusted our schedules so that each one of us has a solitude day once a month. We have been 'living within our limits' and put them to the test during this holiday season. It was amazing--when we usually get chewed up and spit out between Thanksgiving and Christmas, this year we were joyful, centered and available to God....a HUGE change for all of us. This is all a result of your leading and teaching so be encouraged!"

—Cole Griffin, Pastor, Grace Church
Racine, Wisconsin

"I attended the retreat you led in Valley Forge, PA a little more than a year ago. My attendance was prompted by reading your book, *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*, and working the solitude and silence disciplines in my life. What a great difference it has made in my life! Thank you for being God's instrument to open windows for allowing God's fresh air to flow more freely.

I find myself going back to your book and working it regularly."
—Senior Pastor, New York