

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MARTIN

Dear Body of Christ,

During most of my full-time ministry, since 1993, my life has been an open book. I've shared my joys and heartaches, my complaints and my (relatively speaking) moments of triumph. Some of you are newcomers to the ministry, but many of you have watched my sons grow up.

It is my desire to update you on the changes God has wrought in my life. I have told a few of you—and even intimated in some of my writings—that 2009 was the worst year of my life. God dropped me, His earthen vessel, onto a spinning wheel that, in my worst nightmares, I could never have anticipated.

In 2009, my wife of 26 years left me. Some days, the shock comes anew. There was no infidelity in my marriage—none. I was faithful to her; you need to know that. I never abused her, *ever*. I only loved her. But when another person turns a corner and no longer loves you ... it is an indelible agony that some day I may share with you. I know why this happened, but the details rest safely with God, where they belong.

Divorce is spiritually repulsive to me, especially between members of Christ's body. I tried everything, for a year, to conciliate her to me, but she was not interested.

Earlier this year, our divorce was finalized. She divorced me; I did not divorce her. I would never have done that, *ever*. I resisted it until I no longer could. So it ended.

I had never understood it when people used to say to me, "Divorce is worse than death." Now I know.

I don't know what God has planned for me, but I do know that, because of grace, there remains a sequel for me. I continue to live one moment at a time, trusting in His wisdom and sovereignty. These days, finally, I'm beginning to see light and healing at the end of the proverbial tunnel. I praise God for this. Once again, He redeems suffering.

As always, I'm deeply grateful to you, dear readers, for your love and prayers.

From the trenches, in grace and peace,

Martin