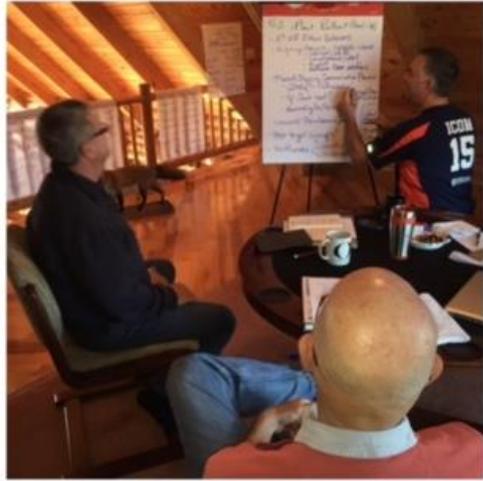
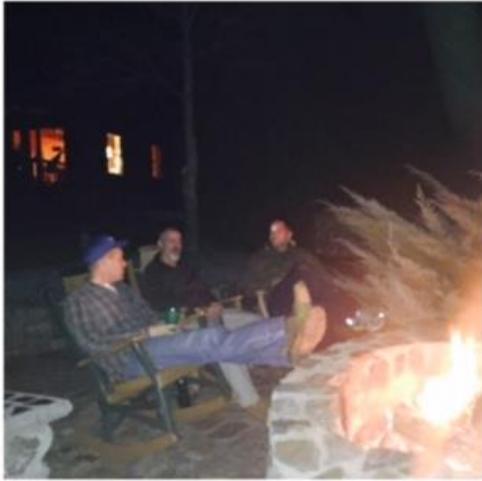


DECEMBER 2015



**The unusually warm  
weather has kept our  
outdoor retreats in high  
demand this season!**

**Here's a few sights from our recent  
excursions!**





**Has your pastor been able to join us for some special refreshment and recreation time???**

This year has truly flown by! God has blessed us with much growth in 2015. This is an exciting time and we are committed to even greater levels of support for pastor and leader care in 2016 and beyond.

Click [HERE](#) to read more details in our End of Year Christmas letter.

We are so very thankful for your continued support and prayer.

**Merry Christmas, and God bless!**

**Thanks again to  
Cardiac Science for this great  
giveaway gift!**

A fully loaded AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) was the grand prize for pastor Michael and April Rakes. An in house AED is another way to save lives!



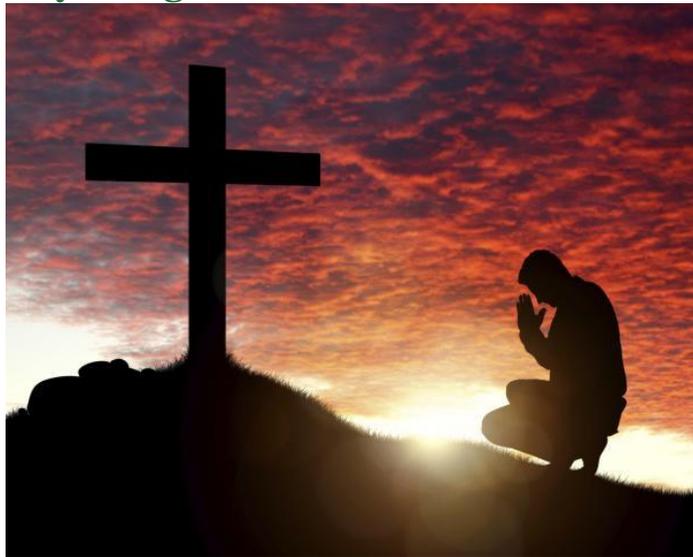
**Congratulations Michael!**

**Bend the Knee**

This morning, I heard a local pastor use the term "bend the knee" or "kneel on bended knee" in relation to worship, specifically our worship of Jesus this Christmas. It caused me to think about the what the posture of kneeling represents.

Kneeling is a position of humility and reverence. To kneel in worship of Jesus Christ our King is to truly acknowledge who He is, and to be overcome by His greatness.

This Christmas, I challenge you to take time to "bend the knee" and kneel before God to praise Him and worship Him for the indescribable gift of coming to earth as a man and living among us, being despised and rejected, and



being crucified by us, so that He may save us from our own sin. If we really wrap our minds around that, how can we *not* fall before Him in humility and worship, praise Him, and sing to Him?

From all of us, we wish you a very merry Christmas. Take time to pray, and worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords this season, and if you are able, I encourage you to exercise your ability to bend the knee -Andy.

**Call to Action**



It's the holiday season, and it is important to keep in mind that everything you're experiencing, your pastor is going through too. The hustle and bustle, the fatigue, the financial burden... and you don't even have to worry about preaching on Sunday!

Not only is your pastor exhausted from his usual outpouring of support for his congregation, he is now tired from numerous appearances at Sunday School parties, Golden Years' luncheons, and children's programs at church; on top of his OWN family functions. Your pastor may even be feeling renewed grief for lost loved ones. If he lives far away from his family, he is certainly feeling the pain of separation and loneliness.

Consider this from Rob Futral, a pastor in Mississippi:

*"I think about Jesus, when the woman touched him and the crowd was all around him, but he knew some energy had left him. I certainly feel that during the holidays*

*when I'm giving of myself [more than usual]. The holiday season is life-giving, but with all the expectations and stress, it can be life-taking for pastors as well."*

Will you be the one to encourage your pastor during this extra-stressful season?

**If you are a pastor and are interested in being featured in our newsletter, please contact [Hayley@energizeministries.com](mailto:Hayley@energizeministries.com)**

## **3 Ways Your Prayers Can Help!**

Looking forward to 2016, here are three ways that we ask you to pray for us:

- 1. We finish this year financially strong.*
- 2. We host our first pastoral care mission trip (overseas).*
- 3. We establish a new long term lease-purchase of the Energize Lodge and Retreat property.*



## Get Connected!

*Click the icons below to be taken to our social media pages.*



Be sure to tag us in your posts about pastoral care, using the hashtags **#PFYP**, **#itmatters** and **#giveback**.

Thank you for your willingness to support God's work through this ministry.

All of our services to pastors, ministry leaders, and their families are donor funded. We depend on the generous support of those who have a heart and desire to see this ministry flourish. If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift (including cash, stocks, or other appreciable assets) please contact our office by phone or email.

