

Letter to Pastors – Men’s Retreats & Rite of Passage Experiences

Lazy Puffin Lodge | Kodiak Island, Alaska

Dear Pastor,

I hope this letter finds you well and encouraged in the work the Lord has entrusted to you. My name is Michael Finley, and I am reaching out to invite your church to consider partnering with us in hosting men’s retreats, pastoral or ministry team refresh trips, and rite-of-passage experiences at our remote Christian lodge on Kodiak Island, Alaska.

For many men, a trip to Alaska has lived on the bucket list for years—something they talk about but rarely act on. We have intentionally created a retreat experience that allows men not only to fulfill that dream, but to do so with spiritual purpose, biblical grounding, and lasting impact.

Why Men’s Ministry Needs Something Different

Men’s ministry can sometimes feel unsafe for men. Many men quietly avoid traditional men’s events out of fear—fear of rebuke, judgment, guilt, or being put on the spot. Others have experienced church wounding in the past and now avoid these settings altogether.

Let’s be honest: deep brotherhood is rarely formed through surface-level gatherings alone. An annual pancake breakfast or casual meeting has its place, but it seldom creates the kind of shared experience that forges trust, vulnerability, and lasting relationships.

What men often want is an adventure. What men truly need is something meaningful to do together—something that places them shoulder to shoulder and allows relationships to form naturally. Christian men are not designed for isolation. They need friendships for spiritual survival.

Isolation is exactly where the enemy works best. It is where unhealthy habits continue unchecked, where addictions gain strength, and where negative thought patterns thrive. Isolation is the place where Satan sells lies—leaving men discouraged in their walk with God and ineffective as leaders in their homes, churches, and communities.

Wilderness, Brotherhood, and Biblical Formation

Throughout Scripture, God consistently shapes men in the wilderness. Moses, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, and even Jesus Himself experienced seasons of wilderness formation. The wilderness removes distractions, quiets the noise of everyday life, and creates space for God to speak clearly.

At our lodge, shared outdoor experiences create natural opportunities for men to open up. Away from expectations and distractions, men are able to drop superficial masks and speak honestly about real struggles. Through prayer, Scripture, and intentional conversation, authentic brotherhood begins to form.

A Personal, Private, and Affordable Retreat Setting

When your church partners with us, your group receives the entire lodge exclusively. The schedule and agenda are coordinated with your leadership to support your spiritual goals. We also offer optional DIY Sitka blacktail deer hunts for men who desire a deeper wilderness experience.

Our Mission

Our mission is to serve churches by providing a setting where authentic relationships can

form—facilitating meaningful conversations, encouraging spiritual honesty, and intentionally fostering brotherhood among Christian men.

If you would like to explore retreat options, pricing, or scheduling, I would be honored to speak with you.

In Christ,

Michael Finley

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