

Potter's Inn

FALL 2017

We often say “What happens in the barn stays in the barn!” It’s our pledge of confidentiality to all those who come for the care of their souls. But here’s the truth: We can’t contain all that happens in this barn—and we would not want to try to keep this to ourselves! Here’s what we mean—over the years, hundreds of stories have been heard; lives have been transformed and now, we are seeing people taking this message back into their families, workspaces, churches and organizations. It seems that this message is taking root and spreading. We could not be happier. Your gifts are making a difference and this is cause to celebrate the hard work we’ve all done together.

Your investment in the ministry of Potter’s Inn helps make this happen. We are linked together because we could not do what we do without your prayer and financial support.

Soul Care is caring for the whole person—their body care, relationship care, vocational care, family care and faith in God care. Each part of our lives is connected in our souls. C.S. Lewis

Steve & Gwen Smith, Co-founders of Potter's Inn



perhaps said it best: “You don’t have a soul—you ARE a soul!” We care for the whole person to be able to live a full and sustainable life. We are committed to leaders in the market place and the ministry world.

Soul Care is *preventative* work. Soul Care is *restorative* work. Both aspects are needed to help leaders lead well and live well—resulting in health and growth in their personal lives; marriage and family life as well as in their work spaces. We believe that soul care helps create a culture where the dignity of men and women is preserved; values are kept that keep our humanity in tact and that we can work, live and relate in a way that is sustainable allowing us to thrive—not just survive.

We do four things at Potter’s Inn and here’s the image of a potter’s wheel laid out for you to envision the scope of our work:



STORIES OF THE PEOPLE ON THE POTTER'S WHEEL:

"I was in the fast lane to burnout. My pace was not sustainable, and I only realized it after I crashed. Potter's Inn helped me put my life and vocation back together again." —**Marketplace Millennial Leader**



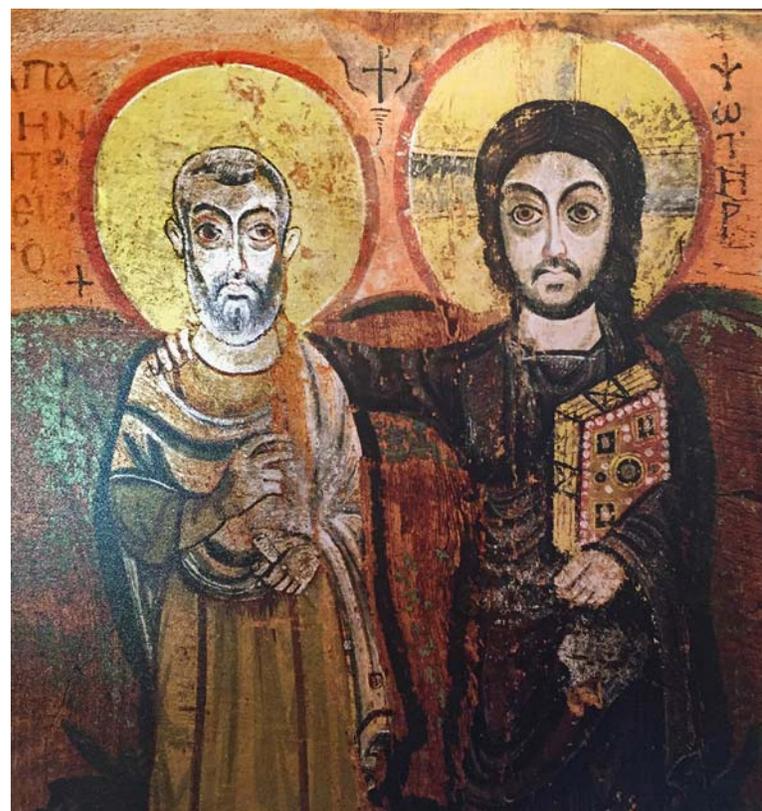
"I was saved from serious "burn out" when we were at the retreat. My life was changed, my perspective focused, and my walk deeply enriched." —**Marketplace Leader**

"He's a real pastor to me again, he listens and he cares." —**A Parishioner describing her pastor after he experienced a changed life at Potter's Inn**

I have witnessed the deep work done at Potter's Inn that is desperately needed by leaders and followers in any vocational domain. Work, the fruit of which, will endure. Work that is not only for followers of Jesus, but...for our culture at large. —**Curt Thompson, MD. Psychiatrist, Author of Anatomy of the Soul, and The Soul of Shame**



"My wife and I had the blessing of attending a retreat at Potter's Inn. We were so tremendously blessed by the retreat. Even though we have not mastered the disciplines we learned at the retreat, our heart's yearning is now to stop and rest in the Lord. For me, our time there began a new stage of my spiritual journey. I had known for a long time that life isn't found in what we do, but who we know. I recognized my acceptance wasn't based on my actions, but on Jesus' love. Until the retreat, my knowledge of these things did little to impact my daily living and I found myself on the verge of burnout. Your teachings became the practical application of my knowledge and now I know how to live in Jesus day by day. Again, I still mess up and work too much, but now I understand that what I do for God isn't who I am. Now, I can rest in Him as He works through me. Thank you guys so very much." —**a Global Leader in Southeast Asia**



What does a transformed life look and feel like after being impacted by Potter's Inn? Here are some of our goals in working with people around the world:

- They learn an unforced rhythm of life and tangible ways to live their lives in a rhythm which sustains rather than drains and fosters a resilient life.
- They experience grace and unconditional love, many for the first time in their life.
- They tell their “whole” story—to be listened to is often the greatest act of love we can offer another human being. We help people listen to their own story connecting the dots which helps them let reality be their friend and allows the truth to set them free. Our philosophy of care, listening love, spiritual disciplines and being in beauty helps them experience breakthroughs.
- There is new freedom from shame and guilt.
- Both spiritual awakening and spiritual intimacy are restored.
- Couples experience a shared hope and a shared love of God. Marriages are healed and restored. Shattered marriages are reconciled and restored.
- When a couple's relationship is restored, a whole family is on their way to complete restoration, impacting their children into the next generation.
- When the top executive is restored, an executive team of others is on their way to better health and functionality, in turn affecting the rest of the workplace culture. A healthy leader fosters a healthy workspace.
- When a ministry leader or senior pastor is restored, they live out of a new posture with their leadership team, and their capacity to love, care, listen, and empathize improves. They begin to teach new concepts they've learned and experienced.
- Businesses, churches and Non-profit organizations are saved from leaders who were once rogue, and are now thinking sober and sensible again.
- The books, guides, Soul Care 101 and the Soul Care Institute are the primary resources to share the message; help people learn about Potter's Inn and create a library of helpful tools to help people navigate the whitewater of life; grow in their faith and live the abundant life.





“This is what the barn looked like in 2003 when Potter’s Inn bought the retreat. Just as it transformed, so do the lives of people who come here now.”

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS OF POTTER’S INN MINISTRY

1997 Steve and Gwen Smith receives a clear, compelling and consuming vision of Potter’s Inn, including details about a place of soul care & training, all the way down to a fireplace in a great room.

2000 Steve and Gwen Smith resign from their pastorate of a church, leave North Carolina, arrive in Colorado and, by faith, launch Potter’s Inn from their home.

2003 A 35-acre ranch of Aspen Ridge is purchased in Divide, Colorado as the future home and ministry hub of Potter’s Inn. We do our ministry in a real barn.

2004 *Soul Shaping* is published, Steve’s 1st book. This outlines how people change using the potter and clay metaphor—the most timeless image given to us in the Scriptures.

2005 Churches around the country begin supporting Potter’s Inn. Artist Clay Enoch is commissioned to create the “Forming Hands” sculpture, used in soul care sessions.

2006 *The Transformation of a Man’s Heart* is published, Steve’s 2nd book. \$500,000 is raised from donors to begin renovating the Barn at Aspen Ridge into the Lodge for Potter’s Inn. *Embracing Soul Care* is published, Steve’s 3rd book.

2007 A \$25,000 foundation grant and two gifts of \$100,000 are received for the Barn renovation. Steve and Gwen experience strong resistance and push-back to the soul care message and its concepts, creating a difficult season for them personally and for the ministry.

2008 *The Lazarus Life* is published, Steve’s 4th book, and becomes a best-seller. Published in 8 languages, this ‘global book’ opens more doors for the ministry. Soul Care Days are launched at Potter’s Inn, held 1-2 days per month.

2010 Potter’s Inn at Aspen Ridge is dedicated: the completion of the Barn renovation. Monthly Sunday Nights at the Inn begin, averaging 30 or more people with dinners and fireside chats, and feature author/speakers John Eldridge, Larry Crabb, Gordon and Gail MacDonald and others to celebrate the opening of the retreat center.

Steve and Gwen find themselves working alone with no staff, and experience exhaustion. A Team is formed with our first Team member joining us. *Soul Custody* is published, Steve’s 5th book.

2012 International Mission Board’s Senior Vice President comes to Potter’s Inn. Soon after IMB contracts exclusively with Potter’s Inn to care for their 5,000 global workers in the area of soul care.

The Jesus Life is published, Steve’s 6th book.

2014 Joe Walters joins Potter’s Inn, primarily to create and launch the Soul Care Institute—our 2 year training initiative for marketplace and ministry leaders.

2015 Soul Care Institute launches its first 2-year co-hort, to train those who want to model and teach others about soul care in the workplace and church space.

2016 *Inside Job* is published, Steve’s 7th book, along with a Companion Workbook. **Soul Care 101** series on DVD and online streaming is launched, featuring Steve & Gwen’s introduction to the core concepts of soul care.

2017 Soul Care Institute’s first co-hort graduate, with certifications from Fuller Theological Seminary. A 2nd Soul Care Institute location is established in North Carolina. *Inside Job*, Steve’s 7th book, is being published in Spanish by Interspersary Press.

