

BETHESDA BY THE SEA INTENSIVE COUNSELING AGREEMENT

This agreement for Intensive Christian Pastoral Counseling/Ministry Services between Bill and Lynn Lewis, Christian Pastoral Counselors of Bethesda by the Sea (BBTS), and

_____ and _____, shall govern all professional relations between the parties. Bill Lewis is an ordained minister with 34 years of experience, and both he and Lynn have a M.A. in Biblical Counseling. BBTS offers counseling that is pastoral and prayer-based. The Lewises do not practice as licensed, state-regulated counselors, and, therefore, do not diagnose mental illnesses or disorders, nor prescribe treatment for them. All counseling is based upon Biblical principles.

FORMAT

Counseling and prayer ministry will be provided by Bill Lewis and will be conducted for the designated number of sessions based on the program that is chosen. If at the end of this counseling intensive there is a need for further counseling, Bill Lewis will be available for follow-up counseling by phone, Facetime, Skpe, or Google Duo.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Counseling at BBTS is confidential. All therapeutic communications and records will be held in strict confidence. Information may be released, in accordance with state law, only when 1) the client signs a written release of information indicating informed consent to such release; 2) the client has expressed serious intent to harm himself/herself or someone else; 3) there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect against a minor child, elder person (sixty-five years or older), or dependent adult; 4) there is evidence that an unreported life-threatening felony has been committed; OR 5) a subpoena or other court order is received directing the disclosure of information. Although we cannot guarantee it, we will endeavor to apprise clients of all mandated disclosures prior to breaking confidentiality. Clients with any concerns or questions about this policy agree to raise them with the counselor at the earliest possible time.

CONTRIBUTION

Bethesda by the Sea is solely supported by client contributions for Christian counseling and from tax-deductible gifts to the ministry. The specific suggested contribution for counseling will depend upon which counseling package is selected. These amounts are listed on the BBTS website at <https://www.bethesdabythesea.com/SPECIFIC> PAGE. Please be aware that one hour of counseling is considered to be 45-50 minutes long. As a result, there will be breaks throughout the multiple-hour counseling sessions. Clients should understand that Christian pastoral counseling is not be covered under health insurance policies. Clients are fully responsible for payment of the agreed upon contributions, and such contributions should be made by check or cash.

Initials: _____ **Date:** _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR COUNSELING AND PRAYER MINISTRY SERVICES

The undersigned, being legally competent and fully authorized and empowered to do so, does hereby RELEASE, ACQUIT, AND FOREVER DISCHARGE BETHESDA BY THE SEA(BBTS)/SONS OF ISSACHAR MINISTRIES, INC. (SOI 21) AND ALL PARTICIPATING COUNSELORS OR PRAYER MINISTERS CONNECTED WITH SAID MINISTRY, from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, demands, damages, costs, loss of service, expenses and compensation, on account of any and all known and unknown personal injuries, mental anguish or agitation, and damage claims to person or property resulting from or arising out of or related to ministerial services and prayer provided by the counselors/prayer ministers, BBTS/SOI 21 and/or agents, representatives and/or employees in any way affecting the undersigned parties. The undersigned parties fully understand that the ministerial services to be provided are Biblical in nature, and they freely enter into such ministerial services with full knowledge of the nature of the services they are about to receive. The undersigned parties further state that they are accepting the preceding of their own free will and accord, and have not been unduly influenced or persuaded by anyone to participate in this counseling and prayer ministry. The undersigned parties state that they are seeking guidance and ministry from BBTS/SOI 21 and the counselors and prayer ministers of their own free will, and fully understand that all counseling and prayer ministry is advisory in nature and that decisions and actions taken by said undersigned parties based on anything said by BBTS/SOI 21 or the counselors/prayer ministers are ultimately their own decisions and actions, and that said undersigned parties take full responsibility for their decisions and actions.

The undersigned further AGREE to indemnify, and hold harmless the counselors/prayer ministers and BBTS/SONS OF ISSACHAR/SOI 21 and its Board of Directors, agents, and employees from any and all claims and damages of every kind to person or property arising out of or attributed to the spiritual, psychological, and/or mental problems which brought the undersigned to BBTS, or experienced by the undersigned at any point after the date of this release.

IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED that this waiver and release constitutes an admission and acknowledgement by the undersigned that they have received no warranty, guarantee, or promise of any particular result either expressed or implied, from BBTS/SOI 21, its agents, representatives, employees, or Board of Directors. The undersigned parties acknowledge and agree that the very nature of their problem(s) is necessarily such that no specific result(s) can be promised or warranted by any such ministry.

Initials: ____ **Date:** _____

This release contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and the terms of this waiver and release are contractual and not a mere recital. The undersigned further states they have carefully read the foregoing release, know the contents thereof, and sign the same of their own free act and deed.

We, the undersigned Christian counselors/prayer ministers and counselee(s), have read and fully understand this agreement and agree to abide by its contents.

Date: _____

_____ Counselee (Print Name)

_____ Counselee (Signature)

Date: _____

_____ Bill Lewis, MA, Counselor/Prayer Minister

Date: _____

_____ Counselee (Print Name)

_____ Counselee (Signature)

_____ Lynn Lewis, MA, Counselor/Prayer Minister