

Alongside

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Renewing and Equipping Christian Leaders

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Alongside is a non-profit organization whose mission is to restore hope, purpose, passion, and relationships among Christian leaders; promoting personal wholeness and greater ministry effectiveness.

Did You Know ...

... that over 1400 Protestant ministers leave their positions each month?

... that nearly 1 in 4 ministers experiences a forced termination at least once in their ministry, and that almost half never return to parish ministry?

... that the staff of Alongside have ministered to over 1000 Christian leaders since 1996?



Alongside Goes On The Road!

Recently Steve Maybee, our Director of Missionary Care, traveled to Hungary with a group from his church to serve at the annual SHARE Family Conference. The following is a report on their work there.

At the end of February I had a wonderful opportunity to travel to Budapest, Hungary, with 26 others from my church, including my wife and two of my sons. What a wonderful blessing this trip was! We were there to help out with the annual SHARE Family Conference. If you don't know about the SHARE organization, you can get more information about them from their website (www.shareeducation.org). I highly recommend this fabulous organization that is committed to caring for missionary families!

I was there to do both teaching and counseling and met with many mis-

sionaries during the week. Other team members taught classes for adults or for children, offered childcare for nursery-age children, provided medical consultation, and even organized a music presentation that was presented by the kids to their parents at the end of the week. Still others did technical things like recording seminars, photographing the various events, and helping to restore "ailing" computers. It was so exciting to see the Body of Christ at work as each one used our gifts for the good of the whole.

It was a joy for me to be a part of the team that my church sent



Steve, teaching at the SHARE event

overseas and an even greater blessing to have Alongside bless and facilitate my involvement. I know there were many missionaries who felt greatly encouraged and cared for through this team effort.

Feedback from Program Participants

"Our family will never be the same as we put into practice the things we've learned here about ourselves, our relational style and how to change."

"I came to ALONGSIDE feeling pretty hopeless. The program has restored our hope. . . . These two weeks may well have been the two most important weeks of our lives."

"I have been to many retreats and conferences during 26 years of ministry, but never have I had one make such a deep impact on my life."

2007 Retreat Dates

May 30-June 15

July 9-20

August 20-30

September 10-28

October 22-November 9

November 27-December 14

Dear Reader:

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for staying informed about our ministry. Since your address is not in this space, you must not be on our mailing list. We would love to include you in our future mailings. Please contact us if you would like to receive our newsletters. Simply send us an email at info@alongsidecares.net or call or write us. May God bless you!

How Can I Help?

A few ways for you to bless our ministry ...

1. Airport transportation for our guests
2. Adult bicycles—We're in a beautiful location!
3. "Adopt-a-Cottage" for interior and/or exterior refurbishment
4. Financial partners for our scholarship ministry

Alongside's Staff

Jeanne Jensma, Director of Counseling

Steve Maybee, Director of Missionary Care

Mike Van Kampen, Director of Administration and Ministry Development

Susanne Johnston, Business Manager and Faithful Volunteer!

Lorraine Evans, Another Faithful Volunteer!

"God Is In The Journey"

In April, Mike Van Kampen, our Director of Administration and Ministry Development, spoke at a pastors' conference in Wisconsin. The following is an excerpt from one of his presentations.

Psalm 84 emphatically states, *"Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage."* This is a great description of how God works in us and through us. We tend to believe that God is always somewhere out there, occupying a place in our future, and the sooner we get to our "destination," the sooner we will be in the presence of God and experience His blessing. This psalm was used as a means of preparation for worship, and was often sung as the Israelites made their way to the temple.

As they traveled to the House of the Lord, we would expect their thoughts to be on the temple—their goal and their "destination." However, the psalm states "Blessed are those ... who have set their hearts on pilgrimage." Of course they were excited to meet God in the temple, yet they knew that God was not only a God of the destination,



but that God was also in the journey.

Since a pilgrim is simply a religious traveler, we all qualify as pilgrims of a sort, and we are all on a pilgrimage, a journey toward God. The trick is remembering that God is not just in the destination; He's in the journey, and if we "set our hearts" only on the destination alone, we'll miss something of God. I don't know where your journey has taken you, and I don't know everything that is in your future, but I know Who is in your future, and I know Who is on the path. In this journey of life, don't forget to set your heart on the pilgrimage, because God is on your path.