



Renewing and Equipping Christian Leaders

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- 2 A Global Ministry
- 3 Ministry is Hard!
- 4 Costly Losses

Alongside

“My wife and I had a terrible first experience in missions. We came back burned out, with the feeling that we couldn’t do anything right, and depressed that we had put so much of ourselves into something that didn’t work out. We attended a debriefing at our mission headquarters, and then came to ALONGSIDE. ALONGSIDE was the perfect complement to what we learned at the DAR, and without this ministry our healing would not be complete. Our counselor was fantastic and understood everything we talked about – he did more for us than we could have imagined. We are so grateful for ALONGSIDE, and we look forward to going back to the field with what we’ve learned.”

Start-up training and relocation costs for a typical missionary:

\$43,500

Typical yearly support for that missionary:

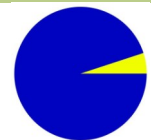
\$52,000

Total cost over 5 years:

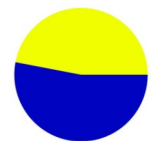
Over \$300,000

Our Special Guests

At ALONGSIDE, we’ve been in the business of providing renewal and restoration for pastors and missionaries for over 10 years. During that time, we have welcomed over 800 Christian leaders to one of our intensive counseling retreats. Every precious servant of the Lord who comes to ALONGSIDE has a story to tell, and inside this edition of our newsletter you’ll read the testimonies of several of our recent guests. You’ll also read a number of ministry statistics that help explain why we’re in business and why this ministry is so critical. We hope you’ll find their stories as inspiring as we do!



1 career missionary in **20** leaves the field **every year**.



47% leave their work within the first **5** years



71% of these losses are for preventable reasons.

from "Too Valuable to Lose", edited by William Taylor

“For me, ALONGSIDE lived up to its name by coming alongside me during a very difficult time. All of the counselors taught, coached, listened, counseled, and prayed with me through my tears. They provided a safe place with no condemnation, a place to unpack hurts and fears and misunderstandings, a place to receive God’s truth. I came weary and wounded, but by God’s grace I leave encouraged, rested, and on the road to healing. I was blessed by ALONGSIDE, and my prayer is that God will return that blessing a hundred fold on this ministry.”

OUR STAFF

Jeanne Jensma, Ph.D.
John DeKruyter, M.A.
Sue Johnston

Steve Maybee, M.A.
Deb Flook

Roger Boyd, Ph.D.
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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

UPCOMING RETREATS

November 29—December 16

January 9-27

February 6-24

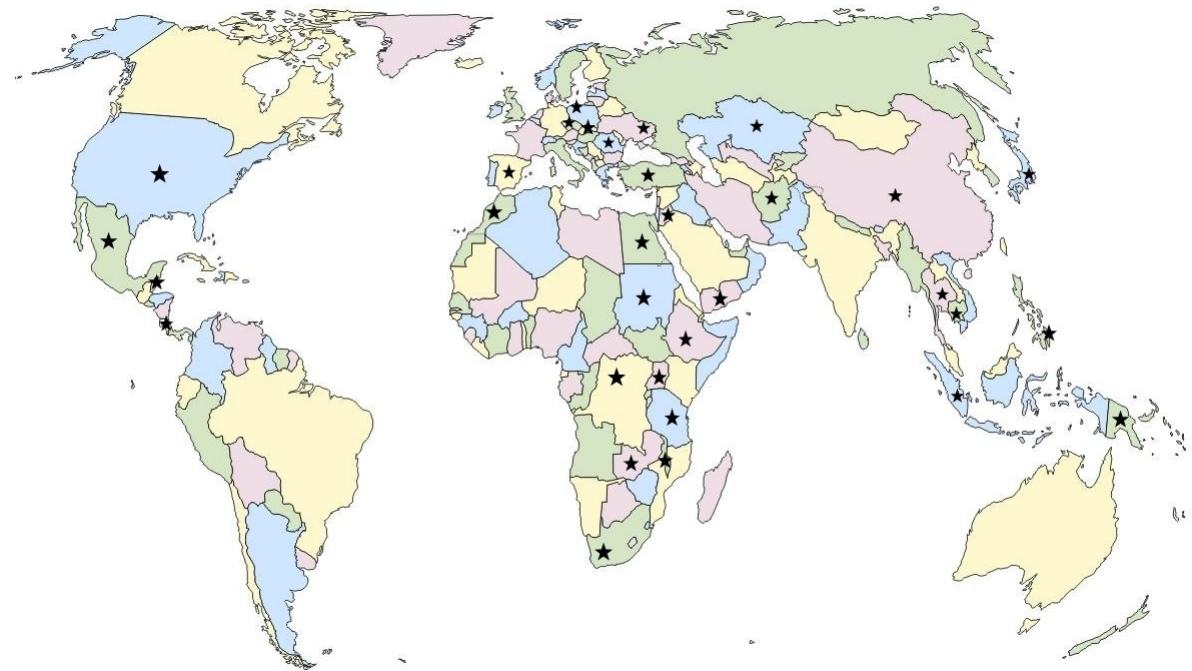
March 12-30

April 9-27

May 7-24

UPCOMING RETREATS

“ALONGSIDE is what every missionary needs after returning from the field. The staff is well-equipped and professional, and they are very good at leading the attendees toward spiritual and emotional healing. I think their seminars should be part of every pre-field preparation – no missionary should enter the field without this teaching.”



A Global Ministry in Richland!

At our retreat center in the small town of Richland, Michigan, we minister to people who are involved in ministry all over the world. In fact, through ten months this year, we have welcomed 113 clients (men, women, and children) to our ministry, making 2011 the busiest year in ALONGSIDE’s history. These pastors and missionaries came to us from thirty-three countries on five continents, represented by the stars on the map above. We like to refer to this wide-spread influence as our ‘ripple effect’. By ministering to those who will in turn minister to others, we can impact people literally all over the world. ALONGSIDE truly is a global ministry!

“I came to ALONGSIDE in need of encouragement, rest, and healing from years in ministry. There was conflict in my church, and I couldn’t separate myself from it – I didn’t know how. At ALONGSIDE, I was heard and understood. I received the tools I needed for a healthier ministry, which will benefit both my church and my family. I am forever grateful for this place.”

“I came to ALONGSIDE to support my husband, who was (still is) a pastor, but little did I know that I needed to be here, too. Ministry life as a spouse is hard, and I was resentful of the price that my family had paid over the years. The seminars and counseling have been very eye-opening for me, and helped me a lot. My relationship with my husband is better, too, and we go back to our church better equipped to help others using what we learned here. Thank you, God, for ALONGSIDE.”

Over **1,400** Protestant ministers in the United States are asked to leave their positions each month.

According to the Ministering to Ministers Foundation

Every year more than **5,000** U.S. missionaries leave their fields of service for preventable reasons like depression, marriage and family difficulties, unresolved interpersonal conflicts with team members and nationals, and inadequate spiritual and emotional support.

According to the Narramore Christian Foundation

“I arrived at ALONGSIDE bursting with pain, disappointment, and broken dreams. My life and work in the Muslim world had been costly in so many ways ... ALONGSIDE has been a haven to me. Here I found a place where I was not merely heard, but understood by a staff who know the challenges I face in cross-cultural ministry. As I leave here, I am better prepared for ministry and equipped to face the challenges and tough decisions that await me. I am thankful. I am blessed.”

70% of pastors do not have someone they consider a close friend



80% of clergy believe that their ministry negatively affects their family



According to the Focus on the Family