

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 **80%** of clergy believe their ministry negatively affects their family?

... that every year at least **5,000** career missionaries leave the field prematurely due to preventable stresses?

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

Alongside Welcomes Deb Flook to our Staff!

The staff of Alongside welcomes Deb Flook to our team as a Ministry Assistant. Her major area of responsibility is in the area of guest services. Deb has been married for 32 years to her husband Ed, and has over 20 years of experience as a pastor's wife. They have two adult daughters, both of whom are married, and Deb and Ed love spoiling their five grandchildren! Deb has worked for 13 years with Open Hearts Ministry, a ministry to those wounded by childhood abuse, and enjoys knitting and time at the family cottage. She also serves as a cooking coach for people who are interested in long-term healthy eating. Please join us in welcoming this very talented servant to our staff!



SYIS Workshops

In August, Steve Maybee, our Director of Missionary Care, helped facilitate an SYIS workshop held on the campus of SEND International, a mission with which Alongside has had a longstanding ministry relationship. SYIS is an acronym for Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills, which is an interactive workshop developed by veteran missionary, Dr. Ken Williams of Wycliffe Bible Translators, and managed by International Training Partners. Steve is a trained facilitator for these workshops. An SYIS seminar lasts 4½ days, and is designed to improve the relational and leadership skills of missionaries and national Christians. Some of the topics covered in the workshop include managing conflict, building trust, managing stress, and living in community. For more information about an SYIS workshop, please contact Steve at steve@alongsidecares.net or (269) 671-4809.

A special thanks to those who recently donated bicycles to our ministry!

Feedback from Recent Program Participants

"I came to Alongside depressed and hopeful of getting help. The care I received was greater than I had hoped!"

"I am leaving with tools that will help me to thrive as opposed to only surviving."

"Alongside is a safe place where God has broken down the walls that have long kept me from being real."

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. Simply write or call us or send us an email at info@alongsidecares.net. May God bless you!

Alongside's Staff

Mike Van Kampen, Director of Administration and Ministry Development

Jeanne Jensma, Director of Counseling

Steve Maybee, Director of Missionary Care

Susanne Johnston, Business Manager

Deb Flook, Ministry Assistant

Please pray for us as we serve the Lord and His servants!

The Soul-Restorer

Mike Van Kampen

"... he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul." *Psalms 23:2-3*

My grandfather was a putterer. He didn't enjoy reading and considered television to be a "waste of time," but he did enjoy time spent in his shop behind the house. One day he brought home an old tractor that he had found parked behind someone's barn and declared it to be his "project." The family laughed at the tractor, seeing only rusted metal and flat tires, but my grandfather saw potential; he saw what we didn't or couldn't see.

After we helped him push the tractor into the shop, he promptly began disassembling his new toy, putting the pieces into piles labeled "replace" and "restore." His project carried on for several years, a lengthy

process of repairing what could be saved and tracking down replacements for what couldn't be saved, but at the end of the journey he drove his like-new tractor out of the garage just in time for the local parade. His heart swelled with pride in showing off his restoration, the culmination of his vision and hard work.



We have all read Psalm 23 and enjoyed the image of God as our shepherd, but another image in the psalm is that of God as the soul-restorer. Though we are broken, He sees what others can't see; He sees potential. In love He begins the restoration, repairing some parts of our lives and replacing others, until we roll out of God's shop in like-new condition. The process can be long at times, but the end result is worth every effort!

At Alongside, we aspire to be the instrument of God's restoring work in the lives of His servants. We love seeing so many of them leave here with their souls in like-new condition! Thank you for partnering with us in this work of restoration!



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

While Alongside charges a fee to those who attend our intensive counseling retreats, our fees do not cover the total cost of our services. We depend upon people just like you to partner with us in this much-needed ministry. All contributions are tax-deductible, and we thank you in advance for your generosity! Contributions can be sent directly to our Richland address or by giving online: www.alongsidecares.net.

Future Retreat Dates

September 10-28

October 22-November 9

November 27-December 14

January 7-25

February 11-29