



THE MINISTRY OF  
**Alongside**  
*Renewing and Equipping Christian Leaders*

## Testimonial Issue

*This issue of our newsletter focuses on the stories and testimonies of recent guests of our ministry—may you be blessed in learning about the ministry of Alongside from their perspective!*

*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.*

### UPCOMING RETREATS

**November 26 -  
December 14, 2007**

**January 7-25, 2008**

**February 11-29, 2008**

**March 10-21, 2008**

### One Couple's Story ...

Carl and Lisa\* had known there would be challenges in moving to a foreign country with their three children to do missions work, but they had no idea how difficult it would be. They knew that learning the language would be difficult, that they would miss family and friends, and that it might take years to begin seeing tangible fruit from their ministry. What they didn't expect was how lonely it would be to live far from home and from anything that was familiar to them. They hadn't understood how depleting ministry would be without other Christians to lean on, and they certainly never expected that there would be death threats—from the police! Their children were even afraid to go outside of their apartment. They endured for nearly eight years, until one day when Carl was forced into an ally and physically assaulted.

This was the last straw. Carl and Lisa felt not only beaten up physically, but spiritually and emotionally as well. They returned to the U.S. feeling discouraged and defeated. Through the help of their home church, Carl and Lisa and their children were able to come to Alongside. Alongside's counselors helped the entire family process the traumatic experiences that they had had on the mission field. Over the course of just three weeks, God used the ministry of Alongside to restore hope, life, and purpose to Carl and Lisa and their children.

Carl and Lisa spent three weeks at Alongside laying a strong foundation for continued healing, and after approximately one year Carl and Lisa and their children enthusiastically returned to full-time foreign missions work. This is just one of the many success stories that God has brought about through the work of Alongside, and we continue to give thanks for all of those who partner with us in this vital ministry!

\* This couple's names have been changed to protect their identity

## OUR STAFF

Jeanne Jensma

Steve Maybee

Mike Van Kampen

Susanne Johnston

Deb Flook

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Please check out our  
new website at  
[www.alongsidecares.net!](http://www.alongsidecares.net)

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## *Did You Know ...*

... that the staff of  
Alongside will serve  
more pastors and  
missionaries in 2007  
than in any previous  
year of our ministry?

... that contributions  
from generous  
benefactors allow us  
to subsidize the cost  
of our retreats  
approximately  
\$1700 per couple?

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

### *The following is a reflection from one of our guests on her time spent at Alongside*

“My time at Alongside has been a time of growing awareness of what transpired in my life as a result of having worked overseas for many years. Why am I so tired, and how can I get better? Those were two of my questions upon arrival. After these days at Alongside, I know more about why I am exhausted, how depression and burnout figure into my life today, and how I can extend more grace to myself. I hope that my increased understanding of my God-given emotions will be one more piece of the puzzle in my desire for emotional and spiritual restoration.

“God has spoken strength and hope into my spirit through the people here—through other participant’s words and lives, and through the words and lives of people on staff. For this brief interlude in time, at times I have felt carried, and at other times I have felt cheered on. Both are gifts of grace, and I am thankful. These gifts and these people have helped me open my heart more to the truths of God that I have known for many years but not always felt. I will always be grateful for the ministry of Alongside.”

### **Feedback from Recent Program Participants**

“Pastors and missionaries need care, too, and Alongside is a place where leaders can get professional help from people who obviously love the Lord”

“When I arrived at Alongside, I was confused and overwhelmed. I found a safe refuge of caring counselors and Christian community, and I found that God was with me in the midst of my struggles”

“I am so thankful for a place like Alongside where a broken and tired missionary can go for rest and renewal ... I feel whole again!”

“Our counselors were very loving and really cared ... Alongside is definitely a place of healing and getting closer to God. May this ministry continue to help missionaries and pastors for many more years to come.”

“Praise the Lord for Alongside, because you literally came alongside me when I was broken and hurting—to God be the glory for the staff of Alongside!”

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 vital 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](http://www.alongsidecares.net).



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*