



THE MINISTRY OF
Alongside
Renewing and Equipping Christian Leaders

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

December 3-19

January 5-23

February 2-20

**March 16 -
April 3**

Alongside Heads East

Recently Steve Maybee, one of our counselors, traveled to China to minister to teachers at several Christian schools. The following is a report of his work.

As I write this, I am sitting in an office in an international Christian school in China. I can hear the banter of children outside as they laugh, yell, play, and shout to each other in Chinese, English, Korean, Portuguese, Japanese, and any number of other languages that I can't really distinguish.

The teachers in these schools have a unique ministry. In addition to teaching classes, they often have responsibilities outside the classroom, and they face the personal burden of living in a very different culture with its foreign customs and language. Sometimes they struggle to cope with all of the challenges they face.



In the 11 days that I am in China, I am visiting five schools, spending roughly a day and a half at each school before flying off to the next. At each school I sit down with most of the non-Chinese staff and offer them the opportunity to process some of their life and ministry experiences with someone from the outside. This is a wonderful opportunity for Alongside to provide preventive services, helping missionaries on the field learn to cope in a healthy way with the challenges they are encountering.

The opportunity has been well received. Many have expressed great appreciation for the chance to openly share some of their struggles and challenges. Most grapple with how to maintain a healthy balance in the midst of so many needs and so few resources. Others have wanted to talk through relational difficulties. Still others just enjoy the opportunity to talk about their adopted homeland with someone who is willing to really listen.

As is often the case, however, I seem to come away with the greatest blessing. It is a privilege to hear these Christian servants open their lives to me, and it is a joy to see how much they love their work and the children whom they teach. It is humbling to hear of their concern for their national friends and neighbors. This is a hard place to labor for God, and it is a great privilege to have the opportunity to strengthen and renew God's servants in this setting.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please contact us at info@alongsidecares.net

Our Staff

Jeanne Jensma

Steve Maybee

Mike Van Kampen

Susanne Johnston

Deb Flook

News From Our Board of Directors



Recently we welcomed Kevin Rynbrandt to our Alongside Board of Directors. Kevin is a graduate of Wheaton College and the Vanderbilt University of Law, with nearly 20 years of experience as an attorney, and he recently formed the law firm of Rynbrandt and Associates PLLC. He has several family members who are either pastors or foreign missionaries, and he has a deep appreciation for the renewing ministry of Alongside. Kevin and his wife Melinda have four sons. Thanks for your work with Alongside, Kevin!

Did You Know ...

... that every year more than 5,000 U.S. missionaries leave their fields of service for preventable reasons?

... that over 1400 Protestant ministers in the United States are asked to leave their positions each month?

... that the staff of Alongside have ministered to over **1000** pastors and missionaries since 1996?

For more information about our ministry, please visit our website at www.alongsidecares.net!

“The Alongside counselors provide strong, biblical counseling with professionalism and understanding hearts that our overseas workers both need and desire. Because they are given practical suggestions to practice after their time at Alongside, along with follow up which holds them accountable, our workers can actually achieve directional change in their lives and ministries. Word is spreading among our people that if you really want help, you’ll find it at Alongside.”

Susan Swieringa
Director of Member Care, Christar

**What
Missions
Administrators
Are Saying
About
Alongside**

Prayer Corner

- Please pray for the pastors and missionaries who will be spending time at Alongside during the Advent season.
- Please pray for our staff and for our Board of Directors, that they would serve with wisdom, discernment, and grace.

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.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*