



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

June 2-20

July 7-18

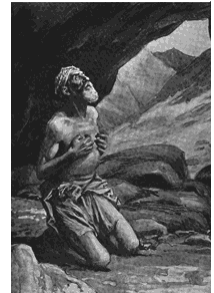
August 18-29

September 8-26

The Elijah-Moment

From all outward appearances, he looked un-beatable. Elijah the Tishbite stood up to the evil king Ahab and pronounced a three-year drought; he presided over the widow's jug of oil whose gauge never read 'empty'; he stood alone on Mount Carmel against the 450 prophets of Baal. And when Elijah's prayer resulted in fire from heaven devouring not only his sacrifice but the entire altar, especially after the Baal-prophets and their 'god' failed to muster so much as a spark, we could be forgiven for thinking that Elijah would use the day's events as a springboard to even greater displays of God's power and might.

However, as often happens in Scripture, the next chapter in Elijah's life takes an unexpected turn, and this 'turn' teaches us something about ministry. Elijah receives a human threat, and rather than responding with more prophetic words and heavenly pyrotechnics he runs away into the desert. In this solitary place, Elijah in his broken condition even prays that his life would end. What happened to this seemingly bullet-proof man of God? Elijah was physically and emotionally spent, fatigued from his belief that he was alone in his fight against the forces of evil, stressed to a breaking point by his own high expectations, strong on the outside while surprisingly fragile on the inside. In short, Elijah proved that he was human, in the same way that all Christian leaders are human.



At Alongside, we minister to many pastors and missionaries who experience "Elijah Moments". We welcome those who have been ministering faithfully but for whom "the journey has become too much" (see 1 Kings 19:7). Our desire is always that our guests would not only be renewed and refreshed, but that they would meet God powerfully while at Alongside in the same way that Elijah met God in the desert. As our mission statement says, we "restore hope, purpose, passion, and relationships among Christian leaders, promoting personal wholeness and greater ministry effectiveness". Thanks so much for your continued prayer and financial support of this ministry!

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

Another Faithful Volunteer!

Many Christian ministries depend on the work of faithful volunteers, and Alongside has been blessed with a number of people who give of themselves to help the pastors and missionaries who come to our retreats. One of our volunteers is Lorraine Evans, and Lorraine (with her ever-present companion Honey) works behind the scenes at Alongside, using her administrative gifts to assemble our seminar materials, produce our newsletter, and a host of other tasks. Lorraine is a vital part of this vital ministry, and we know that we couldn't do what we do without her help; please join us in thanking Lorraine for her work!



Did You Know ...

... that 70% of clergy do not have someone whom they consider to be a close friend?

... that 80% of seminary graduates will leave full-time ministry within the first five years?

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

Scholarship fund - Some of the pastors and missionaries who come to Alongside operate on tight budgets, and they do not have the financial resources to pay the full cost of our retreats. Because it is our policy that we never turn anyone away due to their ability to pay, we offer need-based scholarships to those who qualify. These scholarships are funded by generous supporters and enable people to receive help who otherwise would not have the opportunity. Our scholarship fund is currently operating at a deficit; please consider making a gift to this fund today!

Prayer Corner

- Please pray for our Director, Jeanne Jensma, as she is on a sabbatical until later this summer;
- Please pray for the pastors and missionaries who are currently at Alongside, as well as those who will be coming in the future;
- How can we pray for you? Please drop us an e-mail so that we can keep you in our prayers!

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

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.*