



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

September 8-26

**October 20—
November 7**

December 3-19

January 5-23

Got Rhythm?

Life is full of rhythm. There is a sunrise each morning, and a sunset each evening. The earth circles around the sun, and the moon circles around the earth. The oceans' tides flow in and out. The seasons come and go. There are births and there are deaths.

It is fascinating to me that in the Book of Genesis, the first thing God did on Planet Earth was to separate light and darkness—even before creating the sun!—and then Scripture records, "There was evening and morning, the first day." God also established among the Hebrew people the rhythms of feasting and fasting, dancing and mourning, planting and pruning. There were daily rhythms, weekly rhythms, seasonal rhythms, even yearly rhythms. From the beginning of time, God established rhythms of life both in His creation and among His people!



Dr. Jeanne Jensma

In my recent sabbatical (for which I am so very grateful to Alongside's Board of Directors!), one of my major areas of focus was rhythm. How could I get more rhythm into my life, instead of my life being so driven in linear fashion by "do-lists?" How could I develop healthier patterns of sleeping and waking, eating and exercise, labor and leisure, solitude and fellowship, silence and conversation, communion with God and communion with people? Or would I continue to allow a multitude of "important matters" drive my schedule from item to item, with little sense of rhythm to a day, or even a week?

I wish I could report that by the end of my 3-month sabbatical my life had become perfectly rhythmic. But alas!—the realities of life in a fallen world continue to impinge in ways that create a fair amount of syncopation in the rhythm of my life! But there is a healthier rhythm to my life now than before, and I will continue to keep my eyes on the Conductor of the Universe and seek to live out my life in time with His rhythmic baton! And this is a lot of what Alongside is about—learning to live intentionally in healthier ways, not necessarily "fully arriving," but at least having a clearer sense of direction! I hear the steady drum beat of God's rhythm in His world, and today I want to march closer to that drum beat than yesterday!

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

Prayer Corner

- Please pray for the pastors and missionaries who are currently being ministered to at Alongside—our September retreat is filled to capacity, and we need your prayers!
- Please pray for the Christian leaders who have attended one of our retreats in recent months, that the lessons learned at Alongside would lead to healthy and fruitful ministry.
- Please pray for our staff, that they would minister in the grace, wisdom, and love of the Lord.

Did You Know ...

... that nearly 50% of seminary graduates are no longer in ministry after ten years?

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

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

Minivan Needed

We welcome pastors and missionaries from all over the world to our West Michigan location, and we often need to provide transportation to and from the airport. We are in need of a minivan to help with transporting our guests; if you



or someone you know would be interested in donating a good, used minivan to Alongside, please contact us by telephone or e-mail. **Thank you!**

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. Since 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. Due to current economic conditions, the need for scholarships is great; please consider making a gift to this fund today!

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.*