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Dear Friends and Family,

You have been such an encouragement to us as we continue to serve God's servants through Selah International. The need is great, but your prayers, support and words of encouragement help bring joy to the journey. We are constantly amazed at God's goodness that is expressed in so many ways. Here are some of the highlights of the opportunities for service God has provided over the last two months.

Pastors' Fellowship –

In April, our dear friend Pastor DJ Harry organized and hosted a one-day Selah Pastors' Fellowship. Honestly, this was one of the most encouraging meetings that I have ever had the opportunity to lead. We studied the topics of Discerning Depression, Dealing with Difficult People, and Interdependency in Pastoral Ministry. To hear seasoned pastors and young pastors share ideas, mutual experiences, disappointments, weakness, and stories of victory refreshed my heart. As I listened to them cry out to God for each other in prayer, it felt like we were on holy ground. Pastor, if you would like to explore the possibility of hosting one of these pastors' fellowships in your area, please get in touch with me today. It is simple to organize, and you will not regret it! (Email or text/call 843-870-1832)

Rio Grande Bible Institute –

It was an honor to accompany Dr. Marty Von to the annual board meeting of this missionary training center. I so appreciate his taking the time to mentor me and share insights into counseling God's servants. Dr. Von is the chairman of the board of directors at Rio Grande, and God's Spirit is evident in the leadership of this institution. Dr. Larry Windle, the president, has a passion to equip Spanish speaking missionaries to effectively plant churches globally. Currently, there are students attending from nineteen different countries. Some have been called into ministry later in life and several students are married; they typically bring their families with them as they prepare for service. Most of these families only speak Spanish. Since Selah is a bilingual ministry, we are looking forward to partnering with Dr. Windle to help strengthen these young families as they prepare to plant churches around the world.

Counseling Needs –

Over the past month and a half, the Lord has allowed us to care for a young pastor, three missionaries, a pastor and his wife, a college-aged missionary daughter, a teenage son of a pastor, and another missionary wife. Also, we are transitioning several of our counselees from earlier in the year to their spiritual advocates (accountability partners) who will continue to walk with them for long-term healing. This is a carefully structured process. We also are doing monthly virtual follow-up with several counselees as they share their stories of how God is helping them to take continued steps toward healing and how He is enabling them to serve the Lord in ministry. Your prayers are vital! We thank you for your investment in Selah International.

God's Protection –

*Never do we take for granted the Lord's protection as we travel, and He's been faithful to keep us safe during the many miles covered during the last two months as we ministered in: **Providence Baptist Church, Riverview, FL; Needham's Grove Baptist Church, Robbins, NC; Victory Baptist Church, Sylva, NC; Calvary Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN; Bethany Baptist Church, Mission, TX; Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Bear Creek, NC; Glendon Independent Christian Church, Glendon, NC.***

From our Hearts to Yours –

Of all the forces that destroy individuals, relationships, and churches, there is none more destructive than pride. We have seen its effects firsthand in our lives and in our counseling ministry. Sinful pride is so deceitful and can be couched in so many noble phrases, thoughts, appearances, and conversations. The most dangerous part of all is that we never think we are the ones that are prideful. Only God and His Word can pierce through to the truth. "...be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (1 Pet. 5:5) Let's pause, pray for one another and then take a moment to examine our own hearts by the Word, listen to insight given by others that love us and take the steps necessary to root out this sin. This is truly our heart's desire for ourselves and for each one of you. Though this might be difficult, God promises that it will be worth it!

Only by His Grace,

Chris and Dawn Phillips