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February 2021

Greetings from Selah International! We thank the Lord for how He has blessed this ministry during the last two months. The words of Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, resonate in our hearts: "*Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?*" (Jer. 32:27) Praise the Lord, the answer is NO!

We are so grateful for the privilege of working with eight couples (six in full-time ministry) as well as six individuals, of which several have been pastor's wives. Within these fourteen cases, we have dealt with depression, marital conflict, infertility issues, divorce and its devastating effect on children, parenting needs, blended families, challenges with adopted children and other emotional issues. Some of the emotional challenges are triggered by difficult circumstances but others can be traced to a physiological need. Caring for these individuals and couples in their time of need requires much prayer and preparation. Most of those that reach out to us for care are in a crisis that requires more than just a couple of sessions. Typically, we will spend between ten to twelve sessions before transitioning them to a local pastor, church leader or biblical counseling center to ensure long term healing and victory. Of course, this does not include the phone calls that we have received from pastors that currently support Selah who need guidance and resources for counseling cases in their ministry. We praise the Lord that we have seen restoration and healing in most of these families though not every situation has a happy ending. We humbly ask that you would come alongside us in <u>fervent prayer</u> for wisdom, guidance from the Holy Spirit and the casting down of strongholds. (2 Cor. 10:4)

We are so grateful for the consistent financial support we have received from churches and individuals over the last 23 years. Because of your support, our family as well as our ministries have been provided for. Because we have transitioned from a church-planting ministry to a pastoral care and "church-strengthening" ministry, we do not fit under some church missions policies and therefore have lost the support of seven churches who have faithfully supported our church planting endeavors over the past years. **One of our principal goals for 2021 must be to schedule and partner with churches that do not currently support us.** If you have a recommendation, please contact us at info@selahinternational.org.

We are currently receiving more requests for counsel than Dawn and I alone can meet. As Selah expands, there will be a need for more staff members and more biblical counselors on our team. Because of this, as well as the travel and lodging expenses that will be involved for missionary care, we are facing an even greater financial need than ever before. Most pastors and missionaries have limited funds and cannot afford to cover the costs of travel and the intensive, personal counseling that can require weekly sessions over the course of several months. Therefore, we are asking concerned individuals to also partner with Selah on a monthly basis to help offset the cost of caring for these ministry leaders. Would you as an individual consider investing on a monthly basis into the lives of these servants of the Lord who are on the front lines of the battle for men's souls? Just this past week we were contacted by a ministry couple on the west coast, so Dawn and I are prayerfully going to go to them. Of course, this trip will involve travel and lodging expenses. Several of you have asked for us to let you know of specific needs. Would you take a moment right now and ask the Lord if he would have you help us to restore hope and vitality to this young family as they serve the Lord?

We should receive our 501c3 approval by the end of this month. For our current donors as well as those who would like to come on board for the first time, please begin sending all checks and correspondence to:

SELAH INTERNATIONAL COUNSELING MINISTRIES 103 Laurens Ct. Summerville, SC 29485

Or, if you prefer, visit our <u>website donation page</u> where you may make online donations. (If you use a credit card, please keep in mind the 3% surcharge that is added to each credit card transaction) If you are not receiving our blogs and testimonial videos, please scroll to the bottom of any page on our website and sign up so you can <u>stay updated</u> on how the Lord is working! Thank you for investing in Selah to help keep pastors and missionaries faithful in their ministries!

Only by His Grace,

Chris Phillips

"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." ~ Hebrews 12:12-13