

Dear Pastors, Friends, and Partners of Selah International,

“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.” (Psalm 63:1–4)

David wrote this psalm when he was fleeing from his own son Absalom and was now hiding in a literal desert. He was undoubtedly experiencing the physical pain of hunger, water, and broken relationships, but he was also keenly aware that his deepest longings were for his God. The deepest needs that we have can be met only by the presence of God and by experiencing His love. According to verse three, David acknowledges that God’s love is better than good circumstances or even life itself. Tim Keller writes:

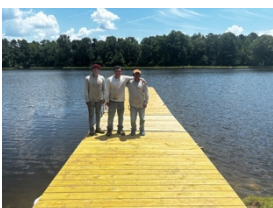
“Beholding God’s power and glory and worship should be our first care, not only because it is right but also because only a relationship with God lasts as long as we live – and beyond – and satisfies our deepest need.”

This particular truth has been powerful in my own life as well as those who have reached out to Selah over the past two months. At times, we perceive that our ministry leaders are continually victorious and face life’s challenges with confidence. After all, pastors and missionaries are paid to encourage, to radiate joy, to choose faith over feelings, and the list goes on, right? In reality, I am sure they could use some encouragement no matter how positive they may appear. Here are a few things you can do today.

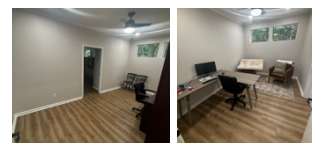
1. **Pray.** There is a tendency to just say that you are praying when you truly do not know the specific needs of your pastor and wife. Ask them to share those with you.
2. **Communicate.** Update your pastor and his wife on your family and any ways that he/she has helped you in a time of need. Tell him when you will be out of church and why. Communicate to him how you were encouraged during a recent sermon. This type of communication is rare and will definitely encourage them.
3. **Check on your pastor.** Your pastor and his wife are constantly checking on their members and to find out their needs and what burdens they are carrying. In addition to praying for your pastor and wife, It would be refreshing for you to just check on them and then be creative in practically meeting a need that you perceive. Even if there is nothing tangible that comes to mind in the moment, your just checking on them would encourage their soul.

During the months of June and July we have been honored to host ministry families here on the property for both personal counseling intensives as well as sabbaticals. It’s been quite rewarding to see families enjoying time together while fishing, kayaking, playing games, and enjoying the haven that the Lord has blessed us with here at Selah! We thank the Lord for the power of His Word in the lives of several ministry families who came these months and humbly received Truth! Whether it is serving entire ministry families through providing a restful place to get away or by entering into their suffering and at times their wrong choices, we count it an honor and a privilege to be able to help.

Of course, the only way we are able to provide this care is because of the prayers and the generous donations that we receive from you.



Selah has also been blessed by various individuals and churches who have come to the property to serve by helping with several summer projects. **Men from Grace Baptist Church**, men from **Iglesia Bautista de la Gracia** in Columbia, as well as **Iglesia Bautista Victoria** in Charleston have all sacrificed time and effort to help provide new office space, extensive tree work, landscaping, and a much-needed brand new dock! A special thank you goes to **Pastor Joey Curado and Danny Hammond** who have spent hours donating their time and materials to complete extensive electrical work in the new offices. We are eternally grateful for the labor of love and for those who helped cover the cost of the materials to do the jobs. What a huge blessing!





In June, we welcomed Colby Whitaker to the Selah International team! Colby will serve primarily as the financial manager for the ministry but will also be representing the ministry in churches and conferences. He has already proven to be a great asset with a willingness to serve in any area that is needed! Colby and Chloe, just married in June, are a young couple with a deep desire to serve the Lord with their lives. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for them! Feel free to reach out to Colby and welcome him to the team - Colby@selahinternational.org.

With great excitement, the Selah Team is prepping for an awesome time of encouragement, fellowship, edification, and teaching at our annual **Selah Refresh Retreat (SR24)**, Nov 7-9 in Columbia, SC. Ministry Leaders, if you are considering attending, please sign up today!

- Pastors, bring your pastoral staff and their wives!
- Church members, share this opportunity with your pastors and consider sponsoring their attendance for this time of spiritual refreshment and enrichment.
- Consider sponsoring a missionary couple or single missionary that is home on furlough to attend Selah Refresh. It will be a great investment!

Please take a look at the [detailed flyer](#) and then scan the QR code on the flyer to register for the SR24 as well as any of the three "Add-ons" if you are able to come early. You can also register at <https://selahinternational.org/refresh/>.

If you are not in vocational ministry, please pray about using your resources to sponsor a pastor or missionary's attendance to this time of equipping and encouragement. Please visit selahinternational.org to donate or you can mail a check and specify on the memo – **"For SR24."**

Any amount given will be a blessing, as we are hoping to host over 125 ministry leaders this year!

Side note: Another way in which you might like to contribute would be to provide gifts for those attending SR24. Each year we send our ministry leaders home with books, fresh ideas, tools for discipleship, ideas for gifts for special days, etc. This year, we will be filling over 65 bags of resources for ladies and 65 bags for men in the ministry. Perhaps you would like to share a product or resource and wish to include your business card or a personal note. *If that is the case, please email as soon as possible:* deb@selahinternational.org.

We would also like to introduce a new personalized way to donate that would be a blessing to your pastor! For example, one of our donors is helping to offset the cost of a specific item that will be included in the gift bags and will be recording a personal testimony of how grateful he is for his pastor and wife. We will share that testimony during the retreat for all to hear. This is a wonderful way to encourage and recognize your pastor and/or his wife for their impact on your life! Please consider getting involved in this way! Any financial donation would qualify you for this opportunity. If you are interested please reach out to our Financial Manager at admin@selahinternational.org. He will direct you as to your next steps. We sincerely believe this will be a tremendous blessing to our ministry leaders in attendance!

Only by His Grace,

Chris Phillips