

Some of you may be wondering, “What happened to the Bonham’s?”

It’s true, we haven’t been in touch for a while. As I ended my role as Managing Director of Shepherd’s Heart on June 30, I came to the realization that I was weary. In the last 10 years I have not had an extended time off (a sabbatical) and, looking back, I haven’t had one in 30 years. I have taken short vacations and I do practice getting a half day of time alone and away with God monthly. But counseling is something that takes more out of me as I empathetically listen to the heavy heartache of others. The past year has especially been more stressful for couples and that has bleed over on me. I recognize this personally as I find myself becoming less aware of my feelings and simply pressing on, as has been my habit. Growth is taking notice and doing something about it.

What I determined to do, before taking on my new role as Shepherd Heart’s Marriage Ministry Coordinator, was to take July and August off. Or, at least, have a change of focus for a couple months. What have we been doing? Take a look:



*Enjoying the grandkids whenever we have the opportunity. After 5 boys, we are eagerly awaiting granddaughter number two in September! Don’t you love those coonskin caps?

*Teaching 8-year-old Abel to fish, just like Grandpa learned when he was that age! Abel is a fast study!



*Spending time in nature. We spent a week in upper Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula. It provided time to read, sleep, hike and enjoy time with our daughter, son-in-law and kids. It is great to slow down and notice what is going on around us!

*Spending time with friends as life goes on around us. It has been a time to enjoy community while not feeling responsible for it.

Thanks for your continued support! We are currently thinking and praying over the fall and what God is leading us to focus on. We’ll be in touch soon!

Love in Christ, *Mark and Mary*

