

Change is in the Air!



SHEPHERD'S *November 2023 Update from the*
 **HEART** *Bonham's at Shepherd's Heart Inc.*

Important Announcement!

We are officially now a 501 c 3!

We have been well served by New Horizons Foundation since 2011. But we have grown to a point where we are ready to take on full non-profit status and have a direct connection with those who support us. As we make this transition we have some requests for you, our faithful partners:

- 1.) Please continue your partnership by mailing donations payable to Shepherd's Heart at 5955 West Main, Kalamazoo, MI 49009 or by giving online at: <https://www.shepherdsheartinc.com/support>
- 2.) If you have been giving through automatic bank withdrawals, that will end in December. But you can continue your giving by using the link above. It helps us greatly if you do this soon to avoid missing a month of your support.

3.) The new donation platform we are using is called Zeffy. While 100% of your donation comes to our ministry, they offer the option of giving a portion of your gift to support their service. You can opt out by selecting "other" in this box and typing \$0.00 in this space.

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International Ministry Update:

Since our time in Colombia in August, I have been connecting with several of the participants. Pictured on the left is Carlos, who lives in Tucuman, Argentina. He has been using and sharing our Loving Well Marriage course content by speaking at a couples retreat in Cordova and will be the featured speaker on a cruise for couples from a church in California. It is his goal to train five facilitator couples to lead Loving Well. He currently has trained two couples, and one is moving to Colombia. The ministry continues to grow in South America!

In Hungary I continue to connect with Sandor, who heads the foundation we helped establish when we served as missionaries there. They had a successful summer intensive using the Open Hearts material and Sandor has become one of the pastors in his church in Szekesfehervar. He has translated Loving Well, and we are in discussion about providing training there in 2024. They see value in using it for church planting and for preparing couples as church planters.

Through Zoom counseling I connect with a man in China who is married to a woman in India. They seek help with their cross-cultural marriage and the damage of the past that they bring to it. With ministry at home and abroad, we are serving on four continents!



In early October I was invited to serve with the Open Hearts Ministry at their biannual training for their Journey program. OHM is the organization I served as Executive Director for ten years. It was great to be back, seeing people leading that I had the privilege of helping in past years as well as doing some teaching and leading a group of people that came from the east coast, the west coast, Texas, and Florida.



Mark and Mary Celebrate their 47th Anniversary!

How the years fly by! Every October 2nd we celebrate another year that God has given us to serve him together. We spent the day in Grand Rapids at Art Prize and then enjoyed dinner out with our daughter, Marci and our son, Matt. We are blessed to have family close by and we really enjoy connecting with our seven grandkids!

Health Update

In late October Mary had surgery after being diagnosed with breast cancer. We were both grateful that Marci could be present through the surgery and help at home with recovery. We had hoped that the cancer would be stage 1, but as more cancer was found in Mary's lymph nodes, it turned out to be stage 3. On November 21 Mary will have additional surgery to remove more lymph nodes. Then she will undergo chemo and radiation therapy. If all goes well she should be finished with treatment by Easter.

Mary remains in good spirits, but this was not how we planned to spend this winter, and we are not looking forward to it. Still, we praise God that treatment is available, and that the cancer was discovered before more damage was done.



Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for Mary's surgery and for a positive response to the therapy she will undergo.
2. Pray for me as I care for her.
3. Pray for me as I complete Loving Well 2, hopefully by year end. I am writing the final two sessions and then we will need to work on editing, layout and graphic design before printing. We are also finalizing translation in Spanish.
4. The Shepherd Heart's banquet is on March 7 and work is currently being done to prepare for it. Mark your calendar for March 7 and plan to join us at the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo. More information will be available on our website.
5. Pray that our transition as a nonprofit goes smoothly and that God will continue to provide resources for 2024, just as he has done for the past 13 years.

Your partnership is critical as we continue to encourage and help individuals and couples reach their full potential in Christ. As God raises up new leaders, we are privileged to help equip them for ministry.

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

Gratefully in Christ,

Mark

Mark Bonham

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