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MARY'S PROGRESS IN HER BATTLE WITH CANCER

Many have shared with us how they are praying for Mary as she is going through treatment for breast cancer. We deeply appreciate your prayers and the support we have received, including cards, meals and sitting with Mary as she gets her chemo infusions. We do not feel alone or forgotten.

What Mary does feel is tired and weary. She has completed stage one of her treatment which involved four rounds of a powerful drug given three weeks apart to allow space for recovery. This is not typically given to patients over 70, but they made an exception in Mary's case, believing she could endure it. She will soon start weekly infusions of a milder drug for twelve weeks. The final treatment stage is radiation therapy that is given five days a week for four weeks. That takes us to August.

We are beginning to see the accumulative effect of this intensive regimen. Hair loss, loss of appetite, low energy and the need for more naps. All of these are normal and expected side effects. Food tastes and smells can bother her. But Mary is staying positive and counting the days until treatments are done.



*Returning to Hungary
April 17-30*



Miss Mary gets some love (flowers, cards and hugs) from Kids Crew at church!

"If you are a Christian you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven. You are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world." Vance Havner



Our speakers' platform was under the fuselage of this Blackbird spy plane!

OUR BANQUET WAS NOT ONLY IN KALAMAZOO, BUT AT THE AIR ZOO!

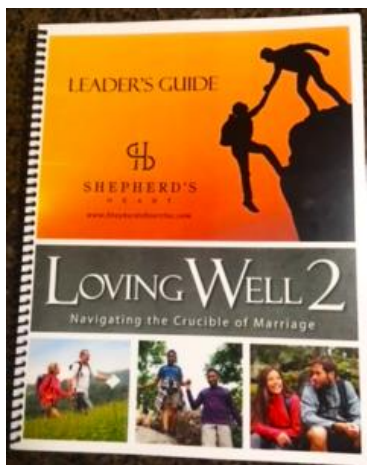
Over 200 people attended our annual banquet on March 7. It was a very responsive group who saw marriage ministry as a mission they could get behind. Our goal was to raise \$40,000 and as gifts continue to come in it looks like we met this goal.

One of the projects that we are supporting is the purchase of a ministry home for our Ministry Associates Carlos and Chelita Barros in Tucuman,

Argentina. They use our Loving Well Marriage Course. Even with starting 2-3 new groups they have 20 people on a waiting list to join. They are focusing on developing new facilitators, making a Loving Well promotional video, and planning a marriage retreat to give couples a "Pre-Loving Well" experience. If you are interested in helping the home project let us know and we will give you details.



LOVING WELL 2 IS FINALLY READY!



Last August we met with Spanish speaking facilitators to work through our draft of the book 2 of Loving Well. This was requested by those actively using Loving Well 1 as a tool to continue their ministry to couples and families. I worked on it for a year, developing 12 sessions of teaching topics, small group discussion questions and homework assignments. The subtitle is "Navigating the Crucible of Marriage". Are you interested in growing a ministry to couples? Contact me to get started!

MEN'S STORY GROUP

I started a group in January to help men dig deeper into their personal stories and how this impacts their responses to lives presently. We will soon complete this 12 week group using The Journey, by Open Hearts Ministry. Men in the group are becoming aware of how much their defensive responses are tied to survival strategies they developed throughout their childhood and then carried into their marriages. Pray that the men will grow in their personal security as they focus on a Christ-centered identity.

NEW BRANDING IS COMING SOON!

Shepherd's Heart is growing and changing. We are now registered as a 501 (c) 3 so that we can process donations directly. It helps us be a step closer to you who support us. All you have to do is go to our website: www.shepherdsheartinc.com/donate or send a check payable to Shepherd's Heart to the address below.

Don't be surprised if our logo looks different. (You can see it on the Loving Well 2 book above.) While Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, we are always working at continuous improvement.



INTERNATIONAL REPORT:

Lift off for Hungary is planned for April 17. (No, I won't be going by hot air balloon like this one I saw in our neighborhood this past summer!) This trip is filling quickly with exciting opportunities. I've been invited to speak on "Rebuilding Broken Walls" at a conference dealing with abuse; on "Keys to Loving Well" at a church's marriage ministry; meeting with the director of church planting at the seminary for the Reformed Church regarding the use of Loving Well; and last, but not least, reconnecting with friends from our ministry time in Hungary (now 27 years ago). I return on April 30.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Our summer plans center around Mary's recovery. We appreciate your prayers for this. We do Loving Well together and all groups are postponed until Mary is well enough to join me. We do hope we can manage a late summer get away with some couples. The husbands are part of the Legacy Cohort that I meet with. We encourage and support one another in ministry and life in order to help us each stay focused on God's calling for our lives. We have learned it is best when you don't hike alone.

Gratefully,

Mark and Mary Bonham

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"People grow when they are loved well. If you want to help others heal, love them without pushing an agenda."

Mike McHargue