

20730 Bond Road NE Suite 180
Poulsbo Washington 98370
(360) 779-3624
www.alphapoulsbo.org

ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

May

Celebrating Forty Years of Service

2018

Dar Friends,

On several occasions readers have mentioned that Alpha's newsletters are more like devotions than news about the Maxwell's and Alpha so this will be a newsy newsletter with a touch of Scripture.

This May I begin my 29th year ministering at Alpha! Debi and I arrived in Poulsbo with kids in school, and now we have grandkids who have graduated from school.

Debi and I were married while I was still in the military and we had whole month for our honeymoon. So last month we celebrated our 50th anniversary by taking off for a whole month visiting new places and seeing new sights.

Some have asked how our trip was and my first reaction is "there is no place like home." I will never complain about traffic in Kitsap County again☺. By the way, Debi and I had a great time being with each other for a whole month!

Over the years I have been asked about my marriage. Or more correctly, how many times I had been married and so being testing to see if I practice what I teach to others. There is some creditability to learning from our mistakes but most people we talk with want to see their marriage advisor able to apply the things they teach before it's too late to repair.

Another newsy item is about Amazon Smile. It is a program run by Amazon that will donate to a nonprofit organization ½ of 1 percent or \$.005 for each dollar you spend with them. However, several people have asked if we are getting their gifts from Amazon. We haven't and I have solved the problem! Our purchases must be made using their special website. I went on the web and downloaded the site "smile.amazon.com" and saved it as an app on my home screen and it works fine. Now my purchases on Amazon help Alpha too.

Richard

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

From a Woman's Perspective

I too want to get on the band wagon for sharing a bit of history. While doing the sight-seeing thing I managed to trip and fall, smashing my eye glasses. I guess you could say they were 'totaled'.

Needless to say on our return I found myself sitting in the waiting room for an eye exam, and a young woman seated herself next to me and asked if that was Richard from Alpha Counseling. I said yes did you counsel with him? She said no, it was you, Debi. It was you I talked to, Alpha saved my marriage!

(Then comes that awkward moment because I didn't recognize her), but she continues with 'Twenty Years ago' you led me to the Lord, and taught me about forgiveness, then we prayed for my husband to see Richard, and he did! And now twenty years later we still have a strong marriage, raised three kids, and the Abiding truths of "Christ is Life" have been the foundation of our family! Well that was exciting to hear, it had been a while since running into an ex-client. And I knew that you, our supporters, would like to hear that testimonial also.

One thing Richard did not mention, (talking about history), is that we have been counseling here long enough to see three different generations from the same family.

Having the opportunity to teach Christ as Life has been life changing for us also. There's nothing like constant reminders of who we are, what we can claim, and how to appropriate those promises; to keep ourselves on the old straight and narrow. To God be the glory!

I'll wrap up with a quote from C.S. Lewis I found within a favorite book:

31 Days of Praise, by Ruth Myers.

"C.S. Lewis wrote that a car is made to run on gas, and it won't run properly on anything else. Likewise, God made us to run on Himself. He is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn and the food our spirits were designed to feed on. So it's no use trying to find inner release and power and fulfillment apart from God. There is no such thing. And God has given us His life and power through our inner union with Christ Jesus our Lord." Debi