

# Alpha Counseling Service

---

January

20730 Bond Rd/Suite 108  
Poulsbo WA 98370/360.779.3624  
Email go to Website: [alphapoulsbo.org](http://alphapoulsbo.org)

2016

Hello, here we are celebrating a new year!

I would like to give a brief report of 2015. Several milestones were reached at Alpha this past year. In May I completed 25 years working here at Alpha, then in September Alpha celebrated 38 years of ministry and, in November I completed 25,000 hours of counseling since arriving in Poulsbo. These are just numbers that represent time spent helping people find their way in a complex world that is often confusing and sometime very scary. Sometimes I explain to people that we sit in Alpha at a crossroad, Bond Road and SR 305, waiting for people to come to a crossroad in their life. They can no longer solve their problems and need some help. Many have told me how they held out seeking help, all the time, hoping to be able fix their problems all by themselves. On occasion someone will admit that pride has kept them from asking for help until it is too late to fix their problems. Just yesterday someone shared that pride had caused them so much trouble over the years and now, late in life, they see the pain they have caused themselves and others.

There are plenty of Old Testament verses about pride but here are two I often use. Proverbs 11:2: "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom." Proverbs 29:23: "One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor." John refers to the "Pride of Life" as not originating from God, but an attribute of this damaged world. Much of the pain we deal with here at Alpha has the odor of pride on it.

2016 has great promise! Every year starts with the anticipation that things will be better. I think the idea comes from the hope of new beginnings. Years ago I talked, briefly, with a woman who had been divorced eleven times! She stated she had been "looking for love in all the wrong places". She had started every new marriage with the hope that this one would be different. After coming to Christ, she realized that many of her marriage problems were brought with her to each new relationship. Pride! We could list 11 different versions of pride and not begin to touch the impact it has on our lives. In churches pride may be talked about but little is really done about it. If we Christians are defeated by pride what is the problem? Is there any solution to the pride that seems to dominate our culture? Of course there is help in the Bible but, first we must recognize our problem and truly want to change. All too often we notice other people's problems and ignore our own issues. I cannot tell you how many times I have confronted someone who wants to focus on everyone else's problems but the one person they have power to change. Themselves! I haven't time or space here to share much about having victory over pride so I may continue the topic next month. I encourage all of us to earnestly pray for God to open our eyes to our pride that is hindering our relationship with Him and others.

Please continue to pray for Debi and I as we work to help people who come to a crossroad in their life.

Thank you and God bless you!

*Richard*