



November 2024

Dear friend of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry,

One of the biggest joys of serving at Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is **seeing God work in miraculous ways to change the lives of 76 people this past year.** We hosted ministry leaders who serve as **pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, teachers, creative arts directors, directors of Christian education, principals, camp directors, chaplains, and many other roles, including supportive spouses!**

This past year, we saw God powerfully work in ministry leaders from **23 states and 6 foreign countries:** **North Dakota, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Texas, Washington, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, Ohio, Virginia, Nebraska, Mississippi, Kentucky, West Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, Iowa, Kansas, California, and Florida** as well as **Guatemala, Taiwan, Uganda, Turkey, Canada, and Southeast Asia!**

**Here is just ONE of the many stories:**

*"My wife and I recently attended Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. Due to circumstances at our church, **I had been working seven days a week almost every week for the last two years** while learning a second language in order to serve our entire congregation. I was constantly going in "fight or flight mode" and under a lot of stress. The longer this went on, the less I had to give. I "hit a wall" this spring. **I was broken down physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.** I was burned out, regularly anxious, and had increasing depression. In addition, I had not adequately been available for my wife and children, which, of course, significantly impacted my relationship with each and our family as a whole.*

*"Shepherd's Canyon has truly been a Godsend to us. **The counselors were incredibly compassionate, knowledgeable, and helpful.** From the start they helped me begin to get at some of the root reasons for functioning the way I have. The same was true for my wife. Through the week, they helped identify areas in which we were struggling in our marriage that we didn't even realize were there and counseled us and gave us tools to improve our relationship.*

*"As for my ministry, they likewise not only guided us as we 'dug down' to issues under the surface, some very deep, but **led me to begin coming out of the darkness of the unhealthy life I have been living these last two years.** They helped set me on a course for better prioritizing time and responsibilities and achieve balance in my life, and in our life together. They began the counseling process for the consequences of how I have been working, helping me to address the stress, anxiety, and depression I have been experiencing, also giving me direction and tools so that I don't put myself back in a position of burnout. Both my wife and I left with specific goals given to us by the counselors which were "spot on" for our individual needs and needs as a couple. We are working on them and will continue to do so, probably for a long time.*

*"I have to mention, also, that the setup of the program is amazing. **We often learned things about ourselves and how to deal with various issues from the others attending, especially in our group sessions...an intentional part of the healing process.***

***"I can't say enough, either, about the staff and volunteers.** They were so kind and caring and made everything very comfortable and peaceful for us, including the meals. We were treated so well. They, along with the environment as a whole -- the prayer garden and trail, pool, and waterfall fountains in the desert setting -- provided a much-needed refuge from the norm.  
**It was hard to leave.***

*"I'm not sure how I would be feeling and doing physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually at this point without having attended Shepherd's Canyon. I know it would not be good, almost certainly even worse. **Now, I have hope. We have hope.***

*"During and since Shepherd's Canyon, I have returned to spending intentional time with the Lord in His Word, devotion, and prayer. We are doing the same as a couple and family. It's a huge difference in our lives. My wife and I are making it a priority to spend more time together (and me with our children). **I have made strides in returning to honoring my day off and the time I need away from work responsibilities and am working to set boundaries at work to make the needed balance in my life day-to-day and week-to-week a consistent reality.***

*"People often use the words life-changing, or life-altering, about many things. I truly believe that our experience(s) at Shepherd's Canyon have been just that, life changing. **For all these things, thank you so much for your support to make it possible for us to attend the retreat and have hope once again!"***

We're so grateful to God for the work He does through this ministry,  
but **we NEED YOUR partnership through your generous donations and prayer!**  
YOU are making a difference in the lives of pastors, ministry leaders and spouses!

**If you would like to give over and above your regular annual or monthly gift, please see the special insert for our next big step! How can God work through you?**  
(This would be an extra gift because our General Fund still needs your gifts!)

**We praise God for the good work He is doing through this ministry!**



Rev. Kevin & Tawn Bueltmann  
Executive Director & Executive Coordinator

**Please note our NEW mailing address:**  
Shepherd's Canyon Retreat  
PO Box 222  
Wickenburg, AZ 85358

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization: EIN #26-3930639.  
All gifts given to Shepherd's Canyon Retreat are tax deductible, minus the value of any product received.

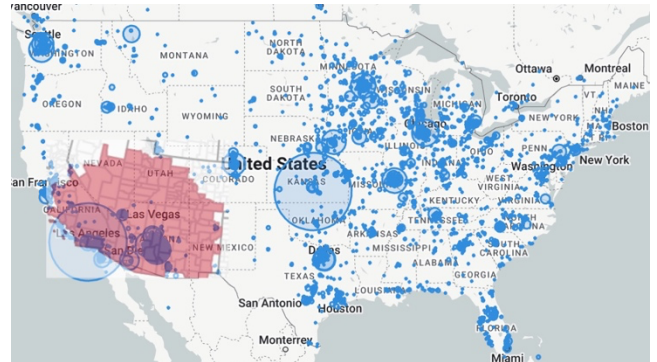


# Special Expansion Project

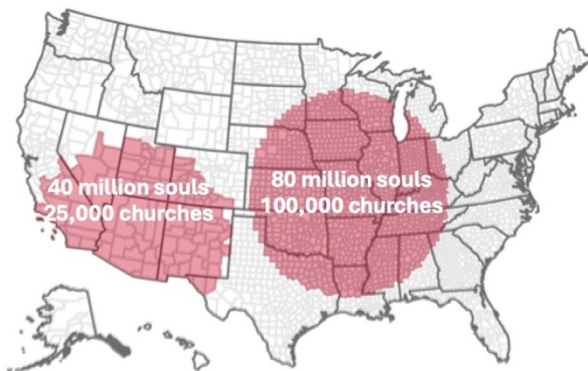
If you've been reading our newsletters this past year, you know that God has been sending more and more pastors and ministry leaders for us to serve. Because of this, we've been keeping our eyes open for an opportunity to purchase a second site.

In 2024, over 6,000 different people went to our website. (See the blue dots on the map). Many of these visitors were church leaders looking for a place to find help, hope and healing. If this whole map were a fishing pond, where would you put your boat?

Recently, I received this email from a pastor: ***"I'm at a very small church...and my church budget for something like this would barely cover the airfare."***



Right now, nearly all the church workers who come to our retreats fly to Arizona. (One couple recently drove 30 hours each way because of physical limitations that prevented flying.) It's disappointing to turn hurting people away because we're full. At our current rate of growth, the Arizona site will reach capacity in less than 5 years. Before that happens, we would like to add a second site, possibly in the Midwest, so we can be more accessible to more people



Many people consider a day's driving distance to be about 500-miles (about 8 hours of driving.) If you look at this map, you can see that our Standing Stones site in Wickenburg, Arizona is within a day's driving distance of 6 states. If we had a retreat center located in the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, for example, we would be within driving distance of 12 states and 100,000 churches.

**This goal of adding another site may not happen for years, but right now a unique opportunity has opened up for us in the Lake of the Ozarks area. If we act quickly, we could purchase a large lakeside home for less than a million dollars. If you have the means to cover at least \$100,000 for this project, please call me ASAP so I can tell you more about it. Who do you know who might help?**

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