

## JOYFULLY SERVING JESUS E-NEWSLETTER



### **DIRECTOR'S CORNER:** BY JOAN COOK, MC, LMFT, DIRECTOR

#### *THE FLEECE WAS OUT, AND THE ANSWER...*

Let me begin by stating what a privilege it has been to be a part of the ministry of Phoenix Christian Counseling Associates (PCCA) for the 11+ years we have ministered to this community through the professional, Biblically-based counseling services we've provided. PCCA has assisted over 3,000 individuals and families over these years, providing well over 19,000 hours of therapy. Our modified fee and Scholarship Assistance programs have given \$2 worth of service for every \$1 donated. We have been blessed to be able to offer such assistance, knowing that without it many of those we've served would not have been able to afford the services.

I have said these words to many of you over, and over again throughout the years, and from the heart I again say THANK YOU to each of our donors who have provided the financial support crucial to our continued services throughout these years. No matter how seemingly small, or large your donation may have been, every dollar has been invested into ministering to the lives of those coming to PCCA for help. God has truly used YOU to sustain this ministry and thereby to be a partner in the changed lives, reconciled marriages and restored families we have been blessed to see. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GIFTS.

To all the members of our Board of Directors over the years, THANK YOU! The concern, prayers, guidance and numerous resources you so freely shared with us have encouraged and undergirded us through the years. You have been an invaluable part of this ministry, we wouldn't be here without you. Your sacrifice of time and input have not been forgotten.

To our counselors, staff, interns and volunteers over the years, THANK YOU! You served without adequate compensation, and for some of you, no compensation at all, yet you served with excellence; I truly believe that "great is your reward in heaven". (Matt. 5:12) THANK YOU to each and every one of you who prayed with us over the years, and to those who recently joined us in seeking God's will and direction as to the immediate future of this ministry.

When neither I nor the Board had clear direction, we invited your prayers, input and vote as we put a Fleece before the Lord for His direction. Many of you contacted us to let us know you were praying for us in this weighty matter, others were able to cast your "vote" with a donation. By the November 30 deadline we received just under \$6,000 towards the \$16,000 Fleece amount. The Fleece was answered, and on December 5 the Board of Directors voted to suspend active operations of PCCA. (The decision to suspend, as opposed to completely close, allows PCCA to retain non-profit, 501(c)3 status; which leaves the door open to possibly resume active operations when we are in a more economically stable position.) We were immediately faced with what to do next, we have clients currently being served, new clients seeking out help, financial obligations outstanding...

(Please see page 2 for "The rest of the story"...)

# CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL!

**"The rest of the story"... How Does This Impact Me?**

**New Clients:** As our first concern is client care, the Board instructed that PCCA accept no **new clients** as of 12/5/11. New inquiries will be referred appropriately.

**Existing Clients:** PCCA will continue to provide counseling services to **existing clients** through January 31, 2012. After that date most of PCCA's counselors will continue providing services under a private practice and current clients will be given the option to continue with their counselor as part of that practice.

**Client Records:** All client records of PCCA will be retained for a minimum of seven years from the last date of service as required by PCCA's licensing regulations. Records will be available upon written request initiated by email to PCCA at phxcca@yahoo.com, and will require a fee for processing.

**Financial obligations:** Within 32 hours of the Board's vote, PCCA was blessed with a significant donation which has been applied to many of the outstanding financial obligations of this ministry, allowing us to become **almost** current. What a blessing since we feel so strongly that everything we do reflects on our Lord, including being financially responsible.

**Donations:** Suspension of our 501(c) 3 allows PCCA to continue to receive and receipt tax-deductible donations. All future donations will be used to take care of our current indebtedness, and then for ongoing expenses, such as client notifications, Board and donor development, record storage and processing of record requests. The Board of PCCA hopes the suspension of services by PCCA is temporary, and looks forward to a future of continued service to the Greater Phoenix community. Any gifts received over and above the current and on-going expenses will be used toward re-establishing active operations of PCCA, or, should that not occur, will be donated to a like non-profit organization.

Although change is hard, our hearts are still set to minister to the hurting, and we are encouraged by God's promises - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans give you a hope and a future." Jer. 29:11.

*I came across this old clipping that struck a chord with me years ago, and the words provide inspiration for me again during this time of transition. I pray they speak to you as well.*

*Joan Cook, Director*

**Things don't just happen to us who love God.**

**They're planned by His own dear hand.  
Then moulded and shaped, and timed by  
His clock.**

**Things don't just happen, they're planned.**

**We don't just guess on the issues of life,  
We Christians just rest in our Lord.  
We are directed by His Sovereign will,  
In the light of His Holy Word.**

**We who love Jesus are walking by faith,  
Not seeing one step that's ahead.  
Not doubting one moment what our lot  
might be.  
But looking to Jesus, instead.**

**We praise our dear Saviour for loving us so,  
For planning each care of our life.  
Then giving us faith to trust Him for all,  
The blessings, as well as the strife.**

**Things don't just happen to us who love God,  
To us that have taken our stand,  
No matter the lot, the course, or the price,  
Things don't just happen, they're planned.**

*~ Esther L. Fields*

***Our Mission Statement:*** Phoenix Christian Counseling Associates is a non-profit organization that provides a full range of affordable, professional, Biblically based counseling services to encourage personal growth and strengthen families.

**PHOENIX CHRISTIAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATES**

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