



## Abundant Living Ministries

*Encouraging Christian Living since 1978*

April 2022

Sharon (my wife) was delighted and encouraged as today's mail was opened. Included was a personal letter from a lady who had counseled with her over 12 years ago.

She wrote of her appreciation for the help she had received when counseling with Sharon.

And now, these 12+ years later, she herself has a faith-based business providing opportunities for her to be the encourager in the lives of others.

In addition to the encouraging letter, I was so appreciative of her financial gift. How thoughtful of her to "pass it forward."

I assume you know that ALM, for these 43 years, has never charged for our counseling services. It is because of the generosity of people like this writer (and people like YOU, I might add), that we continue in this rewarding ministry of encouraging others in their Christian walk.

I remember an important lesson about finances about 40 years ago. Walking from our apartment to the office, I noticed my dream car parked by the ministry building... the white full-size, four-door Mercedes sedan... turbo diesel. I remember thinking, "Whoa, somebody has a lot of money. He will probably make a very-generous contribution after his counseling session."

I was inquisitive enough to inquire of the secretary. She told me that he expressed strong appreciation for his first session and scheduled another. And then, with a grin, she mentioned that he left a two-dollar gift for the counseling.

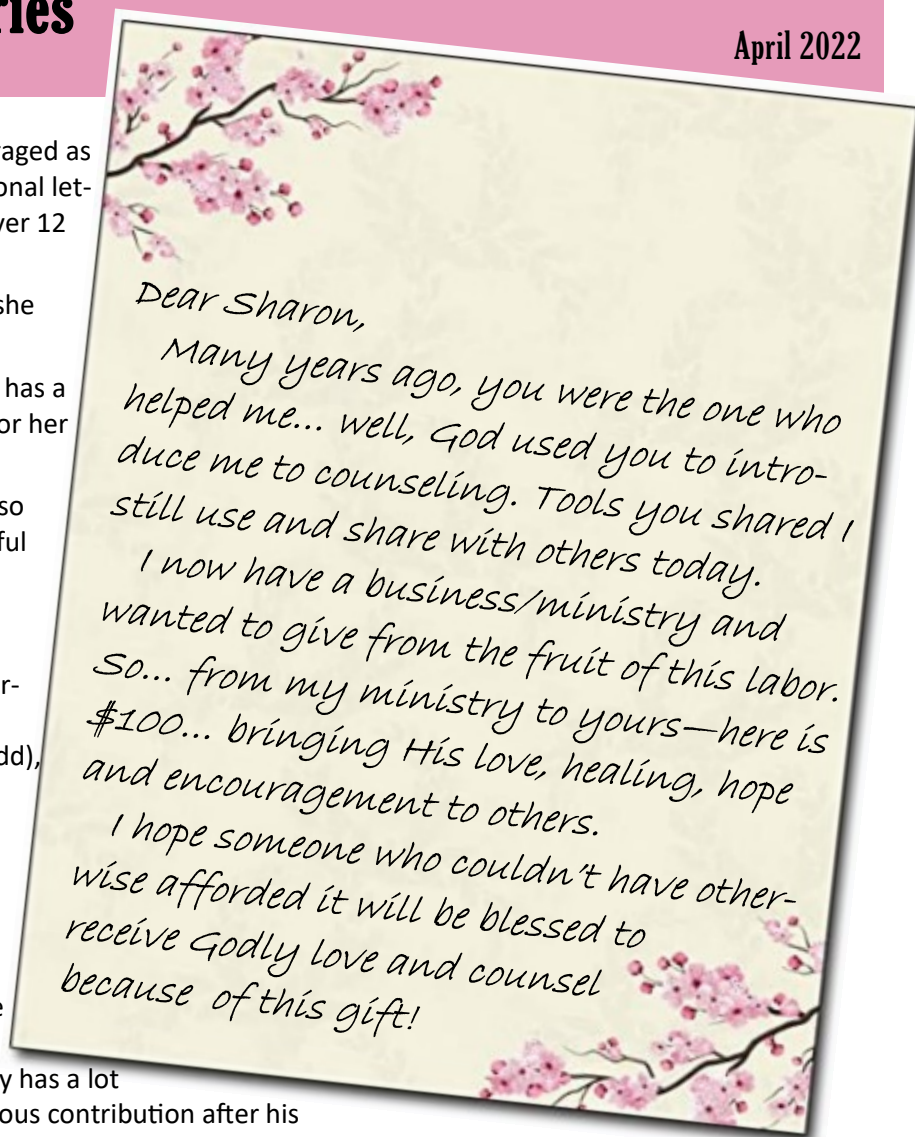
WELL - That was a great learning moment! I sensed the Lord saying to me, "John, my boy... don't look to the owner of an expensive car to be the source of finances for this ministry. Look to ME and I will provide what is needed."

That was about 40 years ago. I purposed then that I would not track what people contribute when they are here for counseling. I will allow each person to give what they want while trusting the LORD as our real Provider.

And... back to what I said a few paragraphs ago... people like YOU make up the difference for those who can't (or don't want to) contribute appropriately at their time of counseling.

Thank YOU for your kindness and generosity,

John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)



*I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me*

# NO OTHER GODS

*You shall have no other gods besides me. (Exodus 20:3).*

Guthrie, a Christian writer of years ago, wrote this very wise caution for believers of his generation... yet how relevant and challenging it is for those of us living in the self-indulgent culture of today.

*If you find yourself beginning to love...*

- ◆ *Any pleasure better than your prayers,*
- ◆ *Any book better than your Bible,*
- ◆ *Any house better than God's,*
- ◆ *Any table better than the Lord's,*
- ◆ *Any person better than your Savior,*
- ◆ *Anyone better than your soul,*
- ◆ *A present indulgence better than the hope of heaven...*

***Then... Take alarm!***

If, in fact we have lost our love for Jesus, Scripture has a solution: ***Repent and do the things you did at first!*** (Revelation 2:5) Choosing to do the kinds of things that initially drew us close to our Savior, can rekindle the intimacy we once enjoyed. If Guthrie's words caused you to "take alarm," allow Jesus' words to cause you to "take action." You'll be glad you did!

*Written by  
Sharon Charles*



## Upcoming Events at ALM



### Open Arms Childbirth Class

Four Consecutive Thursdays

July 7- 28, 2022

7:00 pm

Covering the important information offered in a hospital course, *Open Arms* adds a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will enjoy meeting other expectant couples as you gain practical help in preparing for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course.

Register by contacting the ALM office.

**5 Monday evenings:  
October 3 - 31, 2022  
7:00-9:00 PM**

**\$120 per person or \$150 per couple  
(cost includes textbooks)**

*Call or email the ALM office for more information  
or to register for the class.*

### Lay Christian Counselor Training

*For those who wish  
to be more effective  
people-helpers.*



## Contact Information

**Mailing Address:**

**Physical Location:**

**Website:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

400 E 4th Avenue, Lititz, PA 17543

541 W 28th Division Hwy, Lititz, PA 17543

[www.AbundantLivingMinistries.org](http://www.AbundantLivingMinistries.org)

[info@AbundantLivingMinistries.org](mailto:info@AbundantLivingMinistries.org)

(717) 626-9575 **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/alm4u](https://www.facebook.com/alm4u)