

April 22, 2015

Shirley A. Taylor

Dear Shirley:

On behalf of Franklin Graham, thank you for your letter regarding issues of equality for women, especially in relation to the *Operation Heal Our Patriots* program.

There are many great stories coming out of Samaritan Lodge—Alaska, where these marriage retreats take place. And there are even more stories coming from the reunions and after-care programs, which we sponsor throughout the year in various locations around the country. I believe you would be pleased with the life-building instruction and activities designed for these hurting couples, who have experienced high levels of post-traumatic stress. It is not an easy task, but we work hard at helping them to treasure each other in marriage and to continue growing in what we hope will be loving, secure, and life-long marriage and family relationships.

Our focus is on helping both husband and wife to find their healing and identity in relation to our Lord Jesus Christ—and then they will be the men and women that He has made them to be. It should also be noted that a number of wounded veteran spouses in the program have been women.

By the way, studies show that women have much greater ease in building friendships with women, than men do with men. Knowing this, men especially need to have “bands of brothers” in Christ, where they are encouraged to be healthier and stronger men in every facet of their lives, especially in their marriages.

Thank you again for writing, and also for your encouraging comments about the work of Samaritan's Purse. May God bless you.

In Christ's service,



Samuel B. McGinn
Staff Chaplain, IHQ
Special Correspondent