



# Fall 2023 Retreat

So very much planning and preparing goes into a Deeper Still retreat, and it is all so very, very worth it. It is an absolute honor and privilege preparing holy ground for a divine appointment between Jesus and women and men desperate for His healing touch. Not only is preparedness a Deeper Still value, we know full well when we come prepared the Holy Spirit will carry us through and level out the bumps along the way. This has certainly been true for the Arkansas chapter, and God was so very faithful October 13-15, 2023 as we hosted our tenth retreat. It is incredible to reflect back on the few months prior to retreat and see God's hand along the way as He prepared each team member for what was ahead. Over the Summer, Jeanie Shook, one of the charter team members who has "worn many hats" since the Deeper Still Arkansas chapter's inception in 2019 - from holding the responsibility of retreat administrator and knowing "all the things" to serving as the Deeper Still Arkansas board secretary - began preparing two team members to do some of what she has been doing for the past few years. None of us, namely Jeanie, could've been prepared for the news that she would need open heart surgery a few days before the Fall retreat, but God knew! Our Sister Jeanie is recovering, praise God, but please keep her in your prayers as she may have a long road ahead. God had others prepared and positioned to step right into her shoes perfectly. Not only that, God brought in team members with skills to fill in those roles the others left as they moved into a new position. Then the day before retreat, a team member became ill and could not serve so more "shifting" came. I hope you are following me, we make our plans, but the Lord certainly determines our steps (Proverbs 16:9). We were stretched, and we grew individually and as a team. The presence of the Holy Spirit was almost tangible. Twenty-two team members witnessed spiritual breakthrough, healing and Holy Spirit transformation in twelve women and one man. The team members were honored to witness these mothers and a father memorialize a total of seventeen babies lost to the violence of abortion. Two participants made professions of faith. During the Sunday afternoon team debrief after the participants had headed home, several team members characterized this retreat as "easy, smooth and unified." The following week a team member sent me Isaiah 26:7, "The path of the righteous is level; you, the Upright One, make the way of the righteous smooth." We came prepared, obedient, surrendered to Christ, fully

expecting the Holy Spirit to have His way and in a situation that could have created stress or chaos, God made the way so smooth! God is faithful! We felt His presence all weekend, and on Sunday morning He sent us a beautiful rainbow. All praise to Jesus!

Constney Beck Chapter Leader, Deeper Still Arkansas



Deeper Still October Retreat Team



#### October Retreat Participant Reviews:

"This was the first step I have ever taken towards healing so I found all aspects of the retreat helpful. I was not even sure what areas I needed healing, and I am not sure I had any expectations coming in, but I do know that I am leaving here more healed and free than I have been in years. I feel closer to the Lord, and I feel all the shame and guilt of not just the abortion but my past has been lifted off me; this is so much more than I ever thought would happen. Having a safe space to get out the past and have no fear of judgment was beyond what I could have hoped for."

"I loved the sincerity, attention and spiritual authority that was so evident in the leadership."

"I can't begin to express how healing and life-changing this netreat has been for me. From the attention to the details in the decor. providing for our physical and spiritual needs, to introducing spiritually grounded and biblically rich concepts to provide healing - it has just been more than I could have imagined or hoped for! Thank you all so much for allowing God to work through you and ministering to hurting men and women."

## "I feel like I can breathe again."

"Thank you doesn't seem adequate for the work, love and prayer that was put into this retreat. When I arrived, I didn't expect to be greeted and my bags carried in for me. The decor was so beautiful, and there was so much attention to detail.I knew I had been thought of and prayed for, but this was just amazing. Each session was a blessing. I loved the attentiveness and openness of the leadership team. Working with one (me/participant) to two team members was so helpful in being able to address deeply buried things without shame or judgment. They have servant's hearts with so much love and kindness. Their prayers were filled with Spirit guidance. Overall this was the most beautiful spiritual experience, and I'm so thankful from the bottom of my heart!"

"I received healing I didn't even know I needed, was able to leave unforgiveness at the cross and pray for those that hurt me. I feel like I can really breathe. Taking in everything I learned was like taking a drink of fresh crisp spring water. Unforgettable. I want to drink that water all the time. With having this new healing, I truly believe it will help me in my walk with God. Now that all the cobwebs have been cleaned out, I'm a clean slate so God can mold me into the woman he created me to be. For all of that, I want to thank you all for helping me and showing me what it means to be truly forgiven for what I did. It's like a breath of fresh air. Thank you, and I pray God continues directing you and pours out many blessings in the years to come. You all are very much appreciated."

## Ministry Partner Gathering

Deeper Still Arkansas is a 501c3 nonprofit and offers all healing retreats completely free of charge to women and men. Raising funds for this endeavor is absolutely imperative. In addition to prayer and dedicated team members, the retreats would be extremely challenging if not impossible to pull off without financial support. The Arkansas chapter of Deeper Still is so very blessed to have support from financial and church partners. On November 7th, Deeper Still Arkansas will host a Ministry Partner Gathering at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Little Rock to bless these special supporters with lunch, a ministry update and the future vision of Deeper Still here in Arkansas. Twelve partner churches/ministries, 60 individual financial partners and twelve potential ministry partners were invited. Thank you to all of you who donate! You've partnered with over 100 women and men receiving healing

for an abortion wounded heart since the chapter began in 2019. We also want to thank our church partners who not only support the ministry financially but also promote the ministry to their congregation, invite us in to share about Deeper Still, print material for us and allow us to use their building for special events and storage of supplies. We'd like to give a special "shout out" to Covenant Presbyterian Church, The Church at Rock Creek, Geyer Springs Baptist, Grace Church East End and the Arkansas State Baptist Convention for sharing your space with us for events and storage and for printing our material. **THANK YOU** to all of our individual financial partners and our church partners! Please email us at **godeeperstillarkansas@gmail.com** for more information partnering with us.



## Deeper Still Arkansas Board Business

The terms for the current board president and board secretary are up at the end of this year. These positions are currently held by Jim Lewis and Jeanie Shook who will each remain on the board as members at large. Effective January 1, 2024, Sean McKean will become president of the board and Donna Lewis will become secretary of the board. Sean McKean is the Executive Pastor at The Church at Rock Creek, has been married to his wife, Donna, for over 30 years, and is the father of two, and grandfather of eight. Donna Lewis is the owner of Live Up! LLC, a coaching and consulting firm, and a chaplain with MarketPlace Chaplains. Donna and husband, Luke, of 42 years attend Geyer Springs Baptist Church, have two children and 3 grandchildren.

Board of Directors as of January 1, 2024:

President - Sean McKean Executive Director - Courtney Beck Secretary - Donna Lewis Treasurer - Susanne Lewis Members at large - Jim Lewis and Jeanie Shook

#### Is God inviting you to help bring freedom and healing to those who have been impacted by abortion?

Our mission is to multiply ministry teams who bring healing and lasting freedom to abortion wounded hearts. This training seminar will equip and empower you to be a voice of compassion and truth to those who are



searching for more. Whether you desire to serve on one of our retreat teams, start a Deeper Still Chapter in your area, or just learn more about this incredible ministry, this training is for you!

## Inspíre Women's Conference

On September 23 Deeper Still Arkansas was the featured ministry at the Inspire Women's Conference organized by the Arkansas State Baptist Convention and held at the First Baptist Church in Russellville. Over 900 women came together to hear from speaker Tara Dew about how Jesus makes our lives Flourish based on John 15. All attendees were asked to bring items needed for a Deeper Still retreat weekend. These ladies seriously showed out! We completely filled a small SUV from front to back and top to bottom except the driver's seat with lots and lots of great items. On behalf of the Deeper Still Arkansas board of directors and all team members, THANK YOU to all of you ladies and especially to Andrea Lennon of Andrea Lennon Ministry for lining up this incredible blessing and also for promoting us on the September 4 episode of the podcast Inspire On The Go with Andrea Lennon.

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- Deeper Still chapter in Northwest Arkansas
- For minority representation on the Board of Directors
- Big dream and prayer request: For Deeper Still Arkansas to have it's own retreat venue
- Financial and church partners
- For women and men that need healing to attend a retreat; especially pray for men to attend
- Deeper Still Arkansas team members and volunteers

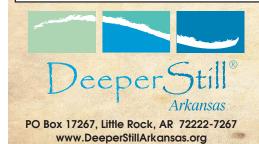
#### 2024 Events:

- February 9-10 Deeper Still training in Little Rock, AR
- April 26-28 and July 26-28 Deeper Still Arkansas retreats
- Fall 2024 retreat need direction on location and date
- Day of Healing at a Women's Addiction Recovery Facility - need a date



## Offer to Come Share:

We would love to come share about Deeper Still Arkansas and a short testimony of healing with your church, small group, life group, Bible study, etc. Please email **godeeperstillarkansas@gmail.com** to schedule a date.



#### 2023 Stats:

- 2 Weekend Retreats
- 1 Day of Healing at a Women's Addiction Recovery Facility
- Number of female participants served: 35
- Number of male participants served: 1
- Number of babies lost to abortion memorialized: 57

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