

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 9 Issue 2

April – June, 2010

## On a Personal Note...

Dear friends,

We are grateful to the Lord for the opportunities for ministry this spring. We held 2 retreats in Branson MO after Easter. At the 1<sup>st</sup> retreat April 6 – 9, we hosted 4 couples: a N. Mexico pastor & wife having significant financial challenges as well as church concerns; an OK youth pastor dealing with a number of problems in his ministry; an AR pastor with severe health problems limiting his ministry; and an AR pastor and wife extremely unhappy in their current situation. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> retreat April 12 – 16, we served these 4 couples: an AR pastor who is faithfully serving as a church planter; an AR youth minister & wife doing a great job in their church who had many questions about life and ministry; and 2 Directors of Missions from Michigan – both of them may lose their positions due to convention changes (85% of their salary is paid by NAMB). They are both near 60. One wife is also losing her job with the school system. Please pray for these couples. Wednesday night, April 14, we received word Charlie's nephew had passed away. Charlie preached the funeral Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> in Louisiana. After traveling home, Charlie preached at FBC: Olive Branch, Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup>. He went back to Little Rock for his only brother's surgery on Monday. Jerry was recently diagnosed with kidney cancer. Please pray for Jerry & his wife Linda. Suzanne traveled to Billings MT on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, to speak for a women's event on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Although her travel presented many challenges, one lady was saved and others made decisions for Christ. It was a joy for her to be with Pastor Paul and Nan Ostrander. Because of the flooding in Nashville and Suzanne's delayed travel, we drove to E TN for the 2 retreats in Pigeon Forge on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We hosted 6 couples at each of these retreats (May 3 – 7 and 10 – 14). Four were from MS, four from TN, and one each from FL, VA, KY, and IN. Each group had a great time together. Three of these pastors have been terminated and were able to encourage each other. Some other issues these couples are facing include the following: one couple's oldest child just left her husband; several are struggling with church conflict; one church building was destroyed by a tornado and needs to be rebuilt; some have adult children who are away from the Lord; one wife is recovering from cancer; one wife wants her husband to leave the ministry; and one pastor feels that he is better suited to be a support staff rather than pastor. While we were in E TN, we were also able to visit a local pastor and wife who are going through a trying time as well as several precious folks who help SHOR on a monthly basis. The weekend of May 21<sup>st</sup>, we met with the KY youth minister & wife we are trying to encourage. Please continue to pray for them as they seek to commit their home & marriage to the Lord. Our second quarterly board meeting was Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to praise the Lord for the men who serve alongside us through SHOR. We value their wisdom for the ministry. We had 2 couples attend the retreat in our home May 28 – 31. One couple cancelled and neither couple on the waiting list was able to come. We hosted a Missouri pastor and wife who are serving the Lord faithfully but have been dealing with many transitions. We had a Mississippi couple who are now both disabled. They are asking the Lord for ways to serve Him. On Sunday (5/30), Suzanne & Charlotte (her sister) had to take Mimi (their mom) to the hospital. Dr. Gray was in Louisiana preaching that weekend. Mimi was in the hospital from May 30 until Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. She is much improved, and we are all grateful. Dr. Gray is a wonderful caregiver, and Mimi is her wonderful happy self – still smiling! We thank the Lord that Suzanne's Dad is still going strong, preaching and teaching.

We left for Jacksonville, FL on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. We met with a local couple for dinner on Tuesday. They had been scheduled to attend the FL retreat in February, but when her grandmother became terminally ill, they had to cancel. They are transitioning in their ministry. We began the retreat June 9<sup>th</sup>. We hosted 5 couples at this retreat: an AL pastor & wife who are on sabbatical needing rest; a GA pastor & wife seeking God's will for their ministry; a FL Dir. of Missions ministering faithfully to 32 churches in his association; a FL pastor discouraged in ministry; and a FL children's minister whose church is currently without a pastor (they have a house they need to sell). It was a great week! After the retreat, we spent a week with all of our children and grandchildren. We are so blessed with our wonderful family. We returned home to complete the newsletter and catch up on mail, contacts, and paperwork. We will host 2 retreats in our home in July. Please pray that we will complete the painting, etc., in Chad's room. He and Jessica bought a house in Batesville AR where they are serving in a new church plant. They finished moving out in late May. We need his room for the upcoming retreats. We continue to offer Biblical guidance for a number of couples. Please pray that we will have the Lord's wisdom for each situation.

We read today in Psalm 5:11: "But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You." We continually praise the Lord for His goodness and for your faithful prayers and support. We are so blessed!

In His love,

*Suzanne and Charlie*



## Retreat Testimonies

Wow! SHOR was such a blessing to us. We are in the middle of a ministry crisis, and this retreat was God's provision for restoration. This week has been a tremendous blessing to us.

Prior to this retreat I had a major illness and spent 3 months in bed. This was one of my husband's busiest times of the church calendar year so I spent most of this time at home alone. SHOR allowed us to get together with a group of compassionate people who loved us the second we arrived. It has also given my husband the much-needed rest that he has not received over the last 6 months. Most importantly, it has encouraged and inspired us as we return to our church.

The meals were healthy and delicious. The fellowship was heart-warming. The encouragement for our family and ministry was greatly needed and deeply appreciated. We came together as strangers and parted as friends. Thank you to all who contributed to this ministry to make this retreat possible for those of us in our Lord's service. What refreshing water to a dry and thirsty soul!

The attention to detail made the time flow beautifully. Thank you for "no programs". Thank you for spending quality time with us—your love and concern touched our hearts. Words cannot express how much we appreciate your taking time to pray with us and for making us so comfortable here. The couples here blessed us this week. Surely God put us all together.

Getting away from the daily grind and not having the burden of expense for lodging and food was such a blessing. My wife was able to be free from daily chores of cooking and cleaning and all this with a non-threatening, nurturing environment. The freedom from any schedule was great. The laughter encouraged our hearts. Hearing others share that they had been in our circumstances made us realize we are not alone. We experienced such peace after Charlie and Suzanne prayed for us.

Being with my husband, alone with each other to pray together and "really" talk to each other, while having no demands, schedules or expectations while we were here was unbelievable. The fellowship with everyone lightened our load.

For many reasons we feel quite isolated where we live (Appalachia). After the Lord released us from ministry 2 months ago, we were/are experiencing "withdrawal", relationally. The retreat was like having a family reunion even though we had never met before. Charlie and Suzanne were not only great servants and listeners; they were also like mom and dad, caring for and loving us. Thank you!

Jim has been in ministry for 30 years. He loves the Lord but is tired. When Charlie and Suzanne cooked for us, cleaned up after us, listened to us and prayed for us, we felt humbled, but refreshed. This week will change the way we feel about our ministry and the way I feel about ministering to others.

While it is a blessing to be used of God in ministry, we are human & we grow weary. We have been under tremendous stress in our personal lives: our oldest son is in jail awaiting trial; our oldest daughter who is on drugs is single but living with her boyfriend and has two children by different men; and our 3<sup>rd</sup> child has recently claimed to be a homosexual. I have been physically ill for over a year. The doctor found a large tumor December 31<sup>st</sup>. After ultrasound more tumors were found, & the oncologist suspected cancer. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, I had surgery. The largest tumor was cantaloupe sized! Praise the Lord, I am now cancer free! Our youngest two children seem frustrated & even angry at times. They have heard many arguments between my husband and me as the stress from our personal lives and of pastoring have taken a toll on our marriage, disrupting their peaceful home life. This has been a much-needed time of spiritual renewal as well as restoration for our marriage. The prayer time was more meaningful that words can express. Just to have someone ask, "How can pray we pray for you," was very touching. Thank you, SHOR ministries and Charlie and Suzanne!

## Blessings!

Our warmest appreciation to John and Linda Calcote for opening their gorgeous Branson home to SHOR retreats. Special thanks to Debby Davenport and Kris Fontenot for serving and cooking for both groups. We love you all!

Thank you to Pastor Paul Ostrander and Nan for hosting Suzanne and for the opportunity for her to speak to the women of Billings, MT, at Wicks Lane Baptist Church. You are dear friends!

Many thanks to Charlie Shafer for recommending Charlie to preach during the interim time at First Baptist Church: Olive Branch.

A BIG thanks Randy Tullos and the staff of Smokey Mountain Christian Village for the beautiful condos at Pigeon Forge for the May retreats. If you are planning a trip for your family or church to the mountains of E. Tennessee, please consider this wonderful facility.

Our sincere appreciation to Jerry Carl for providing the wonderful River Oaks Landing. You are a blessing!

Special thanks to Bill and Nancy Scott for opening their condo in the World Golf Village for SHOR retreats as well as networking for another condo so we can host more couples. Many thanks to Lisa and Tom McMahan for cooking. What a blessing all of these folks are!

We continue to praise our Great God for your love, prayers and support. Words are inadequate, but please know you are loved!

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ *For the couples booked for the retreats in Arlington in July and September and in Branson in August that the Lord would protect this special time away for them to be renewed and refreshed.*
- ◆ *For the couples who need special help in crisis situations to be obedient to the Lord and willing to follow Him at all cost. For us to have God's wisdom for each couple with which we meet.*
- ◆ *For traveling mercy for couples as they come to retreats as well as for our personal travel.*
- ◆ *For the Lord's continued provision for every need. He is able!*
- ◆ *For our personal time with the Lord, our physical strength, and our prioritizing of our time. Managing the retreats along with the special needs for couples outside of retreats continues to be a challenge.*

***Praise: We are seeing the Lord's hand in several Biblical guidance situations.  
Thank you for your prayers!***

# Schedule

Dates	Event	Location
June 24	Family Life Ministries	Little Rock AR
July 16 – 19	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
July 21 – 24	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
August 10 – 13	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
August 16 – 20	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
September 3- 6	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
September 10 – 12	Speaking	Pensacola FL
September 20 - 24	SHOR retreat	Centennial WY
October 5 – 8	SHOR retreat	Idaho Falls ID
October 18 – 22	SHOR retreat	Elephant Butte NM
November 4 – 8	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
November 11 – 14	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY

# From Our Hearts to Yours!

We have completed 10 retreats in 2010. We have hosted retreats in 5 states: TX, TN, FL, AL, and MO. Pastors and wives from these 14 states have attended: TX, AR, FL, KY, GA, TN, NM, OK, MI, MS, IN, VA, AL, and MO. We have averaged 275 contacts a month with ministry couples facing various issues in their ministries and personal lives. We are preparing for the remaining 10 retreats we will host in Tennessee, Missouri, Wyoming, Idaho, New Mexico, and New York. These are comments from some of those who are registered for these retreats:

† Our church is a dying church. It was sick when I came aboard, and 6 months later despite 3 professions of faith and 5 baptisms, we're down in attendance. We need a time of spiritual refreshment and recovery desperately.

† We need time to reflect on ministry since we left our previous pastorate. We are currently serving as interim in a church after a conflict between the Senior Pastor and Music Minister. Our pastor resigned immediately. The music minister has remained, and we are in the middle of resolving the conflict that remains. We need some time to vent and focus on our own ministry.

† Our church just went through a split, and I'm trying to go forward and not look back.

† We struggle with balancing ministry needs with family needs; feeling drained because we feel like we are always giving without ever experiencing relief or "receiving."

## **What makes SHOR different?**

Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge  
Charlie & Suzanne are available to talk with and to pray with each couple  
Ministry couples are served and allowed to rest with no agenda

***Would you please consider helping us help them?***



Charlie & Suzanne Grigsby  
5525 Chester Street  
Arlington, TN 38002

Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge.  
We at SHOR Ministries rely on gifts from our dear friends  
to make that happen.

Please pray about supporting this ministry.

To greater assist you, we now have several contribution options:

- Check or Money order (use the supplied envelope) NO CASH PLEASE
- Credit Card: Visa, MasterCard or American Express
- Bank Draft: call 901-867-3843, or email us at [info@shorministries.com](mailto:info@shorministries.com) to get set up

**All gifts to Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries are tax deductible**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 388  
MEMPHIS, TN

## Did You Know...

From *What Pastors Wish Church Members Knew* by Denise George:

### Your Pastor is Always Giving to Others

Pastors can be like large water pitchers. They can pour out lots of water for others if their pitchers are full. But what happens when they give others all the water in their pitchers? They run dry, their pitchers are empty, and they have no more water to give. Pastors must "go back to the well" and refill their water pitchers often to avoid spiritual dryness and emptiness. They must spend time in spiritual meditation . . .

Two pastors said:

*The ministry is a vocation where one constantly gives. There comes a time when there's a real need for receiving, and outside of personal time with God, there aren't many opportunities for receiving.*

*I wish church members knew how spiritual exhaustion resulting from always giving, but never receiving, engenders bitterness. I occasionally mask that bitterness with an outer façade of happiness. Sometimes though, I feel that the façade might burst like a dam!*

"I know the conflicted feeling of standing up to preach and knowing that my own soul is empty and dry," writes pastor Lance Witt, founder of Replenish Ministries, and a former executive pastor at Saddleback Church. "I know what it is to feed others while neglecting to feed myself. It's no longer safe to assume that people in ministry have healthy souls . . . Ministry, which we would assume would enhance our relationship with God, can actually become a threat to our relationship with God."

### SHOR Ministries

5525 Chester Street  
Arlington, TN 38002

PHONE:  
(901) 867-3843

E-MAIL:  
[info@shorministries.com](mailto:info@shorministries.com)  
[Charlie@shorministries.com](mailto:Charlie@shorministries.com)  
[Suzanne@shorministries.com](mailto:Suzanne@shorministries.com)

Feel free to contact us. We would  
love to hear from you.

Visit us on the Web @  
[www.shorministries.com](http://www.shorministries.com)

[www.shorministries.com](http://www.shorministries.com)