

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 8 Issue 3

July - August 2009

On a Personal Note...

Dear friends,

It is so hard to believe summer is past! We celebrated Papa's (Dr. Gray's) 60th year in ministry July 4th. What a joy to have his wisdom & experience as we serve through SHOR. The 1st & 2nd weeks of July we had a number of counseling situations. God has been answering prayer in several of these although we continue to work through some. We held a SHOR board meeting in our home July 14th. Their prayer & guidance is greatly valued. Charlie preached in N MS on Sunday, July 12th, as well as helping with the funeral for one of our dear friends from Bartlett July 15th. We traveled to Boise, Idaho on Friday, July 17th to look at a potential retreat location. We were able to spend time with a ministry couple on that Friday in addition to a precious family who prays for our ministry. The cabin, in the mountains north of Boise, is a great location but is not large enough to host a retreat. Through the Lord's networking, we have found a location for fall of 2010 that will enable us to reach Washington, Oregon, Idaho, W. Montana, and N. Nevada and Utah – praise God! We began a retreat at Aspen Canyon Ranch July 19th. We hosted 4 couples: an OH church planter needing prayer for the new church & its staff; a TN itinerate preacher / teacher who carries a significant ministry /work load & has a special needs adult child; an OK seminary couple seeking God's will for ministry; & a FL pastor who has 4 adopted siblings in addition to working a secular job while leading his church. One of the men shared that he had truly experienced revival. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness to meet needs in the lives of His servants! We traveled on to New Mexico where we led a parenting conference at the Church at the Butte (Elephant Butte NM). Charlie preached on Sunday & Suzanne shared about SHOR. We are so grateful to Pastor Jeff Estes & his wife Cherie for introducing us to this beautiful area. We will lead a SHOR retreat in NM in October of 2010 using Elephant Butte Inn with the church providing meals. What a great answer to prayer for a SW retreat location! The last of July Angie & her children were home for a week. We celebrated 3 of our grandchildren's birthdays! Charlie preached at Bartlett Baptist on Aug 2nd. How great to be there & share with sweet folks we love.

The 1st week of August we had new counseling situations as well as follow-up on existing ones. We are dealing with depression, terminations, moral issues, family turmoil, financial situations, personal health issues, & church conflict. So many need your prayers!

We traveled to Branson for 2 retreats on Monday, Aug. 10. We hosted 5 couples the first week: an IL pastor & wife who needed a break (dealing with financial issues); an OH pastor who surrendered to the ministry later in life now serving in his first church (they had a whole list of questions for us –

what a joy to get to pray for them); an AR pastor & wife with a 2 year old & 6 months old twins -- working hard on intentional discipleship in their church family; a TN pastor who served for 18 years in Alaska (his wife heads a crisis pregnancy center – he has a ruptured disc in his back (& no insurance); an AR pastor & wife who have experienced deep hurts in their church this past year. Each needs your prayers. Debby Davenport came to help, but her sister-in-law passed away on Wednesday morning so she went back home to LA. Please remember the Davenports. The second week in Branson we had 5 couples attend: a LA pastor & wife serving faithfully for 18 years needing a break; a LA couple who work in a rescue / counseling ministry & who also began a church plant (they need your prayers); a young AR couple who founded & do a great job leading a children's home; an AR pastor & wife whose church shares a church building with another congregation – an exciting work; a LA pastor recovering from cancer (they also need your prayers in a special way). We had wonderful prayer time with each of these couples. We can see God's hand in their lives & ministries but remain keenly aware of their need for intercession. We traveled back from Branson through Little Rock where we were blessed to spend time with Robert & Sherard Lewis. (Robert is the pastor-at-large at Fellowship Bible Church and the founder of Men's Fraternity.) Robert is a visionary who challenged us about the future of SHOR. What an encouragement to see them (it had been 42 years – since Suzanne's high school graduation). We also met with an AR pastor & wife for counseling on our way home. On Tuesday morning, August 25th, we received a call that a young AR pastor had been arrested. We will not go into details in this letter, but we will ask that you specifically pray Romans 8:28 for them & their 3 children. We traveled to Perdido Bay FL where Charlie preached on Sunday, Aug. 30th. We had special time with Susan Ramsey & 2 of her children. (Pastor David was on a mission trip.) We were blessed to share SHOR with the pastors of the Colbert / Lauderdale Assoc. in N. Alabama on August 31st.

We will travel out west in Sept. for 3 retreats in CO (4 couples), MT (3 couples) and WY (8 couples). We covet your prayers for strength and wisdom. Suzanne will lead a retreat for wives Oct 2 – 5 in S. AL before we host 2 retreats in our home and 2 in New York. We hold to Ps. 31:3: "For You are [our] **rock** and [our] fortress; For Your name's sake You will lead [us] and guide [us]." WE LOVE YOU!

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

I knew God would use this week to refresh us, but He gave so much more. If I could advise pastors, I would say: "Don't wait until your ministry is overwhelming you -- putting a strain on your sanity, your marriage, your calling." Take time; go to a SHOR retreat. This ministry is unique because of no schedule, personal prayer time (sharing joys and cares with no fear of repercussion), and no cost.

The past year for my wife and me has been one of great trials and stress. She was in the hospital over a month due to a difficult pregnancy with twins. The loss of a close friend to a tragic accident, the birth of twins, and the regular stress of ministry – all have strained us to the limit. This was the 1st time in over a year that we got to spend time alone together for more than 3 hours. It was refreshing, encouraging, and uplifting. Thank you so much for this ministry!

Time away from children and the responsibilities of church with no cost and no agenda -- it seemed too good to be true. This week has been God sent! After a tough year of ministry and recent health issues with parents, a week away at a beautiful location at no cost was the perfect way to unwind, relax, and reconnect. The nightly conversation with other couples was fun and encouraging. We enjoyed the prayer time with Charlie & Suzanne. We needed a safe place to let go of our burdens and concerns. We loved every minute!

What a wonderful week! The time we spent with Charlie & Suzanne was just what we needed. In a loving way, they provided guidance and reassurance. We feel reenergized, rested, reconnected, and refocused to continue in ministry.

We have been in the pastorate for 40 years. We have experienced many rewards but also many hurts. We learned about SHOR several years ago when we were at an all time low. We came to a retreat not knowing what to expect. We were not allowed to help with meals, clean up or anything! SHOR had a wonderful place for us to stay and fed us delicious meals. It has been our desire to bring other hurting pastors and wives to retreats. We have encouraged 15 couples to come to these retreats. We feel so strongly about SHOR that we personally support the ministry with our prayers and our gifts. We know that SHOR Ministries is a good steward of the Lord's money touching many lives.

This past year and a half we have had several very stressful experiences and really needed to get away for a time of physical and spiritual renewal. It is also very difficult to discuss these matters with folks back home. The prayer time with Charlie & Suzanne was really great. The interaction during the week helped us to realize that they really cared and could be trusted with the matters we shared. This meant so much to us that we are planning to do what we can in the future to help make this experience possible for others.

We found during this retreat that many pastors have the same concerns. It helps to know that we are not in this battle alone. We were encouraged to lean on Jesus to guide us day by day. How refreshing to be able to share and spend time with others who understand how we feel. We're ready to go home and continue our journey!

As a church pastor and with my wife serving as the director of a pregnancy care center, our lives are hectic to say the least. Sometimes we meet while coming and going; sometimes we don't even meet. We were both at the point of exhaustion. We have not slept late in years. We were listened to, loved, served like royalty, and encouraged. Thank you, Lord, & thank you to the supporters of SHOR Ministries.

We had recently experienced surgery with a lengthy recovery, the death of a family member with the immediate need to make plans for care of a mentally challenged family member, and the death of a close friend and leader in our church. The last 2 events happened within a 2 week period. This time of mental rest and being away from day to day pastoral responsibilities was just so needed. We could share our joys and sorrows confidentially with Charlie & Suzanne without fear that the information would be repeated.

After 6 years of starting a community ministry and a new church, we did not have money to go anywhere for any length of time. Because of gifts to this ministry, the SHOR retreat was possible and was a great get-away for us. Thank you, Suzanne & Charlie, for taking time to be interested in our lives. Your sincere concern for each person touched our hearts. We were treated wonderfully as well as being renewed mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Blessings!

Thank you to Jesse and Angie Shuster for hosting us in Idaho as we looked for a retreat setting. Special thanks to Jeff and Cherie Estes and the Church at the Butte for your hospitality and for allowing us to share SHOR.

Our sincere appreciation to Steve and Deb Roderick and their staff at Aspen Canyon Ranch – we love our retreats at the ranch!
**Would you please pray for Steve? He had surgery Sept. 4th.*

Special thanks to Dr. Michael Priest for having Charlie preach at Bartlett Baptist – it's always good to go home to Bartlett!

A BIG thanks to John & Linda Calcote for allowing us to use their beautiful Branson home for the two August retreats. We were all blessed! Thanks to Debby for her sweet servant spirit.

Many thanks to David Ramsey for having us in his church in Florida, and to Pastor Scott Moore for having us share SHOR with his association in N. Alabama.

Heartfelt gratitude to each of you who have prayed and given to make SHOR retreats possible. We know it is a sacrifice, and we are thankful to you.

Prayer Needs

For the upcoming retreats in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Alabama, Tennessee, and New York (eight retreats in eleven weeks)

For the couples who are scheduled to come for these retreats (we are dealing with cancellations and moving folks from the waiting list into retreats)

For the Lord's wisdom as we minister to couples who are unable to come to retreats
Please pray for repentance and brokenness and restoration in these situations

For us personally to depend on God's strength and to maintain a close walk with Him

For the Lord's direction for SHOR in the coming years

For the daily provision for the work of the ministry (this is the most travel intense time of the year; groceries and travel remain very expensive)

Schedule

Dates	Event	Location
September 13 – 17	SHOR retreat	Aspen Canyon Ranch CO
September 18 - 21	SHOR retreat	Nye MT
September 23 - 27	SHOR retreat	Centennial WY
October 2 – 5	SHOR retreat <i>FOR WIVES</i>	Orange Beach AL
October 11 – 14	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
October 16 – 19	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
November 5 – 9	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
November 12 - 15	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
NEW FOR 2010		
January 20 – 24	SHOR retreat	Yorktown TX
January 29 – February 1	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
February 17 – 20	SHOR retreat	Jacksonville FL
March 17 – 20	SHOR retreat	Orange Beach AL
April 6 – 9	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
April 12 – 16	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
May 3 – 7	SHOR retreat	Pigeon Forge TN
May 10 – 14	SHOR retreat	Pigeon Forge TN
May 28 – 31	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
June 9 – 12	SHOR retreat	Jacksonville FL

To Think About...

“Pastors today feel the weight of responsibility in leading their churches. Amidst the typical leadership pressures of casting vision, setting priorities, and managing personal relationships, pastors must also discern God’s message for their teaching and provide support for the hurting.

“An online survey conducted by LifeWay Research in March 2008 revealed that 67 percent of So. Baptist pastors somewhat or strongly agree that it is easy to get discouraged in their personal ministry.

“Agreement that their own ministry can be discouraging is true regardless of the size of the church and among most age groups of pastors. Pastors age 60 and older are less likely to be easily discouraged, yet 48 percent of them still agree that discouragement easily enters their ministry. The weight of leadership can at times feel heavier than a pastor can bear. . .

“Ministry can feel like a thankless profession,” said Paul Castelli, pastor of Crosspoint Church in Spring Hill, FL. “People are constantly in need. [They] always let you know when they are unhappy and when you’ve let them or their family down. But they seldom encourage, uplift or minister to pastors.”



Charlie & Suzanne Grigsby
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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 infor@shorministries.com to get set up

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

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From Our Hearts to Yours!

This year we have seen abundant answers to prayer! The completion of the work on our house (well, almost); God ministering to Mimi and Papa (Dr. Gray and Mrs. Voncille) as they deal with Mimi's multiple sclerosis; wonderful SHOR retreats with the maximum number of couples attending; and now, God's provision of a life-mate for our younger son, Chad. As most of you know, we have 3 children. Angie and her husband, Dean, a church planting pastor, and their 3 children serve in Columbus Ohio at Lifepoint Church (now 5 years old). David and his wife Karen and their 2 children live 20 minutes from us in Bartlett TN. He opened his own physical therapy clinic almost 2 years ago (with a partner) and serves as a deacon at Bartlett Baptist Church where Charlie pastored from 1996 – 2002. Chad graduated from Williams Baptist College in 2003 and then from Mid-America Seminary in 2006. He has been pastoring a small church plant in Arlington (5 minutes from our house) for 3 years.

Chad has a dear friend, Ron Franks, who served at Lucy Baptist Church in Millington TN. Chad helped with youth events for Ron from the time he was 18 years old. Ron and Lena have a beautiful, Godly daughter, Jessica. She is currently serving as a Journeyman with the International Mission Board in Ecuador. When Ron became ill with cancer in the spring of 2008, Chad began praying for him. As a result of more frequent communication (Ron moved to OH to serve as Assoc. pastor), Chad and Ron began talking about Jessica and her mission service. She and Chad began corresponding and talking long distance. Through this last year, they have fallen in love and plan to marry in March of 2010. We bless the faithfulness of our Father in His perfect provision!

SHOR Ministries

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