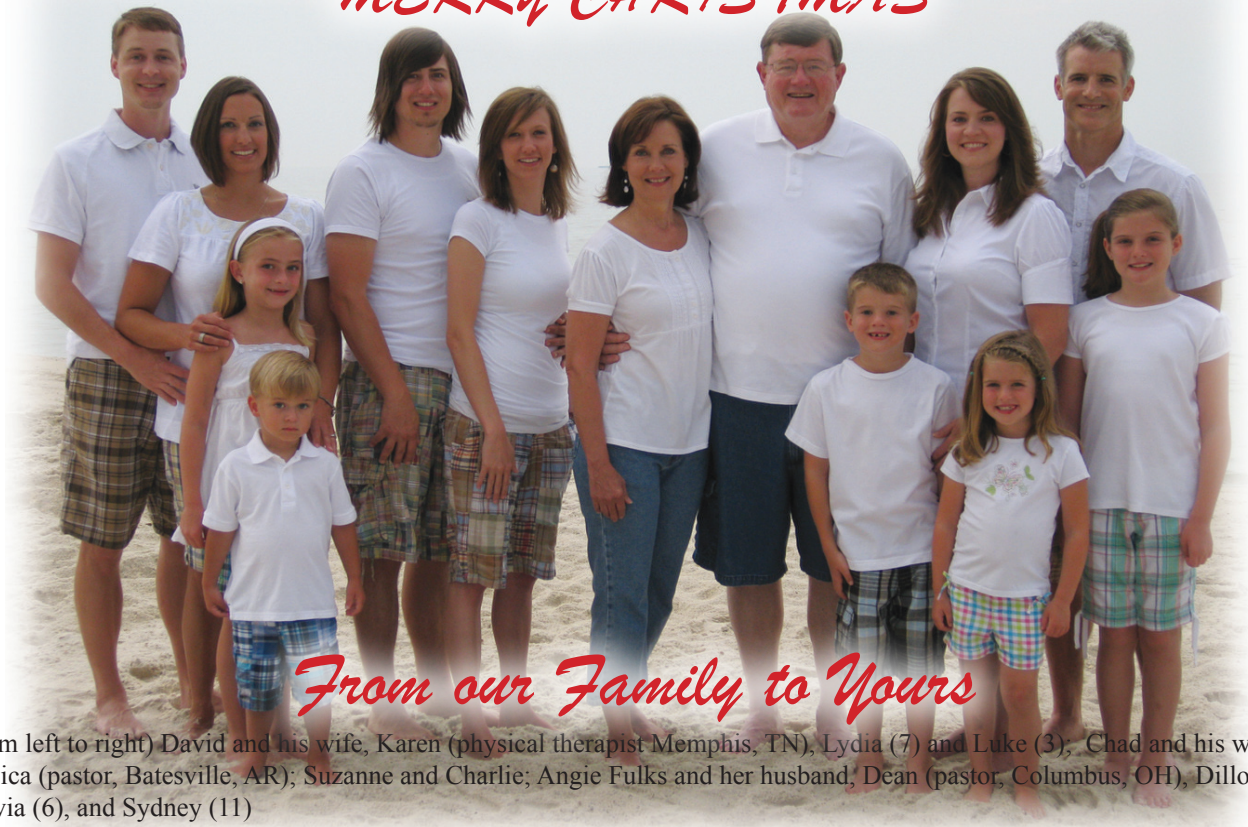


MERRY CHRISTMAS



From our Family to Yours

(from left to right) David and his wife, Karen (physical therapist Memphis, TN), Lydia (7) and Luke (3), Chad and his wife, Jessica (pastor, Batesville, AR); Suzanne and Charlie; Angie Fulks and her husband, Dean (pastor, Columbus, OH), Dillon (9), Sylvia (6), and Sydney (11)

“My Spouse and Children Need your Grace and Love”

From Denise George *What Pastors Wish Church Members Knew*

Would you answer a newspaper want ad like this one?

Help wanted: Pastor's wife. Must sing, play music, lead youth groups, raise seraphic children, entertain church notables, minister to other wives, have ability to recite Bible backward, and choreograph Christmas pageant. Must keep pastor sated, peaceful, and out of trouble. Difficult colleagues, demanding customers, erratic hours. Pay: \$0.

“We can shake our heads and laugh at this ridiculous want ad, but for many pastors' wives today it rings all too true. Clergy families are often placed high on pedestals, and expected to be everything to everybody in every way – all while living a “fishbowl” public existence . . .

“Statistics indicate that beneath the smiling, steadfast veneer of a pastor's wife, there often lies a deeply isolated woman who, due to her husband's constant commitment to his congregants, frequently feels neglected and left without a support system of her own.’ A survey by *Focus on the Family* found that 88 percent of pastors' wives experience or have experienced depression. (Matthew Philips, “Belief Watch: Mrs. Pastor,” April 14, 2007)

“It's hard to believe, but eight in ten pastor's wives say they don't feel appreciated or accepted by their husband's congregations, and the same number wish their husbands would leave the ministry for another profession. Spousal issues are, in fact, the main reason pastors leave the ministry. The divorce rate among pastors is 50 percent, the same rate as the rest of the country. (Lisa Takeuchi Cullen, “What God Joined Together,” March 31, 2007)

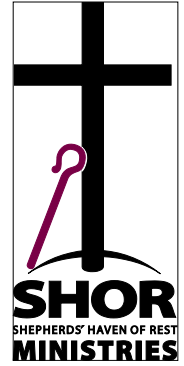
“These are grim statistics . . . Ministers' families seem to be in crisis. . . Here's a quick glance at the factors pastors blamed for their marital woes (they checked as many factors as applied):

Insufficient time together	81%	Differences over leisure activities	57%
Use of money	71%	Sexual problems	46%
Income level	70%	Anger toward spouse	41%
Communication difficulties	64%	Differences over ministry career	35%
Congregational friction	63%	Differences over spouse's career	25%

“It surprised me how many pastors admitted in their survey responses that their wives had snapped, given up, become unsupportive, or simply withdrew from the church.”

Used by permission

Although the focus of SHOR Ministries is retreats for pastors and wives, we are often called on to come alongside those who are struggling and in crisis. Recently we received the following letter from a couple we originally spent time with apart from a retreat setting:



We are so blessed to hear how the Lord is giving you opportunities to minister to others. We know He is using you to bless others because you both have blessed us so much. There were times that we weren't sure we would be able to continue in ministry, but because of your ministry, we were encouraged and able to find some much needed rest. We know that we will be able to serve in any capacity the Lord calls us because of your valued advice and encouragement.

We are blessed each day to serve as House parents. We are able to see how the Lord is using this ministry to teach us how to live for Him each day. We are examples twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to boys who have not had the opportunity to be around people who have given their lives to Christ. Some days are a struggle, but we are definitely learning a great deal about living out each day with the goal of giving glory to God and making the choice to place Him first in all situations. We find ourselves failing miserably some days but because of the time we spent at your retreat, we are reminded that everyone who has been called to serve and has made themselves available to serve will face difficulties, and we cannot allow anything to take away the gift of being called to serve Christ.

Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We pray for continued blessings for you both and your ministry. We are thankful that the Lord is blessing us and giving us the opportunity to give back to your ministry.

HELP!!

If you attended a 2010 SHOR retreat prior to October 22 of this year, would you please help us? Would you please send us the names and ages of your family as well as an updated prayer request list? Suzanne lost our prayer book on the trip to Idaho. We have tried to find it, but have not been able to do so. We refer to the prayer book constantly and are literally lost without it. We know this is a very busy time of year, but would appreciate your help. Please email us your information at info@shorministries.com. We will make a new prayer notebook from your responses. We want to be praying!! Many, many thanks --

From the heart . . .

It is difficult to realize that SHOR Ministries has operated for nine years. It has been a real blessing for me and Voncille to have had a small part in the ministry from the beginning. Some of you have, also.

Thanks to all of you for your help. Charlie & Suzanne could not have done it without your financial support and your prayers. You have helped to save ministries, marriages, and families. *Bless you!*

Hebrews 6:10 says it well: "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Gray Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chairman of the Board

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