

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 8 Issue 2

April - June 2009

On a Personal Note...

Dear friends,

What a great spring season for SHOR ministries! We rejoice in all the Lord is doing. The 1st week of April our children & grandchildren were home during spring break. We are very blessed to live next door to Papa & Mimi so our family can be together including Suzie's sister & brother & their families. The 2nd week of April, we counseled & completed the 2008 taxes. We traveled to Branson the day after Easter. The 1st retreat began on Tues., April 14th. We had 5 pastors & wives: a KS pastor transitioning to a full-time church faced with some difficult personal adjustments; an exhausted LA assoc. pastor (his pastor has been in treatment for cancer; he has carried a heavy load); a Michigan couple burdened about being closer to home to care for aging parents; a LA pastor experiencing extreme discouragement; & a DOM from LA who oversees 42 churches (his father passed away shortly after the retreat). Over the weekend we bought groceries & prepared for the 2nd week beginning Mon., the 20th. We had 4 couples (one had to cancel): Suriname missionaries needing some time alone together to seek the Lord before returning to the mission field (they are doing a great work); a LA pastor experiencing tough times recently; an OH pastor in his 1st sr. pastor role seeking to grow & unite his church; & an OH assoc. pastor recovering from cancer & adjusting to a new church situation. We are always amazed at the way the Lord brings folks together & ministers to their every need! On Fri., the 24th, we were able to have lunch with the Calcotes & their new pastor in Branson. We are so grateful to John & Linda. They serve with us through SHOR on the board, donating their wonderful Branson home, & in many other ways. We are continually blessed by their friendship. After the retreats, we traveled to the Allison family reunion in Ida. So many of our family pray for & support SHOR. It is wonderful to see them face-to-face to thank them. We are blessed to have such a wonderful family! The last week of April, Nell West (we named our son David after her son John David West who passed away of cancer in 1977) & her daughter Elaine came to visit. The preaching lab at Mid-America Seminary is named after David West. They came to visit & to see the new seminary.

On May 2nd, we left for McMinnville TN to spend time with Kevin & Judy Snider & their children who serve at Irving College Baptist Church. Charlie preached on Sunday & Suzanne shared SHOR ministries. In Pigeon Forge May 4 - 8, we hosted 6 couples from 6 states: an AR pastor seeking the Lord's direction in church planting; an AL assoc. pastor (his wife has had a brain tumor) seeking God's provision for the future; a LA pastor forced into retirement; an Indiana pastor recently terminated (they have 5 children); a FL pastor & wife

needing time away together (church planters who have a special needs child); & a VA church planter who needed time "out from under" before the influx of summer missions teams. The 2nd retreat May 11 - 15, we served 6 pastors: an OH church planter & his wife praying for God's vision for their church (he is legally blind); 2 KY DOMs - one oversees 44 churches & the other 25 plus 3 missions; a SC pastor who has served his church for 20 years; a VA pastor asking for wisdom (they are land-locked); & a pastor who has moved from a bi-vocational church in PA to a full-time church in MI. The needs of these couples are diverse; please lift them in prayer. We traveled home to prepare for the Memorial Day retreat in our home. We hosted 5 couples: an AL youth / music minister dealing with some personal burdens; a disabled LA couple struggling to find their place in ministry; a GA assoc. pastor needing some time away; a KY youth couple experiencing conflict issues; & an AL bi-vocational youth pastor losing his secular job of 25 years. We were able to spend quality time with each couple the Lord has sent us these last months. God is answering prayer; we are grateful.

The 1st of June, we worked on counseling & paper work. The 2nd week we were able to go to Panama City with our children & grandchildren. Our son-in-law from Ohio speaks at a youth camp; the church allows our family to come with them. What a special time for us to be together! On the way home from Florida, we stopped in Mobile AL to see a dear friend, Mrs. Wanda Barnett. She & her husband, Charlie (now in heaven), have been the Allison's dear friends through the years. We worshiped with Luke 4:18 Fellowship (Dr. Fred Wolfe, pastor), a supporting church. We also spent time with friends who offered us a new retreat location -- an added blessing at the end of a great week! The 3rd week of June, Suzanne did the newsletter, & Charlie caught up with calls & counseling. Charlie had the joy of dedicating Ronnie & Leigh Hughes' new baby boy, Harrison Bailey, on Sunday June 21st. What a great answer to prayer when God gave this precious pastor & wife their long-desired child! We spent the last of June alone together at a friend's place in AR. We needed the time to rest and to seek the Lord's direction for 2010.

We thought today of Phil. 4:4 & 6: "Rejoice in the Lord always. . . be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Praise Him for His faithfulness. We thank the Lord daily for you, your prayers, and your support.

WE LOVE YOU!

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

Several months ago I was informed that my church position was ending. For the first time in 36 years of ministry, I had no place of service. This week in one of my quiet times, I read of the Lord's healing and restoration. I not only sensed that God was and is supporting me during this time, but I also rejoiced over SHOR ministry, praising God for these dear friends who are "shoring" up wounded warriors all over the U.S. To Him be all glory!

A SHOR retreat puts you in a place of comfort and relaxation. Spending time one-on-one with Charlie & Suzanne was an encouragement and inspiration. The prayer time validated our worth in ministry since we have experienced extreme discouragement. This time was restful, encouraging, and motivating for future ministry.

My wife and I really needed to get away for a few days. We have 5 children under the age of 14. Two years ago my wife was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Our batteries were running low, and we needed encouragement as well as time away. What a blessing from the Lord!

The retreat not only allowed an opportunity for our relationship to grow closer, but it gave us support and love. Being surrounded by other couples who have joy for God, for each other, and for ministry while dealing with real life struggles, has been an encouragement to us.

Concentrated and focused time spent with my wife is not easy to come by in the ministry. This retreat came at a strategic time for us. It was precious to have time alone with my wife and special time of prayer for my family before my dad's upcoming surgery.

We were so tired – not of ministry – but tired in the long hours needed to fulfill ministry. We were apprehensive about what to expect, but the moment we saw Charlie & Suzanne all apprehension was gone. Our batteries are recharged! We will never forget prayer time with them. It helped us emotionally & spiritually – the focus was on **us** -- not our performance. God knew we needed this retreat.

On our mission field, fellowship with other strong believers is unheard of. It was a great joy to sit and listen to other believers in Christ and to hear how God is working in their lives. It is wonderful to be encouraged. We enjoyed opening up and expressing our prayer requests to Suzanne & Charlie knowing they would not judge us but pray.

We were very pleasantly surprised to know someone would actually invite you to a retreat to pamper and spoil you with love and care. Being allowed to do "your own thing" without restrictions was relaxing.

In almost 35 years of marriage, we have never experienced something that was just for "us" as a married couple in ministry. Relaxing with no structure, no pressure, no expectations, and fellowship with other couples was great.

From the time we arrived, all our needs were met. SHOR showered us with warmth and loving care. True servants of Christ making you feel you are special.

We are at a new place of ministry and my husband is working hard to get the church to function as a body. He has been so consumed with the church that I have felt very alone. I have been missing him and the normally close, great relationship that we have had. This time away at SHOR has given me the opportunity to sit down with him and share from my heart. I thank you so much for giving us the time to reconnect, refocus, and get back on track together!

Our hearts were broken after having been forced to retire early. This week has given us the opportunity to reflect on how God is at work during this time in our lives. We have rested and reflected and now find hope for what lies ahead.

We have been married and in the ministry for 32 years. We strongly believe the #1 target of the evil one is the family; #2 is the church. SHOR ministries is aimed at the defeating the enemy on both battlegrounds. We believe busyness is the primary enemy of marriage, and this retreat allowed us to step back and focus on things that make a difference – forever!

Blessings!

Special thanks to John & Linda Calcote for the use of their gorgeous Branson home for the April retreats. You are a blessing!

Our sincere appreciation to Randy Tullos for providing the wonderful 8 bedroom / 8 bath condo for the 2 retreats in Pigeon Forge. If you are planning a church event and need a place to go, see <http://www.mvchalets.com> -- you'll like it!

Many thanks to Jim & Debby Davenport for serving alongside us to minister to couples in Branson and Pigeon Forge. Love you!

Thanks to Elaine Anderson for giving her Monday to chop, chop, chop all day to help prepare dishes for the Pigeon Forge retreat. You are a delight!

A BIG thanks to Kevin and Judy Snider for having us at Irving College Baptist Church to share SHOR. We love you all!

Heartfelt gratitude to Suzanne's sister, Charlotte, who helped us out during the retreat at our house over Memorial Day. Those extra hands surely were a tremendous help!

Special thanks to Pat and David Strachn for allowing us to use their E TN cabin between the retreats in Pigeon Forge.

Thank you to Bruce and Sylvia Haines who provided their "get-away" home in Heber Springs for us. We are refreshed!

We are SO grateful to those who support SHOR through gifts and prayers. Every couple who has attended a SHOR retreat in 2009 wants you to know how much they appreciate your making the retreats possible. THANK YOU!

Prayer Needs

For the upcoming retreats in Colorado, Branson, Wyoming, and Montana

For the couples who are booked to come to retreats – the last thing the enemy wants is for God's man and his wife to be prayed for, given rest and encouragement (every retreat is filled with a waiting list)

For continued wisdom for the counseling situations in which we are involved and for brokenness in those struggling with life and ministry issues

For God's guidance as we begin to schedule retreats for 2010

For us to have physical stamina and to walk closely with the Lord

For the daily provision for the work of the ministry

Schedule

| Dates | Event | Location |
|-------------------|--|---|
| July 17 – 19 | Preview trip | Boise ID (this cabin would allow us to reach Oregon, Washington, and Idaho) |
| July 19 – 23 | SHOR retreat | Aspen Canyon CO |
| July 24 - 26 | Speaking: Parenting & Marriage Sharing SHOR | Truth or Consequences NM |
| August 11 – 14 | SHOR retreat | Branson MO |
| August 17 – 21 | SHOR retreat | Branson MO |
| September 13 - 17 | SHOR retreat | Aspen Canyon Ranch CO |
| September 18 - 21 | SHOR retreat | Nye MT |
| September 23 - 27 | SHOR retreat | Centennial WY |
| TBA Sept / Oct | SHOR retreat <i>FOR WIVES</i> | Dolphin Island 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 |

To Think About...

Friends of ours who serve at Life Action Ministries in Michigan shared a brochure with the following ministry statistics:

“Did you know . . .

82% of pastors in the U. S. said they would leave the ministry if it were financially feasible to do so.

80% of pastors feel unqualified or discouraged in ministry.

1500 pastors leave their churches every month because of conflict, burnout, or moral failure.

70% of pastors do not have a close friend, confidant, or mentor.

Ministers experience incredible ministry complexity and face unprecedented personal challenges. Their wives can feel alienated, friendless, hurt, and afraid to open up. Pastors and their spouses need safe places – opportunities to be transparent, away from life lived ‘in a glass house.’ ”

We are often overwhelmed by the needs of pastors and their wives. We are asked “why are things so different today?” Although it is difficult to pinpoint a specific answer, we know that there is a greater urgency today to come alongside ministry couples to pray with them concerning their needs. Simply serving them often ministers healing to their hearts. Praying for them allows the burdens they carry to rest in the capable hands of our dear Lord. Would you help us as we 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 to get set up

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

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From Our Hearts to Yours!

Since January of 2008 we have been working to make our house a suitable place for SHOR retreats. We are so happy to report to you that thus far we have hosted 4 retreats (out of the first 10 for 2009) in our home. Not having to buy and pack up groceries for travel, get ourselves ready for a trip, physically travel to a location, unpack the many items we have brought, sometimes clean up the facility we will be using – well, you get the idea of how it helps us physically to be able to host couples in Arlington. We have had a wonderful response from the folks who have come here. We are able to provide them with a private bedroom and bath. Dr. Gray and Mrs. Voncille (Mimi and Papa) are able to be involved and to share from their wisdom and experience through 60 years of ministry. We want to again express our appreciation to Rosa Roy who invested countless hours overseeing the project as well as the many others who donated time and materials. We pray our home will be a blessing to many couples through the years to come.

The Lord continues to open places for retreats to us. We need His wisdom in how to balance the travel and the time at home. We desire to be available to help Mimi and Papa. (They are doing well. Papa has been interim pastor of a church in N. MS since early 2009. He continues to teach at Mid-America. That's pretty good for an 85-year-old Baptist preacher! Mimi continues to be his greatest support and is her usual happy self.)

We covet your prayers for SHOR and for us. We want to be exactly what the Lord desires. If you would be willing to have us in your church to share Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries, we would love to schedule a time to come.

SHOR Ministries

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