

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 8 Issue 1

January – March 2009

On a Personal Note...

Dear friends,

We praise the Lord for a great start to 2009! We have been working steadily to complete the work on the house. It does seem as if the last 5% takes much time, but each retreat we hold here at the house helps us get more accomplished, and we are grateful.

We began the year with a retreat here in Arlington January 9 – 12. We hosted a minister of music and his wife from Idaho. The Christmas season is very hectic for them, and they came exhausted and needing a rest. We also had an Arkansas pastor and wife. They are precious, faithful servants. The ministry wife from Idaho's family owns a place that may be appropriate for SHOR retreats. We will travel there in July (after the retreat in Colorado) to visit. If this works, we will be able to reach pastors in Washington and Oregon! Isn't God good?? The weekend of January 15 – 18, Suzanne traveled to Alabama for a Women's weekend retreat. The ladies from Providence Baptist Church in Opelika are always such an encouragement to her. Suzie traveled to Yorktown TX on Tuesday, January 20th to prepare for the retreat the 21st through the 25th. Charlie was sick and had to come on Thursday of that week. We had 4 couples registered, but a Hispanic pastor and wife had to cancel the day the retreat began. One pastor from TX is dealing with cancer. He and his wife are such wonderful servants. Would you please pray for Henry and Ruby during this time? Another TX pastor and wife have a 28 year old son with cancer. It was a blessing to see these two couples encourage each other. They asked how we knew to put them together in a retreat – of course, we did not know to do this, but our great God did! We also had a sweet LA pastor and wife attend. They are dealing with some personal issues but are doing well. It was a great week! Suzanne began teaching her counseling class for seminary wives on Monday, January 26th. What a great opportunity for her to get to know these women and invest in their lives. She had 23 wives plus Mrs. Lee Ann Spradlin and Mrs. Susan Thompson (who oversee the class) attend. Paul and Nan Ostrander from Billings MT got to visit the last week of January. They always help us when we travel out west – what a blessing to have them here! The last week of January, Mimi (Mrs. Allison) was hospitalized with pneumonia. She is doing much better now. Suzanne traveled to Alabama January 30 – 31 for a women's retreat with Underwood Baptist Church in Florence AL. What a wonderful group of ladies! Suzanne spoke at the Mid-America prayer luncheon on Monday February 2nd. These precious ladies pray for SHOR each month. What an great opportunity to share about the ministry. Dr. Jere Phillips suffered a heart attack in January. Charlie was asked to teach his Pastoral Ministries and Counseling classes for 2 weeks while he recovered. Charlie taught the

weeks of January 27th – 30th and February 3rd -6th. Please pray for Dr. Phillip's recovery. Suzanne spoke at Ridgeway Baptist Church for the WMU on Tuesday, February 10th. What great prayer warriors and encouragers! We traveled to Cabot AR February 13 – 15 to lead a marriage weekend at Crosspointe Church. We were able to spend Friday evening with the pastor and church staff to encourage them in balancing ministry and their family life. We held our 2nd retreat in our home February 19 – 22. We had 2 TN couples attend. One is in transition in ministry, and the other is seeking help with marriage issues. We are grateful they were able to come. The two couples from AR scheduled to attend had to cancel: one because of health issues and the other because of caring for an elderly parent. Would you please pray they will be able to attend another time? On February 28th, we hosted a dinner for some of the folks who worked tirelessly on our construction at the house. Without these folks, we could have never gotten the work done! Suzanne taught the final week of her class at Mid-America on the 2nd of March; she & Charlie were able to attend a dessert fellowship on the 9th for the girls and their husbands. We held a retreat for seminary students at our home March 11 -14. We had 3 Mid-America couples plus a youth minister and wife from MS. One wife had to go to the emergency room during the night. She had to have her appendix out! Please pray for Karla's recovery. We had a great time with the couples. We pray the Lord will greatly use them in the years to come.

We traveled to Jacksonville FL on Monday, March 23rd to prepare for the March 25-28 retreat. We hosted 6 couples: two ministers have been recently terminated, one pastor's father is facing cancer surgery April 1, a pastor's wife is dealing with significant health issues, another pastor and wife have been care-givers, and one couple just needed time away together. Branson retreats in April and the Pigeon Forge retreats in May are already booked full. We praise the Lord for the wonderful places He is providing for retreats, for being able to host some retreats in our home, for the ministry couples He is bringing to SHOR, and for the faithfulness of those who make the retreats possible. Our hearts are overflowing.

We have had several difficult counseling situations this year. Please pray for pastors and their wives. We are burdened by the needs. We are concerned for churches and for the men who serve. Today we were encouraged by the Word to "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God." (Psalm 100:2-3a). We are grateful for your prayers and support!

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

Like a breath of fresh air in a stale room – this time was SOOOOO refreshing to our souls. The thought of having 4 or 5 days free of normal decisions seemed like a strange idea at first, BUT this is so key to what made it such a blessing. Not having to think about what or when to eat; not having a constant thought about needing to be somewhere at a set time – these things coupled with the heartfelt kindness and care continually given by Jim & Debby and Charlie & Suzanne made a retreat that worked well and ministered to our souls. The SHOR retreat was unique from any other experience we have ever had.

This retreat gave us a chance to be still and know that He is God. It was a chance for my husband to catch up on his sleep. It gave us the opportunity to meet some wonderful ministers of God and be blessed by their sweet ministry to us. We thank the Lord!

We had an amazing time. If someone needs to relax and re-group, this is the perfect environment. We felt like we were part of the family! We were loved and encouraged. Suzanne & Charlie made our needs a priority.

The time we spent at the SHOR retreat was restful and much needed. It is nice to be able to get away from the pressures and stresses of the ministry and to be in an environment that is nurturing and compassionate. The way you met our needs was priceless.

The expression of love and servitude in ministering to us was a blessing. We have never had such an opportunity in 15 years of ministry, and we are energized and refreshed as a result!

The SHOR retreat was a very special time of rest, encouragement and renewal for my wife and me. We left feeling like our marriage had been nurtured and our souls refreshed. It was truly a Sabbath rest during a period in our lives when those are few and far between.

We came to the retreat completely worn and weary from a particularly difficult time in ministry. We found a warm, loving and comforting place to land. SHOR Ministries is gifted in healing, loving and encouraging.

This week has been awesome. My wife and I both feel so refreshed. It has been a very important time for us and has helped our marriage and our spiritual life.

We arrived on Friday night feeling exhausted and drained. We are returning home refreshed physically and spiritually, and with a new enthusiasm for our ministry.

This is our only getaway opportunity as a couple. We enjoyed it very much. We were able to do things we never have time for in our normal routine of working and ministry.

When we go about our daily lives, helping others as needed, we often have to mask our own pain and keep silent about our personal struggles. With Charlie & Suzanne we are able to share not only our pain and personal issues, but be totally open about them without fear of judgment; knowing our needs and those of our family and congregation would be prayed about before our Lord. Then, the fellowship, especially at dinner, with all the couples together, was awesome – we laughed so hard, we cried sharing stories – what a tension release!

Blessings!

Many thanks to the Dlugosh family and Dale and Teresa Borgfeld for allowing us to use the beautiful 5D Ranch for our January retreat in TX. It was a blessing! We are grateful to Jim & Debby Davenport for helping us cook and minister to the couples.

Our sincere appreciation to the ladies of the Pathfinders class from Bartlett Baptist Church for preparing meals for the February 19 – 22 retreat in our home. Thanks especially to Evon Crow who has brought soup twice. What a tremendous help!

A BIG thanks to Stephanie Shafer (for that long 14 hour day!) and Nicole Schaedle and Kathryn Brooks for the wonderful chicken and dressing meal during the March 11 – 14 retreat. You all are great!

Heartfelt gratitude to Rosa and Randy Roy, Bruce and Sylvia Haines, and Mary Joe and Kenny Street for hours with “whatever we needed.” The fruit of your labors is already blessing many couples, and we are grateful.

Deep appreciation to those who allow us to speak and share about SHOR: Providence Baptist (Opelika AL), Underwood Baptist (Florence AL), Mid-America Seminary and Ridgeway Baptist (Memphis TN), and Russell & Janet Stewart (Cabot AR). You encourage our hearts!

Special thanks to each of you who pray and sacrificially give to make SHOR possible. We know that each gift during these difficult days is heartfelt. Many, many thanks!

Prayer Needs

- ◆ As the newsletter was going to print, we learned of pastor Henry's death in TX, Please pray for Ruby and his precious family.
- ◆ For the upcoming retreats in Branson MO, Pigeon Forge TN, and Arlington TN
- ◆ For the couples who are booked to come to retreats
- ◆ For the Lord's wisdom for the counseling situations in which we are involved
- ◆ For the work that we still need to do on the house
- ◆ For our spiritual & physical health – we need daily time in the Word & prayer as well as His strength & stamina
- ◆ For His continued provision. The need for SHOR Ministries is greater now than ever.
- ◆ For us to have direction and the time to continue to develop SHOR. We are praying more and more people will become involved – individuals, Sunday School classes, small groups, churches.

Schedule

Dates	Event	Location
March 25 – 28	SHOR retreat	Jacksonville FL
April 14 – 17 and April 20 - 24	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
May 3	Speaking	McMinnville TN
May 4 – 8 and May 11 - 15	SHOR retreat	Pigeon Forge TN
May 22 – 25	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
June	SHOR retreat	TBA
June 5- 6	Speaking	Rome GA
July 19 - 23	SHOR retreat	Aspen Canyon CO
July 17 – 18 and July 24 – 26	Preview trips	Idaho / New Mexico
August 11 – 14 and August 17 - 21	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
September 13 – 17	SHOR retreat	Aspen Canyon CO
September 18 – 21	SHOR retreat	Nye MT
September 23 – 27	SHOR retreat	Centennial WY
October 11 -14 and October 16 -19	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
November 6 – 10 and 12- 15	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY

TBA: WIVES, are you interested in a SHOR retreat just for you?

If so, Contact Suzanne at suzanne@shorministries.com

To Think About...

Sadly, one of the issues we are facing in our culture is immorality – if you will, amorality. The effects of this are far-reaching. Much of the counseling we do concerns moral issues. Consider the following:

“Accurate documentation about ministerial sexual impropriety is somewhat difficult to obtain, in part because many churches prefer to deal with scandals quietly if at all possible, and self-reporting of sexual impropriety by ministers is against their own vested self-interest . . . One careful study of So. Baptist pastors in 6 Southern states found that about 6% of the pastors who responded to the survey admitted to having sexual contact with a person either currently or formerly affiliated with their church. The survey also found that about 14% of the ministers admitted to

committing sexual behavior inappropriate for a minister, 18% admitted some sort of sexual contact with someone other than their spouse, 24% had counseled a woman who claimed to have had sexual contact with a minister, 70% knew of a fellow minister who was guilty of sexual misconduct.” (*Journal of Pastoral Care*, Winter 1993)

“A nationwide survey in 2002 found that 1 in 4 members of the clergy reported having some kind of sexual contact with a church member and more than 1 in 10 said they had committed adultery with a parishioner.” (*USA Today*, April 23, 2002)

We urge you to pray for pastors!



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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 info@shorministries.com to get set up

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

From Our Hearts to Yours!

When couples show an interest in attending a SHOR retreat, they fill out an application. We ask them these questions: what do you perceive to be your greatest needs at this time, your wife's greatest needs, and the greatest problems you face in your ministry. We want to share with you a few of the responses we have had this year:

Pastor's need: re-focus on Christ; ability to inspire -- complacency in the pew may reflect frustration in the pulpit; to speak with those I can be open and honest with; healing from the shock of losing my ministry position as a result of our church's financial crisis - we were told 10 days before Christmas; to have a quiet respite from the intense pressures of being the only full time minister at a church accustomed to having 3 or 4 full time ministers.

Wife's need: to have someone she can talk to about the trials and struggles we face -- someone who understands and may be able to give us good spiritual advice; to slow down and realize she can't do it all; encouragement; comfort that the Lord knows our needs and we are not alone; relieve stress due to problems within the church; loneliness.

Problems in your ministry: we are tired, and we need direction whether to move out of full time ministry or not; finding the right pastoral situation in this economy at the age of 58; people who are self-seeking and simply negative; time management - spending time with family & fulfilling my duties as a pastor; lack of concern from church members, lack of passion; too many people wanting too much too fast; lack of financial resources and lack of leaders; discouragement from individuals in our church that have done nothing but complain the entire ten years I have been pastor.

Our hearts are always touched by the varied reasons couples seek SHOR retreats. As you can see, we are facing critical times in the lives of ministry couples and the churches in which they serve. Would you please pray about your involvement in SHOR for 2009?

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