

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 9 Issue 1

January – March, 2010

On a Personal Note...

Dear friends,

We are grateful to share with you that the Lord is at work in ministry couples: hope for the young pastor awaiting trial in AR – he has a new job & is praying that his case will not go to trial; progress for an assoc. pastor in TN who was severely depressed; recovery for a TN pastor experiencing burn-out; answer to prayer for an AZ pastor who had been diagnosed with cancer – NO cancer, praise God!; a place of service for a TN assoc. pastor who was terminated. Early in January a precious ministry couple lost a grandbaby. A 34 yr. old LA pastor's wife (almost a 5 yr. breast cancer survivor) was diagnosed with cancer in her lymph nodes. She is undergoing both radiation & chemo. They have 3 young children. We ask for your continued prayers for these.

We traveled to San Antonio on Mon., Jan. 18th to prepare for the retreat (20th – 24th) at 5 D Ranch. We hosted 3 TX pastors & wives. One pastor was terminated in 2009. He has been called to another church; however, the hurts from the previous church have penetrated their hearts. One young pastor & wife are doing a great job in their church. One sweet couple needs prayer for their children. We were grateful that the Dlugoschs (the ranch owners) were able to eat dinner with our group during the retreat. Pete is in cancer treatments right now. Would you pray for him? We attended the memorial service in N. MS (Nancy Scott's Godly mom passed away) on Wed., Jan. 27th & also spent time with P. J. & Betty Scott, dear ministry friends. Because of the winter storm, 2 couples came into Memphis a day early for the retreat at our home scheduled for Jan. 29th – Feb. 1st. Couples from AR & FL arrived on Thurs., the 28th, safe & sound. A local couple came in on Fri. for the retreat. One couple is caring for an elderly mother; he had a stroke several years ago. They would appreciate your prayers for this season of their lives. A pastor & wife just needed time away from ministry responsibilities. (He had a heart attack in early March; he is recovering but needs prayer.) One of the couples is having serious financial troubles as they seek to find a place of service for the Lord. We were snowed in, but it allowed for good rest & sweet fellowship. On Saturday, Jan. 30th, Suzie's Uncle Phil (Allison) went to be with the Lord. A number of our family members came in for his memorial service. Would you please pray for Aunt Alta Mae?

Charlie preached at FBC Olive Branch, MS., on Sunday, Feb 7th. After church, we spent time with a dear ministry couple. Our bride-to-be & her folks came for a brief visit Feb. 11 – 13th. Ron & Lena Franks serve at Huber Heights Baptist Church in Dayton, OH. We are very blessed that they are part of our family. We left for Jacksonville FL on Mon., Feb 15th, to prepare for the retreat Feb 17 – 20. We ate with a lay couple who are burdened for pastors & wives. They

ask prayer as they seek the Lord's direction. They have become prayers warriors for us; we are so grateful! We hosted 4 couples: a FL pastor suffering from severe burn-out; a KY couple facing past issues that are affecting their marriage & ministry; a GA couple newly married & handling the pastorate very well; & a FL pastor who is currently out of ministry after a traumatic termination. The Lord used the time to encourage their hearts. We would ask special prayer for the KY couple.

We traveled home on the 21st & had a board meeting on Feb. 22nd. Suzanne's sister Charlotte (a CPA) came to town to assist in setting up new banking & financial management practices. What a tremendous help! Suzanne spoke at the Mid-America Prayer Luncheon on Mon., March 1st. When those sweet ladies pray for SHOR, it is a huge encouragement to her. Charlie traveled to FBC:Water Valley, MS, to preach an evangelistic service. He saw 2 people profess Christ during the invitation & another saved after the service. What a blessing! We are having a wonderful response to retreats this year. We have been working through the registrations trying to get couples into retreats that still have openings. We continue to offer Biblical guidance to couples when we are home. Please pray as we network help for couples who live away from our area -- so many needs!

On Saturday, March 6th, we saw our prayers answered when Chad and Jessica were married. We are blessed to have such a Godly, sweet new daughter in our family.

We left for Mobile AL on Saturday, March 13 to share SHOR with the Luke 4:18 Fellowship (Fred Wolfe, pastor) on Sun. the 14th. We spent time with several donor families that day. Then we finished preparations for the retreat at Orange Beach held March 16 – 19. (We'll share details of this retreat next time!) We left AL on Friday to participate in the Global Missions Conference at FBC:Moss Bluff March 19 – 21. It was great to see folks we love (Charlie's pastorate from 1988 – 1996) & to share SHOR. Spring is the busiest time of the year. We have 6 more retreats between now & mid-June. We covet your prayers.

Today we read in Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." What a great reminder of what is really important! Thank you for helping us. Your prayers and support are making a difference!

Gratefully,

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

I had hit "rock bottom." I was spiritually ill, & I wanted to leave my husband. I have had several appointments with a psychologist & a mentor pastor, but nothing worked. Charlie & Suzanne led me through prayer that enabled me to release some of the hurt & anger I've been holding onto for years. I am thankful to have had this opportunity. I am not completely healed, but I am on the road. We appreciate the time & sacrifice that is involved in this ministry. Thank you to each one who supports SHOR through prayer & giving.

As church planters for the past few years, we've spent much of our time "running hard" & now with the church more settled, we had the opportunity to get away for a time of refreshing. We had no idea what to expect, but what an amazing surprise! We are so thankful for this time of encouragement and can't wait to get home refreshed for the days ahead. Praise the Lord for His abundant provision in our lives! We are leaving totally relaxed and refocused.

Charlie & Suzanne, the giving of your time – a precious commodity – for us, was a wonderful gift. We felt like we could be honest without being judged. We needed feedback from someone who has been there & done that. To have days with no phones ringing, no meal preparations, no cleaning, no responsibilities allowed us to catch our breath. The feeling of "perpetual motion" stopped for a few days. It was wonderful! Thanks to Lisa for wonderful meals & a welcoming smile. God bless your servant hearts!

My wife & I went through a forced termination at my last pastorate that was absolutely devastating. Over these last 2 yrs., we have never been able to sit down & vent to anyone who was willing to listen & pray compassionately with us. It was such a relief to be able to openly share our hurts with Charlie & Suzanne. God used SHOR to bring us great encouragement & peace. This retreat was amazing because my wife & I could not afford 4 days away, stay in such nice accommodations, & eat such wonderful food. It meant a lot to me as a husband to take my wife on a getaway like this.

I came to the retreat worn out mentally & spiritually. This retreat has been a wonderful time of refreshing for my mind & soul. Being snowed in was a God send in many ways. It forced me to be still & to see God.

We, as pastors & wives, try to make time for ourselves; however, with so much on our plates & in our thoughts, we seldom accomplish this. With the opportunity to get away & just "be," we could sleep-in in comfort, eat, & fellowship with each other. The time with my spouse was absolutely priceless. Thank you for a place to recapture our focus in prayer & time together in a peaceful atmosphere.

We needed the SHOR retreat to simply get away with one another & refocus. We have 2 small children & a teenager & have been at a new church for about a year. Being alone as a couple was great. Suzanne & Charlie, along with Debby, fixed wonderful, healthy food & provided an atmosphere of rest. It was amazing to see couples (who have never met) come together & share their hearts. The Lord has His hands on this ministry. We are grateful for this opportunity to meet new friends, refocus ourselves, rest & enjoy the Lord!

A while back, my wife & I participated in our first SHOR retreat. I was about as beaten down as I had ever been in my pastoral life. It took me a little while to get past the guarded caution of my heart & mind, - wondering what 'they' would expect in return. I had become cynical in thinking that everyone wanted something or had a hidden agenda behind their actions. After the 2nd day, I began to realize the healing effect this ministry could have. The retreat was a very valuable opening for redirecting my thoughts, emotions & attitude. It was a true catalyst for blessings of strength & healing. This year, even though I believed I was much stronger than I was before, my heart was again touched with a new & helpful perspective. I am amazed & thankful for the Lord's care that He has entrusted to His faithful servants through SHOR. Hebrews 6:10 comes to mind as I think of everyone involved in making this blessing possible. Until you receive His reward, please accept our deep, heartfelt words of appreciation.

Blessings!

Our warmest appreciation to Dale and Teresa Borgfield for taking care of us at 5D Ranch in Yorktown TX. Many thanks to Pete and Patricia Dlugosch for providing the wonderful ranch. Thank you, Debby Davenport, for buying and bringing all those groceries, cooking and serving alongside us. What a blessing you all are!

Special thanks to the wonderful ladies from Bartlett Baptist Church who prepared food for the retreat in our home: Jerre Sparks, Judy Aven, Evon Crow, Pat Strachn, Charlotte Pounders, and Karen Arriaga. We love you all!

Heartfelt gratitude to Bill and Nancy Scott for providing their beautiful condo in St. Augustine FL and networking to get another condo for us. You are dear friends! Thanks to Lisa McMahan for cooking and helping us serve. You were wonderful!

Many thanks to Sanrea Seal for having Suzanne at the Ladies' Prayer Luncheon and to Dr Randy Bain for allowing Charlie to preach and see folks saved. Special thanks to Charlie Shafer for recommending Charlie to preach at FBC Olive Branch.

Our sincere appreciation to Dr. Fred Wolfe for allowing us to share SHOR with the Luke 4:18 Fellowship in Mobile AL. We are encouraged by your love and support!

A BIG thanks to Paul & Romola Barnett and Dan & Barbara Barber for providing the condos at Orange Beach for the SHOR retreat. Hugs to Stephanie and Charlie Shafer and Paige for cooking and serving – what a tremendous help!

Thank you to Dr. James Rivers and FBC:Moss Bluff for having us participate in the Global Missions conference. We praise the Lord for you!

Prayer Needs

PEOPLE: We covet your prayers for the couples who are booked for the 2010 retreats. We pray the Lord will bring those He desires to the place He has provided. Please pray nothing will interfere with their being able to come apart and rest.

PLACES: After 8 wonderful retreats since 2002 at the Old Corral Hotel in Centennial WY, we are now looking for a new place. Please pray for our dear friends out west [Bob and Karen Matthews (WY) and Nan and Paul Ostrander (MT)] who are trying to assist us in locating an appropriate place. We are also making a decision about which of 2 places to use for the October retreat in Idaho. Please pray we will know God's direction.

PROVISION: We are so grateful for the perfect provision of our great God. We do covet your prayers for continued support. Every gift counts. We do offer giving through automatic monthly drafts as well as credit cards. Heartfelt thanks for each of you who give sacrificially to make SHOR a reality.

PERSONAL: Please pray that we will have the stamina to maintain the retreat schedule, the speaking opportunities God gives, the Biblical guidance we provide outside of retreats, and the necessary paperwork and planning. Setting priorities, balancing the demands, and having adequate time to rest – all present a daily challenge.

Schedule

Dates	Event	Location
April 6 – 9	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
April 12 – 16	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
April 25	Preaching: Charlie	FBC Olive Branch MS
April 30	Speaking: Suzanne	Billings, MT
May 3 – 7	SHOR retreat	Pigeon Forge TN
May 10 – 14	SHOR retreat	Pigeon Forge TN
May 30	Speaking: Charlie	FBC Olive Branch MS
May 28 – 31	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
June 9 – 12	SHOR retreat	Jacksonville FL
June 14 – 16	So. Baptist Convention	Orlando FL
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 20 - 24	SHOR retreat	Centennial WY
October 5 – 9	SHOR retreat	Cascade 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!

As our dear friend, Dr. Bob Pitman, loves to say: WELL, GLORY! In March, we began our 9th year in Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries. In 2002, we began with 8 retreats in 5 states. This year we will hold 21 retreats in 9 states. The Lord has provided some of the most beautiful places for pastors and their wives to come to rest and be refreshed. We thank the Lord for dear friends who have allowed us to use their facilities free of charge or at reduced cost over these years. We have had over 450 donors who have contributed to the ministry over these last 8 years. We average 90 donors per month who give approximately one-half of our budget needs. It has been our prayer through the years that we would have 500 people who would give \$20 a month or more to underwrite the cost of the ministry. When gasoline prices skyrocketed in the summer of 2008, grocery prices went up. We are convinced that the Lord would still have us travel out to the more remote areas of the country to offer retreats to pastors who are isolated and discouraged. We continue to offer Biblical guidance to couples in crisis unable to attend retreats. We praise Him for opening new places in New Mexico and Idaho this year. We praise God for the opportunities of 2010.

What makes SHOR different?

Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge
Charlie & Suzanne are available to offer Biblical guidance 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 to get set up

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

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To Think About...

What Pastors Wish Church Members Knew

by Denise George (*Zondervan*, Jan. 2009; *used by permission*)

From the book: "A crisis is happening in the pulpits of our churches today. Our pastors are hurting in silence. They are suffering from physical exhaustion, overwhelming stress, painful loneliness, deep emotional scars, spiritual burnout, and disillusionment. They have a lack of money, lack of friends, lack of time, and lack of confidence in their abilities and ministries. Our pastors are leaving us. They are abandoning their pulpits—disappointed, disgusted, and deeply wounded—by the thousands each year." In her research for this book, Denise George interviewed hundreds of church pastors from forty different denominations. They ranged in age from 25 to 90 (and every year in between). The number of members in their churches varied from 15 members to 20,000 members (and every number in between). These pastors had served in ministry from as little as 3 years to as many as 57 years. The results of George's survey, and the stories pastors told her, will surprise, and maybe even shock, today's church member.

Also from Denise George in *The Alabama Baptist*, 2009 (*used by permission*):

- 8 in 10 pastors' wives say they don't feel appreciated or accepted by their husbands' congregations (7/16)
- 80% of wives wish their husband would leave the ministry for another profession
- Spousal issues are the main reason pastors leave the ministry. The divorce rate among pastors is 50 percent, the same rate as other Americans.
- 70% of pastors do not have someone they consider a close friend (6/25)
- One recent study shows that 45.5 percent of pastors say they have had to take a leave of absence from their ministries because of depression or extreme burnout. (7/2)

To be continued . . .

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