

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 8 Issue 4

September - November 2009

On a Personal Note...

Dear friends,

We thank the Lord for His blessings this fall. Since Labor Day, we have held 8 retreats in 6 different states. We have also been ministering in numerous counseling situations. One of the most critical is the young pastor awaiting trial in Arkansas. The next court date is December 21st. Would you please pray daily for him, his wife and 3 children? Pray they will be faithful in every possible way while they depend on Him.

We traveled out west for 3 retreats on Sept. 12th. We had 4 couples at Aspen Canyon Ranch from the 13th – 17th: pastors & wives from Iowa, Missouri, & Illinois as well as a bivocational youth pastor & wife from Kansas. These couples are serving faithfully but are facing significant health issues, family crisis, financial challenges, & critical church needs. The group had a great time together. On Sept. 4th, Steve Roderick, the owner of Aspen Canyon had surgery for a brain aneurism. We are happy to report that he is doing well. We traveled to Billings MT on the 17th to buy groceries for the Nye retreat. We welcomed 4 couples for the Sept. 18 – 21 retreat: 3 pastors & wives from Montana & 1 from Wyoming -- all needed a break. We prayed for them as they are dealing with family issues, church needs & conflicts, financial issues, & new ministry opportunities. We had quality time with each of them. We traveled to WY on the 22nd to buy groceries & prepare for the Sept. 23 – 27 retreat. We hosted 6 couples: 1 pastor & wife from TN, 2 from Wyoming, 1 from S. Dakota as well as a Dir. of Missions from SD & a youth minister from Colorado. One pastor, recently terminated, is dealing with depression, several are in struggling churches & in the midst of making major ministry decisions, & several are experiencing health issues as well as discouragement. We spent wonderful time with each of them. While we were out West, Rosa Roy's mom passed away. We traveled home on Mon., Sept. 28th, & Charlie preached Mrs. Kidwell's funeral on Tues. the 29th. She was a precious saint.

Suzanne traveled with 4 ministry wives (3 from TN & 1 from LA) to Orange Beach AL on October 2nd. Amy Barron, our home church's Women's Ministry Director, came with Suzie & brought the meals for the retreat. With only 3 days at home, this was such a blessing! One pastor's wife suffers from severe depression; one has faced challenges with her children; one has a high stress job as well as working alongside her husband in ministry. The time "out from under" did them a world of good. God has already been answering specific prayer from that weekend. We began the 1st October retreat in our home on Sun., October 11th. Although we had scheduled 6 couples for this retreat, we had 5 cancel in the 9 days leading up to the retreat. However, we saw God's hand. The Lord sent an AL pastor & wife who have been very

discouraged in ministry. We were able to devote special time to them & have wonderful prayer time concerning their needs. On Monday, when a critical counseling situation came up, we were able to go to minister. In the next 2 days, we had 2 more counseling issues arise that we were able to address. The Lord knew exactly what He desired for these days. The 2nd October retreat in our home began on Fri., Oct. 16th. We hosted 3 couples: a seminary student, a Missouri pastor, & an Alabama Dir. of Missions & their wives. They all needed a break from jobs & ministries as well as help with issues in their lives & traumatic events in their families. The Lord is answering prayer. Angie & her children came home on the 16th for a week and were able to stay at Mimi & Papa's during the retreat. On Sunday, Suzanne stepped in a hole outside of Kirby Woods & severely sprained her ankle. With Angie & Karen's help, Charlie was able to serve the last 3 meals of the retreat. God has been so good to meet our every need! We have seen His hand in every aspect of our lives & ministry during October, & we are grateful. Our counseling after the Oct. retreats involved marriage issues, depression, finances, church conflict, & terminations. We visited with a TX couple concerning SHOR on Fri. the 25th before traveling to E TN on Sat. the 26th for the 20th anniversary celebration of Ronnie Arnold's pastorate at Cedar Hill Baptist Church in E TN (a supporting church). We continued several of the counseling situations while we prepared for New York. On Sunday, Nov. 1st, Charlie preached for Hickory Grove Baptist Church (a supporting church) in Moscow TN. After lunch, we traveled to middle TN to counsel a minister & his wife who had just been forced out of their church. They were able to spend some time at our house while we were in New York. We are so grateful to have a home open to those in need!

On Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, we traveled to New York to prepare for 2 retreats. The 1st began on the 5th. We hosted 6 pastors & wives: 1 from Pennsylvania & 5 from New York. Their needs were varied: burn-out; issues with adult children; financial burdens; needs with teenaged children; conflict with church staff; possible termination; significant church needs; & a wife who feels she was not called but finds herself in the role of "pastor's wife." We had 2 pastors who lead 2 churches each. Both of them are struggling financially while striving to build up their congregations. We had a pastor with 5 children who lost his wife several years ago. He has remarried a wonderful woman with ministry experience overseas, but they are obviously experiencing tremendous transition in every area of their lives. Our prayer time with each couple was special.

(Continued on the last page)

Retreat Testimonies

Thank you so much for the SHOR retreat. From the moment we arrived, we were made to feel at home, relaxed, & very welcome. Our time together with just the 2 of you was healing for us in that we were able to share our hearts. You have done a fabulous job in making the rooms in your home a true retreat from the world. We loved our meal times with ya'll & the other couples. Laughter is good medicine!

When we moved to a smaller church with less pay, we felt time away would just be out of the question. This past year has been very busy & our kids (grown with families of their own) are having a very difficult time which has required assistance from us – both emotionally & financially. We needed time to regroup & refresh -- perfect timing.

God is so good in every way. When we arrived, we were placed in our room by the order of our coming. God absolutely put us where He wanted us. The scripture on our bathroom wall spoke volumes to our situation. God knew that I would need that verse over & over. There were 2 different books in our room that I read. God placed that same scripture in both of those books! This was a revealing, restful, & healing time for us.

Words cannot express how much the retreat really helped. Being able to share my heart means so much. Thank you for listening & understanding. Thank you for praying for God to make His will obvious to me.

With three small children & one on the way as well as having a very rough year at our church, we had no idea how we needed this retreat. We have been able to focus on each other & renew our friendship & partnership with each other so that we are ready to go back and serve God together.

This week has been the end of a long first step for us finding our way to renewed emotional health. In the beauty of this area of God's creation, we heard His still small voice. Thank you for serving us & praying for us!

We have experienced the costly, well-advertised, well-organized, & well-marketed programs available to Christian couples nowadays, but they failed to produce long-lasting change for us. SHOR ministries is about people & relationships and is not driven by the goals of an organization. It is propelled by the love of Jesus Christ in the hearts of Suzanne & Charlie. They love you in Jesus' name. What concerns you, concerns them. We came bearing the burden of an uncertain ministry future. We leave feeling affirmed in our calling & who we are in Christ. This is a result of the time spent in counseling & prayer with Charlie & Suzanne. We thank God!

Another pastor in our area highly recommended SHOR to us. We were looking forward to the time off from our full time jobs & ministry. The retreat far exceeded our expectations, & God blessed our lives with time to relax & get away from our extremely busy schedules. Suzanne & Charlie have a heart for pastors & their families. God is using them to minister in ways that others cannot. We leave uplifted & encouraged!

SHOR retreats are one of those special gifts to pastors from our Heavenly Father. SHOR truly renews, refreshes, & encourages. We had such a wonderful time with the other pastors & wives. The family who owns the ranch were amazing servants & blessed us greatly. I highly recommend a SHOR retreat for every pastor & wife.

If you are a pastor or pastors' wife, you are working 24/7 with a fast-paced lifestyle. On this retreat, we were able to turn our phones off & rest for the first time in years -- not only for ONE day, but for FIVE. We are so thankful for this wonderful time!

My husband & I have been going through a healing time in our marriage. The relaxed, casual atmosphere of the retreat was a perfect environment for us to be able to spend time together away from kids & the demands of ministry. We were able to leave refreshed & more focused on both marriage & ministry. We are so grateful for those who give to make a retreat like this possible.

Blessings!

Special thanks to Steve and Deb Roderick and their family for hosting SHOR at beautiful Aspen Canyon Ranch. We have enjoyed 6 amazing retreats with them since 2005. **Would you please pray for Steve and Deb?*

Thank you to Mark and Laretta Langley for opening their gorgeous home in Nye MT to SHOR. What a blessing!

Our warmest appreciation to Richard and Gina Headrick for letting us host our 8th SHOR retreat at The Old Corral Hotel. We are so grateful to you for all you have done since 2002!

Many thanks to Centennial Valley Community Church for allowing us to have retreat meals in their wonderful fellowship hall. We love you! Thanks to Debby and Jim Davenport for helping us serve at the retreat – you're the best!

A BIG thanks to Margaret and Billy Balthrop who hosted our entire group (that's 18 of us!) for dinner in their home. It was great! Special thanks to Pastor Bob Matthews and Karen for allowing Charlie to preach at Centennial Valley. You are dear friends!

Heartfelt thanks to Paul and Romola Barnett for providing their beautiful condos on Orange Beach for the wives' retreat. We had a terrific time. Thank you for Friday's dinner after a long travel day, too! Thanks, Amy, for your wonderful meals.

Our sincere appreciation to Doug & Louise Goettsche (and Kisa) at Cornerstone Victorian Bed & Breakfast in Warrensburg NY for their superior hospitality for the 2 New York retreats (our 7th year there since 2003). Thank you for helping us in every way and for keeping us laughing! Special thanks to Gloria Buice for helping Suzanne with grocery shopping & serving during the second retreat – you are a love!

Prayer Needs

For the 2010 schedule. We have planned 20 retreats for couples and will add at least one *for wives only*.

For the couples who are already scheduled to come for 2010 retreats (This is the first time we have ever had couples booked this early for the next year!)

For the counseling situations the Lord entrusts to us. Although we are seeing the Lord do great things, we are burdened for many with whom we are currently working.

For our personal daily walk with the Lord as well as our physical stamina

For God's continued provision for the ministry

Praise: We thank our great God daily for you, your prayers, and your support. We wouldn't exist without you! The Lord has provided the most wonderful, strategic places for retreats (see schedule below). WOW!

Schedule

Dates	Event	Location
January 20 – 24	SHOR retreat	Yorktown TX
January 29 – February 1	SHOR retreat	Arlington TN
February 17 – 20	SHOR retreat	Jacksonville FL
March 16 – 19	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
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

To Think About...

After we got home from New York, Charlie was reading a publication from *Key Life Magazine* Winter/Christmas 2009. The following statistic was featured on a half page (it was cited from *Focus on the Family*):

"1500 PASTORS LEAVE THEIR ASSIGNMENTS EACH MONTH, DUE TO MORAL FAILURE, SPIRITUAL BURNOUT OR CONTENTION WITHIN THEIR LOCAL CONGREGATIONS."

We ask couples, "What do you believe to be the greatest problems you face in your ministry?" Here are some of the responses:

"Complacency in the church, constant negative people, lack of leaders, lack of strong men, no deacon support, lack of finances, lack of others' 'getting the vision'; just feeling so alone so much of the time except for knowing the Lord is there."

"Too much to do in too little time: I just do not know how to be a visiting, good preaching, hard working pastor, good student, and good husband with only 24 hours in a day. No matter what I say no to, someone gets offended. My wife gets the short end most of the time because she is the only one who knows that I work 19-20 hours a day 7 days a week."

"I need some time away from church related issues so my wife and I can just focus on loving the Lord. Probably after 22 years as a pastor, I find myself getting more irritated at small issues that should not bother me. And that concerns me, because I've never been this way before."

Other responses: "a difficult situation between two people who are part of one of our ministry responsibilities"; "discouragement, lack of appreciation, respect, and understanding"; "burn-out"; "keeping the congregation unified"; "being on guard against the subtle traps by the enemy and the effect on my family"; "I feel like I am continually playing 'catch up' instead of ever being 'ahead of the game.'"

Please pray for your pastor and his family!



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 info@shorministries.com to get set up

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

Merry Christmas from Shor Ministries!

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On a Personal Note... (Con't from page 1)

The 2nd NY retreat was Nov 12 – 15. We hosted 4 couples: 3 from New York & 1 from Vermont. Each of these couples needed time away to rest & spend time together to get a fresh perspective. One couple is transitioning in ministry, one is a church planter doing a great job, one is in seminary & is considering his first pastorate, & one has 4 natural children & has adopted or is fostering 7 more children with various needs. One wife has significant health issues. Would you pray for these as the Lord places them on your heart? We traveled home on Nov. 16 to a backlog of counseling & paperwork. We spent the week covering these bases & working on this newsletter. We will try to take a break over Thanksgiving, and then resume the counseling. Please pray we will have God's wisdom. We will also be working in December to continue to make friends for the ministry.

Today we read in Psalm 28:6-7: "Blessed be the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplication. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exults; with my song I shall thank Him." We praise our faithful Father & continually thank Him for you. SHOR is a reality because of you!

With grateful hearts,

Suzanne and Charlie

What makes SHOR different?

Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge
Charlie & Suzanne are available to counsel 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?

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