

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 12 Issue 1

January – March 2013

Dear friends,

As we celebrate the risen Savior at the end of March, we are praising the Lord for a wonderful beginning to 2013. We have completed 5 retreats in 4 states as well as helping those who are struggling in crisis situations. God is faithful!

On January 3rd Suzanne spoke to the Women on Mission group at Germantown Baptist Church. They are prayer warriors, and it was a blessing to share the Word and the ministry of SHOR. On January 8th Suzanne traveled to Ohio to help her niece who lost a baby (her husband is a worship and college minister - he was sick with the flu!). They have precious daughters who are 3 & 4 years old. Charlie worked with couples struggling with depression, church conflict, health, and financial issues. We worked to prepare our home for upcoming retreats in February, March, April, and May. We traveled to S. Texas on Jan. 22nd to prepare for the retreat in Yorktown January 23 - 27. We hosted 4 couples: a TX church planter and wife doing well but working hard (2 years in); a TX pastor and wife who have had a major family issue and a significant hurt in ministry; a LA executive pastor and wife (she is the children's ministry leader) carrying a heavy load in a struggling church; and a TX pastor and wife having personal issues. The Lord blessed during the time at 5 D ranch, and we were so grateful.

We hosted a retreat in our home February 1 - 4 with 3 couples: a TN seminary student & wife who have experienced several significant losses; an IN pastor & wife needing time away together; and a MS pastor & wife with marriage, family, and ministry issues. We have seen the Lord directly answer prayer in several of these matters. Suzanne traveled to Nashville for the youth minister's wife's trial on February 6th - 8th (many of you have prayed for this matter for over 2 years). *We are so grateful to tell you that she was acquitted on all counts!!* Thank you so much for continually lifting this family before the Lord. She was completely vindicated, and we are still praising the Lord. We enjoyed worshiping at Broadway Baptist Church Feb. 10 to hear Richard Headrick preach. He was in town to launch a new chapter of "Hellfighters", an organization for bikers to share the gospel. They are doing a great work for the Kingdom. Richard and Gina wrote the recently released movie *Last Ounce of Courage* (you should buy it!). We worked on some significant changes to our home (for retreats) the week of February 11th. We are so grateful to Rosa Roy for continuing to help us be more efficient and organized as we host retreats. We traveled to Louisiana on Friday, February 15th for Suzanne to speak at a women's event and for Charlie to preach on the 17th. We were with our dear friends, Nancy and Larry Pridmore, at Southside Baptist Church in Mansfield. They are such a tremendous

encouragement to us. We went to Fort Payne, AL, on Saturday, Feb. 23rd on our way to Georgia to meet with a recently terminated pastor and wife. They are going through a hard transition time. We hosted 4 couples at the WinShape Retreat in Mt. Berry GA Feb. 24 - 27: a FL pastor and wife leading a wonderful church cherishing time together; an OH bi-vocational pastor and wife needing a break from their many responsibilities to be refreshed; a KY pastor and wife suffering from burn-out and very wounded from a previous ministry experience; and a FL assoc. pastor and wife who have transitioned to a new area of ministry. WinShape is owned and operated by Chick-fil-A. They did all of the cooking for our retreat so that we were able to focus on our folks. We are very grateful for their ministry.

We hosted 3 couples in our home March 1 - 4: a MS pastor and wife needing encouragement and fellowship; an AR pastor and wife who enjoyed time away together (he got very ill on Sunday night - please pray for them); and a missionary couple from Africa (their family needs much prayer during this break from the field). What a great retreat, and we are thanking the Lord! Jessica (Chad's precious wife) gave birth to a beautiful baby boy (Ezra Gray) on Monday evening March 4th. She did need a C-section, but both she and the baby are doing well. We left as soon as we completed the retreat to go hold our newest grandbaby! Charlie preached a revival in Hornersville, MO, March 10 - 13. Pastor Paul Moore and his wife, Linda, are such faithful servants. Charlie spent some time with a Dir. of Missions there whose dear wife has Alzheimer's. Both of these men and their sweet wives are a blessing to us. We had our first 2013 board meeting Friday, March 15. We traveled to Chad and Jessica's to see Baby Ezra Gray on our way to the AR retreat. We hosted 4 couples at CrossHeirs Retreat Center in AR March 17 - 20: an AR pastor and wife needing time to reflect on the direction of their ministry; an OK pastor and wife facing new health issues; an AR pastor and wife in a new phase of ministry; and an AR Assoc. Missionary and wife seeking the Lord's direction for future ministry. Charlie preached at Lucy Baptist Church in Millington March 24th. Angie and her children were home until Easter. God is good!

We continually thank God for your prayers and support. Today we bless you with I Thessalonians 5:23: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Suzanne and Charlie





This is the only minister's retreat we have ever been on where we didn't feel like the leaders almost hoped we were broken so they could fix us. The atmosphere was one of joy and laughter rather than one of sorrow and pain. We were ministered to, but not pressed to share our deepest, darkest secrets. We had plenty of time to rest (we could even sleep in!) and unwind; and we had time to spend together as a couple.

My wife and I love our church and have no complaints, but life (apart from church) has been brutal. My wife has struggled for 3 ½ years with chronic depression. Not finding relief continues to be difficult, feeling like few care makes it even worse. At this retreat we not only felt loved, we were loved! If love is defined as the sacrifice of self for the good of another, then that is most definitely what we experienced. Someone prayed, someone planned, someone cooked, and someone paid for it all. We may go home still with some problems, but we go home with the assurance of being loved and, really, is there anything better than that? Thank you all for showing us the real and practical love of Christ! (1 John 3:17 - 18)

We almost didn't get to come to the retreat, but we are thankful God made a way in spite of obstacles! We enjoyed the "down time" and lack of schedule. Also, the fellowship time with other pastors and wives was refreshing.

Even though I am early on in my ministry, I learned the importance of downtime and staying connected to my wife and family. The struggles of busy schedules, priorities, and obligations to church or ministry often get in the way. It is easy to lose track of time and drift away from the most important people in your ministry -- your family. My wife and I have been blessed to serve alongside each other in our church. My relationship with her is wonderful but can always be stronger. A few days of rest as well as some time to strengthen our relationship were needed. Every man in ministry needs some time to release from the stresses of pastoral ministry and serving God's people. SHOR Ministries is the perfect remedy. Thanks to Suzanne & Charlie and those who support the ministry to restore and encourage pastors all across the country.

Ministry can be very tough and challenging. You are on call 24 hours and feel a burden to care for your church and congregation members. This retreat helped us remove ourselves from the hustle and bustle of life. We are just pulled in so many different directions. We enjoyed the "down time," fellowship with other couples, and especially the prayer time with Charlie & Suzanne.



Our warmest appreciation to Patricia and Pete Dlugosch for providing 5 D Ranch for the January retreat in Texas. Many thanks to Teresa and Dale Borgfeld for all you do to make the time special for the couples. Thank you, Jim & Debby Davenport, for looking and serving. You are all such a blessing to us!

Big thanks to Judy Snider for her help with the February and March retreats in our home. Thank you to Stephanie Erwin for helping for both retreats. We couldn't do without you!

Special thanks to WinShape Retreat Center in Mt. Berry, Georgia for hosting us for the February retreat. The Normandy Inn is gorgeous and the food was wonderful.

Many thanks to Rosa & Randy Roy, Bruce & Sylvia Haines, and Mary Jo & Kenny Street for continuing to help us make our home a great place for SHOR retreats. Your tireless dedication and precious friendships mean more than we can say!

Our sincere gratitude to Matt & Camille Mosler and Mo & Jeff Wright for hosting us at CrossHeirs Retreat Center for the March retreat. The place is so peaceful, and the food was great. You encouraged our hearts!

Heartfelt thanks to Rheba Kizzee, Larry & Nancy Pridmore, Paul & Linda Moore, and David Lawrence for the opportunity of sharing our hearts and our ministry in your churches. Your friendship and love lift us up.

We knew we needed a break, but the funds required to get away for even one night just weren't there. I came over-whelmed, overworked and out of steam. SHOR Ministries gave us a much-needed time for our ministry, personal, & spiritual lives. We are rested, refreshed, and ready for the next round!

We have attempted over the years to get away as husband & wife. The past few months have brought major changes in our lives (not bad, but different). The time to be away from the routine, the hectic schedule of work and all else has been very refreshing -- physically, mentally, and spiritually -- as individuals and as a couple.

We are so busy in our ministry and secular life that we were beginning to disconnect with each other and the purpose for which we serve. The retreat gave us the opportunity to step away and reconnect and spend time with each other. We also regained our focus and reignited our passion for both ministry and each other.

My wife and I were overwhelmed emotionally, physically, and mentally with the demands of ministry. Having dealt with a large number of deaths in the church and surgeries, we were simply spent. We came seeking God's direction. The difference this retreat has made for us is learning the importance of boundaries. While we are still seeking God's will, we are leaving with hope. Just the opportunity of voicing our concerns and frustrations in a safe haven is truly priceless.

The retreat was needed to reaffirm the importance of my wife to my life. Spending time together and strengthening our bond of love was exciting. As a result of this retreat, we met like-minded couples as well as meeting a couple who has been where we are trying to go.

Thank you! Thank you for this retreat! It was great to be away from the hustle and bustle of our busy lives. To be able to draw near to one another as we fixed our eyes back on our God and to share our lives with others who truly understand our situations was so freeing and encouraging. We left feeling excited to return home to what God has called us to do. We hope to support this wonderful ministry!

After going over a year not having a night away from our children due to traumatic events making them feel unsafe away from us, we were able to relax, cry, talk on a deeper level, and take naps! Elijah's account in Kings 19:1-8 is where we are as a family. At the retreat, we were served and allowed to sleep. We are not done with this stage, but we SO look forward to v. 8! Prayer time was so helpful, and we look forward to all the Lord has in store for the future.

OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO MAKE SHOR POSSIBLE! WE PRAISE THE LORD FOR YOU!



- ◆ *For our upcoming retreats in Destin, FL; Arlington, TN (2); Pigeon Forge, TN; and Scottsdale, AZ*
- ◆ *For the couples who are registered for retreats that the Lord would protect this special time away*
- ◆ *For pastors and missionaries and their wives who are struggling with conflict, terminations, and family issues. Please take time to pray for your pastor and those you know in ministry – the enemy is after them!*
- ◆ *For our balance with SHOR: managing retreats while endeavoring to help those in crisis and trying to keep up with those who need ongoing assistance*
- ◆ *For ongoing provision from the Lord: regular monthly or quarterly givers to support the work of the ministry*

PRAISE: The acquittal of the TN youth minister's wife. MANY THANKS for all of the prayers!



Dates	Event	Location
April 8 - 12	SHOR retreat	Destin FL
April 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
May 13 - 17	SHOR retreat	Pigeon Forge TN
May 24 - 27	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
June 3 - 6	SHOR retreat	Scottsdale AZ
June 9 - 12	SBC Pastor's Wife Expo / Convention	Houston TX
June 10 - 14	MABTS teaching (Charlie)	Schenectady, NY

For a complete listing of 2013 retreats, see the website: www.shorministries.com



The following are excerpts from retreat applications of folks scheduled for upcoming retreats: (please pray for them as they prepare to attend a retreat)

What do you believe to be the greatest problem you face in your ministry?

- + To be helped after a tragic traffic accident where a pedestrian was killed
- + Counseling over staff split, resulting in former youth minister leaving and starting a new church one block away from our church.
- + Refueling to press on through the difficult aspects of full-time ministry.
- + Too many responsibilities
- + We are experiencing exponential growth and are preparing to build a new campus on a 16.5 acre location just recently acquired. The problems (challenges) that I face are maintaining our DNA in this process to remain externally focused in reaching those who are unreached, unchurched, de-churched, or lost. We also have a heart for missions that must not be diluted during this process.

What are your wife's greatest needs?

- ♥ My undivided attention and conversation
- ♥ Personally: rest Ministry: seeing everyone come together as a team
- ♥ She needs time where we can focus on our love and commitment to each other and our commitment to serve the Lord in ministry.
- ♥ Spiritual renewal, rest and encouragement
- ♥ She has undergone the loss of her mother, begun a new job, and experienced changes in her health recently.

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
Would you please consider helping us to help them?



Charlie & Suzanne Grigsby
5525 Chester Street
Arlington, TN 38002

Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge.
Please pray about supporting this ministry.

To better assist you, we now have several contribution options:

- * **NEW: Paypal available at www.shorministries.com**
- 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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Why SHOR exists

From a pastor:

I wanted to take an opportunity to express an additional "thank you" to you guys for the wonderful week you provided for us at the SHOR retreat. It wasn't until the Monday after we returned as my wife and I were going for her test that it hit me what had fully occurred for us at the retreat. She asked me if I was ready to go back to work. My answer was, "Yes and no. I'm always eager to preach, but it is all the extracurricular that gives me pause." I knew full well that first thing Tuesday morning, many of our people would be waiting for me, ready to share their struggles and burdens. As any pastor knows, this is just part of the job. I constantly quote Galatians 6:2 to myself, "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." And as I quoted that verse to my wife, it hit me. That is what made this retreat special. This is exactly what you had done for us. For a few days I wasn't the pastor, I wasn't the listener, I wasn't the burden bearer. For just a few days, I wasn't the shepherd, I was a sheep. As a pastor you can never show it, but in many ways my wife and I felt a little like the sickly, broken, scattered flock of Ezekiel's day (Ez. 34). We really didn't even know it, but we were hungering for someone to pick us up.

Family members are somehow forced to bear a little of the burden. Even if they would rather turn a blind eye, the situation is just too close to ignore. A church family or friends have a certain amount of expectation to help because your paths cross so often. And yet sometimes we help those close to us because in a way we would never admit, we want them to get better simply so they won't continue to be such a burden on us. But you had no reason to do what you did for us. You weren't trying to fix us so that you could quit bearing our burden. Our burden was the very thing that made us attractive to you. There was no reason for you to host us, or feed us, or listen to us, or pray with us, and certainly no reason for you to go the extra mile to get additional help for our special needs. No reason except one: the love of Christ obviously constrained you. And that is the real joy of the retreat. We didn't just run across a caring couple who renewed our faith in people. Through you we were reminded of the love of Christ and had our faith in Him renewed. Through you we were reminded that Jesus has never left us nor forsaken us.

We don't know what will happen next in our lives. We certainly are praying for my wife's restoration. Hopefully it will come through the ways you introduced us to. But one thing we do know is that regardless of what happens next, we were reminded that Christ has not forgotten us, and that makes facing the future much, much easier.

In short thank you so much for obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit in your lives to step out and begin shepherding shepherds. Your work meant a great deal to us. And please pass along our most heart-felt gratitude to all those who work behind the scenes and support this ministry financially. They may not have attended the retreat or been physically present in the times of prayer, but we know that their work makes yours possible, and we never take that for granted. May God return their blessing pressed down, shaken together and overflowing. Thank you for bearing our burden and thus fulfilling the law of Christ.



5525 Chester Street
Arlington, TN 38002

PHONE:
(901) 867-3843

E-MAIL:
info@shorministries.com
Charlie@shorministries.com
Suzanne@shorministries.com

Feel free to contact us. We would love to hear from you.

Visit us on the Web @

www.shorministries.com

For all of you who have given, served, cooked, cleaned . . . this letter is for you!

*Please consider
being a regular
supporter of SHOR*