

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 12 Issue 3

June - August 2013

On a Personal Note...

Dear friends,

We are excited about the last 5 retreats of 2013 coming up in Wyoming, Idaho, E. TN, and New York (2). The summer has flown by, but we are rejoicing in all the Lord is doing. Here's a glimpse of the last 3 months:

We continue to be grateful to Diane Nix and Donna Gaines for including SHOR in the Pastors' Wives' Expo of the So. Baptist Convention. This allows us to host a booth to share the ministries of SHOR with almost 1000 ministry couples from across the United States. This year we were not in a heavy traffic area giving us the opportunity to pray with a number who came our way. Some of the situations included a pastor's son in prison for murder, a pastor whose church is in conflict, a pastor's wife who is angry about her family situation and ministry in general, a pastor near retirement wondering "what's next" -- just a few of the ones with whom we talked and prayed. After the convention, we spent a week with all of our children and grandchildren -- what a blessing! A TN pastor suffering from depression and his wife spent a day with us. We also spent time with a TN assoc. pastor and wife dealing with a critical family situation, a local wife struggling in her marriage, a missionary home on furlough, and an IL church planter whose wife had surgery here in Memphis.

The weekend of July 4th, we spent some time alone together to be refreshed and to re-group for the second half of the year. Suzanne shared with a group of staff wives from FBC Collierville on July 8th. It was a sweet time in the Word and for her to share the ministries of SHOR. Before going to Branson, we met with a local couple currently out of ministry. We hosted couples from Arkansas the week of July 16 - 20: a youth minister and wife making major decisions and dealing with some personal issues; a pastor and wife suffering from burn-out; and a pastor and wife hurting for church members who have experienced traumatic events. We also met with a local assoc. pastor and wife who were recently terminated. Would you pray the Lord would bless them with a new place of service? Angie and her children came home for a visit on July 24th. Sadly, she was bitten by a brown recluse spider while picking berries in Ohio several days before coming home. This resulted in cellulitis as well as a secondary infection. She remained home for 10 days (a blessing for us!) as she recovered enough to drive the 600 plus miles home. We are happy to report that she is doing well -- praise the Lord!

On Friday, August 2nd, Charlie shared in the memorial service for a dear friend and SHOR donor, Lyniel Huffman. Mrs. Emma and Bro. Lyniel have been faithful members of Bartlett Baptist where Charlie served as pastor from 1996 - 2002. They are such a blessing in our lives! On Monday, Aug. 5, we traveled to N. MS to participate in the Acts ONE8

Bootcamp. We hosted a booth for the 2-day conference and led 6 breakout sessions. We shared the ministries of SHOR with about 200 ministers from around the Mid-South (many church planters). Judy went with us to be in the booth while we were leading our sessions. We are following up on several of the folks we met there who are dealing with depression, church conflict, ministry decisions, and staff problems. We went to Destin on Sunday, Aug. 11th to prepare to host these 4 couples (the 12th - 16th): a MS pastor and wife dealing with some hurts in ministry; a GA pastor and wife experiencing a difficult family situation and ministering in a poverty stricken area; an OK pastor and wife recovering from a tragic event in their church and major changes in their family; and an AR pastor and wife making major decisions about their future ministry. It was a great week! We were home for Founders' Days' at Mid-America Seminary August 19 - 21. It was wonderful to hear Papa (Dr. Gray) tell the Miracle of Mid-America Story for the 42nd time! We had several dear friends and family here for the week, and we enjoyed every minute. We also had our 3rd board meeting of 2013 on Wednesday, August 21st. Suzanne's sister, Charlotte (a CPA), presented the 2012 audit to the board (we do external audits each year). We are grateful for her expertise, and that she and the board make sure we are accountable and upright in all of our financial management. We are currently working with several couples on marriage, finance, church conflict, family problems, and ministry opportunities. We will host a retreat in our home over Labor Day weekend. Charlie will preach in Jonesboro AR for a Senior Adult Sunday on Sept. 8th (one of us is getting old!). Then the fall travel begins in earnest -- Wyoming, Idaho, E. TN, and New York. We covet your prayers for traveling mercy and for the retreats to be a blessing and encouragement to all who come. Recently, several friends of SHOR have been dealing with health issues: one from AR with breast cancer; three from TN -- one with diverticulitis, one who suffered a heart attack, and one still being tested; and one from LA yet to be diagnosed. We are very burdened for our dear friends and ask that you be in prayer for each of them. We are reminded in I Cor. 1:3-4: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort which we ourselves are comforted by God." We are grateful for His sufficiency!

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

We came to the retreat at a time when the demands of ministry had multiplied beyond anything we had experienced. In addition to the situations at church, my wife's mother was having some serious health problems. We were both physically, emotionally, and spiritually tired. Our time at the retreat allowed us to rest. The prayer time with Charlie and Suzanne was a blessing. They listened to all we had been going through with a compassionate heart. This retreat provided an opportunity for people serving in the church to be encouraged by people who understand the unique demands of the ministry.

The pastorate/chaplaincy is demanding and does not know office hours. The past several months have been especially trying with pressures beyond the demands due to personal struggles. When I take time off in my home area, the needs are still at hand and even seek me out. It gave me hope that the new relationships made this week will be lasting ones as we pray for and encourage one another. This was just what I needed in the hour I needed it. Many thanks!

We are church planters with a drive to keep all of the "balls juggling in the air," so to speak. With limited time and financial restraints, time away (especially as a couple) has been very low on our priority list. We had not reached a "burn out" stage, but we were very tired when we came. In our world of media communication, it is hard to get away even for a day from email, texting, etc. Being able to tell our church we were going to a Pastors' retreat, we communicated our need to "go off the radar." We so appreciate the opportunity to refuel under the shepherding care of SHOR Ministries. We are better equipped to continue kingdom work as we return home.

We had been so tired from changing jobs, moving and financial and medical problems -- we needed a break. This retreat gave us a time to rest and just be together. It helped us, blessed us, and got us ready to go back home for ministry.

Only God knows one's heart, but Suzanne and Charlie were there for us in a way as if they had walked in our shoes and carried our griefs with us. Their prayers have helped carry us through even before we arrived. The couples who joined us were also congenial, familial, and most of all willing to help where they sensed a need. It was obvious that our Father in Heaven had orchestrated this week for this particular set of couples. What a joyful and blessed time we encountered at the retreat. One we will cherish for years to come.

This retreat came at an opportune time for us to step back from the busyness of the season and evaluate and pray through some life decisions. It was neat to see the way that the Lord freed up or schedule and put us in touch with SHOR. Any other year would have been too packed with ministry during the summer. Thank you so much for investing in ministry couples!

Stress, responsibilities and just plain serving can make a body tired. I guess Jesus got tired of hearing us say, "Boy, I'm tired." Even after a good night's rest, we still felt tired. Words cannot express how loved, cared for, spoiled and special we felt. Charlie & Suzanne, you are amazing! Anyone can see you enjoy your ministry and love what you do. What a blessing to be a part of this week! We haven't felt this rested in years. "Thank you" just doesn't cover what we feel in our hearts. When times get busy and hard, we have this week to remember. That will take us through whatsoever comes. We love you!

We discovered SHOR at a booth at the So. Bapt. Convention in New Orleans last year. We took a brochure not knowing what a tumultuous year lay ahead of us in our church. There was a horrible situation with a fellow staff member who (without going into details) is now in prison. He was like a member of our family so this year has taken a heavy toll on us. Also during this time, we had a wedding for our daughter and a graduation for our son. The SHOR brochure was meant for us because when the dust settled, we needed to get away for a renewal and refreshing time. It has been so special! We could never have afforded to leave for a week. Having our accommodations and meals provided was such a blessing! No one except pastors and pastors' wives can understand the lives we lead. It is called a life "in a fish bowl" for a reason. Being able to share time with other ministry couples and to totally relax and be ourselves was priceless. New lifetime friendships have been made. Charlie and Suzanne's attentiveness and care for our needs completely blew us away and blessed us beyond words. You can tell this ministry is their calling from God.

(Pastor) My goal for this retreat was to have a great re-connect time with my bride on our 19th anniversary. Also, I wanted to re-ignite my love and compassion for the church, His bride. Mission accomplished on both! (Wife) I needed some time away from parsonage life to bring perspective to some pastor's wife issues. This week was a time to quiet my thoughts enough to hear God's voice and feel His presence. The prayer time with Charlie and Suzanne helped sort through a lot. What a refreshing time with my husband and the Lord!

Blessings!

A BIG thanks to Bill and Oneta Williams (International Church Planters) for helping us cook and serve the couples in Branson. We love you all!

Our warmest appreciation to George Ross and Josh Kubler for allowing us to host a booth and lead breakout sessions at the Acts ONE8 Bootcamp. You encourage our hearts!

Sincere gratitude to John and Linda Calcote for sharing your gorgeous Destin home for our August retreat. Your continued love and support just blesses our socks off (as well as the couples who are with us)!

A Special *thank you* to those who serve with us through SHOR: our board (Dr. Gray Allison, chairman; Mr. Jack O'Kelley, vice-chairman; Mr. John Hyneman; Mr. John Calcote; Mr. Jimmie Williams; and Mr. Alan Swafford); Charlotte Miller, our accountant; Sheri Buse, our secretary; Judy Snider, the "whatever" girl who works all hours of the day and night to make sure we are ready for the next thing. All of you receive little thanks, but mean more than we could ever say!

Many, many thanks for all of you who give to support SHOR -- we are so grateful!

Prayer Needs

- ◆ For our upcoming retreats in Centennial WY, Challis ID, Townsend TN, and Warrensburg NY (2)
- ◆ For the couples scheduled for retreats that the Lord would protect this time away for them to be refreshed
- ◆ For continued provision of places for retreats strategically located across the US. We are working on the 2014 schedule.
- ◆ For regular monthly or quarterly support for the work of the ministry (From the inception of SHOR we have prayed for 500 donors who would give \$20 a month to underwrite the costs of retreats.)
- ◆ For networking to help couples who do not live near us to receive the ongoing help they need
- ◆ For our continued good health as we travel and serve; balance in all things!

Schedule

| <u>Dates</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Sept. 8 | Sr. Adult Sunday | Jonesboro AR |
| Sept. 16 - 20 | SHOR retreat | Centennial WY |
| Sept. 30 - Oct. 4 | SHOR retreat | Challis, ID |
| Oct. 14 - 18 | SHOR retreat | Townsend TN |
| Oct. 31 - Nov. 4 | SHOR retreat | Warrensburg NY |
| Nov. 7 - Nov. 10 | SHOR retreat | Warrensburg NY |
| Nov. 22 - Nov. 23 | Suzanne Speaking | Bartlett TN |

NEW FOR 2014!

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| January 21 - 26 | SHOR retreat | Yorktown TX |
| February 13 - 16 | SHOR retreat | Arlington TN |
| February 23 - 27 | SHOR retreat | Rome GA |
| March 7 - 11 | SHOR retreat | Arlington TN |
| March 16 - 19 | SHOR retreat | Crosssheirs Retreat, AR |

To Think About...

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?

- + Burnout - expectations - relationships - managing staff. The challenges of frequent turnover in volunteer leadership.
- + I have a group of people who are trying to force me out as pastor because they don't think the church is growing fast enough.
- + Time, energy, finances, spiritual attacks from the enemy
- + Lack of encouragement and finances
- + Handling difficult people and their problems

What are your wife's greatest needs?

- ♥ Hope and renewal in marriage relationship
- ♥ She needs a break from everyday life: she is a mom, part-time nurse, and a partner in the ministry.
- ♥ She needs physical, mental, emotional healing from things in her life that she has no control over.
- ♥ She was recently diagnosed with brain cancer.
- ♥ To learn how to be a pastor's wife.

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...

S.H.O.R. Legacy

Our church and state convention have a continuing partnership with a church-planting ministry in Uruguay. Every year, a mission team goes down to help and support three couples, an IMB missionary couple and two South American church planters. As with many mission fields, the work is slow and often discouraging. This particular nation is known for its spirit of depression. Suicide is unusually high in this area. Even Christians serving the Lord are not immune to depression and discouragement. These three couples are continuously in our prayers, but there is only so much we can do in our few days there each year. Our trip in 2013, however, held an unexpected blessing. God in his lavish love for us had a surprise in store.

Through a series of unexpected blessings, our trip expenses were considerably less than in previous years. First, the airfare went down. Then the hotel fees were donated. Then all the team's food was donated. The airline didn't even charge us for extra bags! Even after a generous gift to the ministries of these three couples, we still had money left over.

Well, my husband Steve and I had been very blessed in the past to attend S.H.O.R. retreats, in both New York and in Wyoming. It occurred to us what a blessing it would be to offer the same type of retreat to our dear friends in South America. On a previous trip to Uruguay, Steve had met a Christian man who was the manager of a resort hotel who had an interest in our ministry. Since it was the off-season, he offered us a great deal on a three-night stay for these three couples and us. It included a lunch and a dinner at very nice restaurants. We were able to make arrangements for a baby sitter for the one couple who has small children. The only scheduled activity was that we would have dinner together each evening.

I wish we had recorded the first few moments when we arrived at our hotel rooms. The joy on these couples' faces was uncontained. They could not believe they had been given such a treat! They were thrilled with their rooms, which were nearly equal in size to their own tiny homes. They rejoiced over having heated bedrooms – it gets pretty cold there in winter, but since winter is short, few have heat. They couldn't wait to enjoy relaxing on the king size beds and watching cable TV, luxuries they do not have. They felt guilty for eating so much and so well, and we saved all the left overs to take to the children and their baby sitter. Over the course of these four days and three nights, we watched these burdened, overwhelmed servants of God laugh, joke, hold hands and walk arm in arm on the beach. They even slept late. They bonded with each other and even had a chance to evaluate the ministry and strategize some for the future in a setting free from pressure. We prayed for one another and all our children. They said they felt truly refreshed and energized to get back to the work God has given them to do.

Thank you Charlie and Suzanne for your inspired vision, for showing us how with a little effort, we can bolster these saints on the front lines. (Sent by Bro. Steve and Pam Ford, Pastor and wife at Grace Baptist Church, Vermillion SD)

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Visit us on the Web @

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*Please consider
being a regular
supporter of SHOR*

**Thanks to all who have given to invest in pastors and their ministries,
IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**