

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 18 Issue 3

August - November, 2020

On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are winding down the strangest year ever! Since March of 2020, we have been hosting SHOR retreats around the continental United States. This year concludes our 19th year with the ministries of SHOR.

August was a month full of Doctor visits and Charlie's two cataract surgeries. His surgeries went well except for his developing a superficial blood clot where his 2nd IV was. With patience, everything healed, and we were grateful. We continued to talk with, email and text couples that we had been working with in **Colorado, Texas, Kentucky, Alabama, Louisiana, California, Missouri, and here locally**. We are grateful for the ability to connect remotely with those who are hurting to help them work through issues.

Over **Labor Day weekend**, we traveled to **E TN** for the retirement celebration of our dear friends, **Ronnie and Kathy Arnold**. Ronnie has served at Cedar Hill Baptist Church for over 31 years. He set a wonderful example as a pastor and shepherd. Ronnie has been dealing with cancer for a number of years (his wife, Kathy, has also had cancer). They have been wonderful friends since Charlie pastored in Knoxville TN from 1978 – 1982. It was a great weekend, and we were honored to be a small part.

We were scheduled to meet with a **GA couple** who are no longer in vocational ministry before our GA retreat, but she hurt her back, and they were unable to come. Suzanne hosted 4 wives at a **Blue Ridge GA retreat September 18 – 21**: an **AL wife** recovering from many losses; a **GA wife** who is making serious decisions about her parents' care; a **NC wife** whose husband has many physical problems affecting every aspect of their lives; and a **local widow** who is serving faithfully in her church as she leads music and teaches piano lessons (her husband was a minister of music who passed away after a long illness). We also had a **local pastor's wife** come to dinner one night. A **GA wife** and **AL wife** were unable to attend because of family obligations. The fellowship among these ladies was encouraging and uplifting. We are thanking God for a great time together. On Friday, **September 25**, we hosted a SHOR board meeting in our home. It was the first face-to-face meeting this year, and the fellowship was welcomed.

October was a challenging month for us. Charlie required a thallium treadmill test after experiencing some discomfort that caused concern. We are happy to report that his heart seems to be functioning well at this time. This was a huge relief. During October, we lost a long-time ministry friend in N. Louisiana, a prayer-warrior and SHOR supporter in MS, another prayer-warrior and friend of SHOR in Louisiana, and a

previous staff member from our church in Moss Bluff (1988-1996). All of these were long-time friends, folks who prayed for us and our ministry, and supported us in various ways. We hurt for their families and continue to be in prayer for each of them. During October, we **met with** a number of **local ministry** couples and individuals and **spoke with** couples in **Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Missouri, Virginia, and Illinois**.

On Friday, **November 6th**, Charlie was privileged to speak at the funeral of Mitch Dunn, our youth minister at First Baptist: Moss Bluff in the 1990s. He and his wife, Kyra, live near us. He served as a chaplain for the Sherriff's department in Shelby county. We also worked to provide a **SHOR retreat** in **Warrensburg NY November 18 – 21**. Although we booked couples from Indiana and New Jersey as well as New York, the out of state couples were unable to travel into NY so all 5 couples were in-state: a **NY assoc. pastor and wife** serving faithfully while dealing with the death of an adult son; a **NY pastor and wife** who are rearing their 8 and 10 year old granddaughters (they are in a legal battle with their son at this time); a faithful **NY pastor and wife** with 4 children needing time away together; a **NY pastor and wife** needing rest from the daily responsibilities; and a **NY vocational counselor and wife** (she is also a counselor) making a significant impact on the folks they serve. The retreat was at the bed and breakfast we have used for 16 years, but we were unable to travel there. We prayed for each of the couples before and during their time there. It was different, but they have shared how this time allowed them to be renewed and refreshed to continue their service to the Lord. The fellowship they shared together encouraged them all.

We are hosting our end of year meeting **board meeting** in our home on **Saturday, December 12th**. **Please see the additional personal information on page 3 (from our heart to yours)**.

Today we read in Deuteronomy 7:9: "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His faithfulness to a thousand generations for those who love Him and keep His commandments." We praise Him for His eternal faithfulness and goodness to us. We continually thank the Lord for each of you. Keep looking up!

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

The opportunity to relax and meet new and old friends was a huge blessing to us. The respite from thinking about our church work allowed us to be renewed. This time of retreat was just what we needed, and a wonderful encouragement to us. Doug and Louise made our time special, and we are grateful.

Having fellowship with other Kingdom servants and hearing what God has been doing in their ministries was what meant the most to us during the retreat. I found a renewal of energy and am encouraged to continue to serve faithfully. Doug and Louise loved us and expressed appreciation to us – that lifted our hearts. We have been re-energized by rest and prayer.

It is good to come aside with others who contend for the faith, hear their heart and passion for the kingdom, and be encouraged in my own calling. Effectively sharing God's word with combat veterans who contend with PTSD and a host of other problems requires prayer. Prayer is the most powerful gift SHOR can share with us. We know Charlie and Suzanne as well as friends of SHOR continue to lift us up long after the retreat is over.

The ability to get away and relax with each other is a true gift. We don't often get time away. Being able to sit and chat with other pastors and wives was a blessing. Being away from the phone, kids, and other responsibilities helps so much. We are so grateful to Doug and Louise. We would like to thank the donors for the opportunity to have a retreat of this nature. It was an absolute blessing. This place is a beautiful location to provide quiet and rest.

As the saying goes, "You can't pour into others when your cup is empty." And this retreat is exactly what we needed to help fill ours back up. Rest is such an important aspect of ministry that often it is overlooked due to busy schedules, ministry concerns, financial constraints, and life in general. The ministry that S.H.O.R. provides to church leaders is incredible by giving them the opportunity to find that much needed rest. We are grateful for the love shown to us, and the investment that is being made not only in us, but in our ministry as well.

Being with you is a nourishing, encouraging, and peaceful breath of fresh air. Your vulnerability and stories invite each of us to share without shame or fear. Praying and sitting one-on-one was beautiful. Thank you for caring, loving, listening, understanding, and cultivating beauty with your kind wisdom. I will be praying with you during this challenging time. Isaiah 30:12 says, ". . . in quietness and trust is your strength."

I can never thank you enough for all you have poured into my life and heart. You have blessed me so greatly -- from wisdom and strength to grace – you have given much, and I am richer in every way. I love you dearly and I am honored to be here at a SHOR retreat. I know we will continue to remain in close contact. I am beyond thankful to God for the blessing of being here with you. God is so good!

Thank you for your faithfulness to our Lord and your ministry. You both are a picture of Christ's love and compassion that we want to emulate. Praying for you and SHOR ministries.

Blessings!

Heartfelt thanks to Gail Johnson for hosting the September Wives' retreat at Willow Falls Bed & Breakfast in Blue Ridge, GA. If you need a wonderful setting for a retreat or family getaway, Gail does a wonderful job. We are grateful to you!

Our love and thanks to our dear friends, Doug and Louise Goettsche, at Cornerstone Victorian Bed & Breakfast in Warrensburg, NY. When we didn't know if we could make the 22-hour trip to NY this year, they said, "What can we do?" This retreat happened because of them. The couples were blessed, and we are eternally grateful.

Special thanks to Sheri Buse (since 2006) and Judy Snider (since 2011) who have helped out in so many ways to make it possible for us to be free to minister as the Lord leads. We are thankful to these ladies. Suzanne's sister, Charlotte, does accounting work for us as well. They have been a huge help and tremendous blessing.

Grateful appreciation to Mr. Jimmie Williams (Chairman), Mr. Alan Swafford (Vice-Chairman), Mr. John Calcote, and Mr. John Hyneman for hanging in there with us over the years. They are the best board ever! (We lost 2 members in 2019 because of death: Dr. Gray Allison (Suzie's dad) and Mr. Jack O'Kelley – they were both original members of the board).

Many thanks to all of you who have supported the work of SHOR through your financial gifts and intercessory prayers for the last 19 years. Only heaven will tell the ones you have encouraged and helped to stay the course in ministry and in their families. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL!

From our heart to yours . . .

Since 2002, we have followed the Lord's calling to come alongside pastors, staff members, and missionaries and their wives to provide times of renewal and refreshing to their bodies, souls, and minds (816 different couples serving in 44 states and various foreign countries in retreats – hundreds of others through our Biblical guidance helps). It has been a joy to us to serve in this way. When the virus hit in March and things shut down, we were able to slow down, pursue the Word, and pray together for many hours. As many of you know, Charlie has had some health issues in the last few years, and Suzanne has been dealing with the illnesses and slow dying process of her precious parents. At our September board meeting, we spent time discussing SHOR and the future. After much prayer and seeking the wisdom of trusted family as well as the board, we believe the Lord is saying it is time for us to formally retire from SHOR. It is a difficult decision for us because the need is so great; however, we have learned through the years that the need itself does not constitute the call. We are happy to report that there have been 14 ministries begun in the last 10 years in which we have shared our experiences through SHOR and our prayers. We are also aligned with a network called The CareGivers Forum. Although none of the ministries are exactly like SHOR, they all provide helps and encouragement to ministry couples. We do not believe for even one minute that we are done with ministry. We will continue to help those that the Lord sends to us in whatever ways we are able.

Charlie will officially retire on December 31, 2020. Suzanne will continue for several months to complete various administrative work (year-end donation letters, external audit for 2020, scanning files to hard drives to lessen paperwork stored at the house, etc.). Sheri will continue to work 8 – 12 hours a week helping Suzanne as long as necessary. *We will discontinue receiving donations as of December 31, 2020 (postmark).* We pray that we will end the year strongly since there will be expenses for 2021. Many hours are spent in the receiving and handling of donations so it will be necessary to stop gifts in order to conclude the work. We ask for your prayers for the Lord's wisdom as we go through this process. We are trusting in the confirmations He has given to us, but it is difficult to conclude a work that we have dearly loved. **THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE PRAYERS, THE GIFTS, AND THE LOVE YOU HAVE EXTENDED TO US.**

To Think About . . .

We continue to work with many couples outside of retreats. Here is an overview of those contacts from 7.16 – 11.17.20:

Answered prayer: 20
Biblical guidance helps: 65
Church needs / conflict/ growth / merger / plants / revitalization: 36
Cultural issues: 22
Currently out of ministry: 6
Death: 14
Encouragement: 140
Family needs / issues: 79
Financial needs: 43
God's will: 16
Health issues: 113
Marriage: 26
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 66
New Ministry opportunities: 18
Prayer needs: 126
Resignation / Termination: 5

Other **needs include** Addiction, Adoption, Anxiety, Burnout, Depression, Discouragement, Grief, Legal issues, Networking, Parenting, Pornography, Retirement needs, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Sabbaticals, and Staffing needs. These couples serve in **36 different states** and **11 foreign countries**.

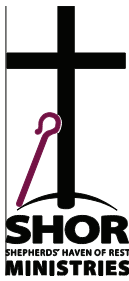
What makes SHOR different? Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge

Charlie & Suzanne are available to talk with and to pray with each couple

Ministry couples are served and allowed to rest with no agenda

Couples can reach out to us at any time for prayer, support and help (outside of retreats) at no charge

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:

- * **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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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS . . .



*Sadly, with covid, we didn't get a 2020 family picture -- so here's 2019 again -- **your prayers for our family mean more than we could ever say!** From left to right: The Fulks family: Angie, Dean (pastor at Lifepoint Columbus, OH), Sydney (21), Sylvia (16), and Dillon (19); Charlie and Suzanne; Chad's family: Hayes (4), Chad (Send City Columbus for NAMB), Ezra (7) in front; Jessica holding Olivia (born 1.8.19); David's family: Lydia (17); Luke (13) in front; David (owner of Mid-South Orthopedic Rehab, Memphis) and Karen (4th grade teacher at Tipton-Rosemark Academy). We are very blessed!*