

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 19 Issue 2

April - July, 2020

## On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are reminded during these days of the faithfulness of our Lord in His perfect provision for us during uncertain times. When travel became impossible because of the nationwide shut down, we worked in April to talk with couples on the phone and keep contact with them through emails and texts. Because we minister one couple at a time, we have found it unnecessary to use formats such as zoom. Face time has been excellent as well as using our speaker phone to talk with couples.

Normally we spend most of this article sharing about retreats, but since we are doing less of those due to the virus, we want to share a glimpse of the **one-on-one** we do. We have been working with a bi-vocational **pastoral couple** from **Louisiana** who have been experiencing some personal issues. They are making progress, and we are very grateful. Suzanne was able to meet on our front porch with a **Mississippi staff wife** seeking God's will and direction for her life. We have been praying with her, and the Lord continues to lead her. One dear ministry friend in **Louisiana** required open heart surgery. His wife was not able to come to the hospital during his surgery or in the days that followed. Our hearts went out to them, but we are happy to report that he is doing well. Another special pastor friend and his wife who serve in **Texas** have been walking through a rough time with their son. They also have a special needs daughter who is going through a very traumatic time. We have been praying with them and, hopefully, encouraging them. We have also been praying with an **Alabama pastor and wife** who were terminated early this year. They were living in a mission's house, but had to move this month. They are diligently seeking the Lord's will for a new place of service. An **Illinois pastor and wife** who were out of ministry for a while have recently begun a new pastorate at a church revitalization. This is a tremendous answer to prayer. A **Virginia pastor and wife** were terminated and have relocated. They are seeking the Lord's will for their lives.

Also, during this last quarter, we have talked with a **bi-vocational Kentucky pastor** who is interested in establishing a ministry to pastors through a lake house their family owns. We are praying with him as he follows the Lord's leadership. We also spoke with an **Arkansas pastor and wife** who are beginning a new ministry to pastors. After a tough personal ministry experience, they want to help others. Please pray for both of these couples as they seek the Lord and help provide much-needed help to others in ministry.

We are sorry to report to you that Judy and Kevin Snider (Judy helps us in numerous ways) lost their 4 foster children on March 6<sup>th</sup>. This has been very heartbreaking to them and their family. We ask your prayers for them.

We hosted a **SHOR retreat** in **Branson MO** with **3 Missouri couples**: a **youth minister and wife** who are praying through a possible transition in ministry; a **pastor and wife** serving faithfully and seeking the Lord as they lead their family and their church; a **Director of Missions and his wife** who are praying for God's will concerning effective ministry to the pastors and churches under their care. Out of 25 churches in their association, there are 19 bi-vocational pastors! We also had a previously terminated **Illinois pastor and wife** who now live in Branson come for dinner Thursday night. He had a stroke in September of 2019. He was laid off of his work because of the virus. He just required surgery July 14, but is home and recovering. Please be in prayer for them. **Angie and her 2 girls** came home on Saturday, May 23 for a week-long visit. Angie and David and Karen (along with Chad from Ohio – isn't technology great?) made sure we had a wonderful celebration for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Thank you to everyone who sent videos and congratulatory messages to us.

During **June**, Charlie met with a **dear friend** who needs much prayer for his marriage. Suzanne spoke with a **TX pastor's wife** who is suffering from burnout and depression. She and her husband needed encouragement and time away – *they were just able to take 3 weeks off!* We also spoke at length with a **CO bi-vocational pastor and wife** going through church conflict as well as other personal issues. We are praying with them about the Lord's provision during these days. We held our 1<sup>st</sup> **SHOR board meeting** of the year on **Friday, June 19th**. We all agreed that we would need a Covid-19 policy going forward. There is just so much we don't know about this virus! We met (on our front porch) with a **local staff pastor** and his wife who are facing some serious personal issues. Please pray for them and their family.

In **July**, we traveled to Columbus OH for our grandson's, **Dillon's, graduation**. We came back through **Louisville KY** where we hosted **3 couples** in a **SHOR retreat**: a **KY pastor and wife** serving faithfully but needing time away; a **bi-vocational Louisiana pastor and wife** working through some issues, but very open to God's working in their lives; and a **KY pastor and wife** who have faced some challenges in their ministry. This was a great week, and it was wonderful to be back in a retreat. Today we are focused on *Psalm 111:1: "I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart."* The Lord is so faithful and so good. Thank you for your prayers. With our love.

*Suzanne and Charlie*



# Retreat Testimonies

My wife and I needed a chance to get away, to pray, to process, and to seek God. We needed a chance to cry and to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us. (We also needed to be around other couples with similar needs, but we didn't know that until we experienced it.) This SHOR retreat was exactly what we needed. Our needs were met which allowed us to spend time healing and seeking renewal as we desired. The compassion and hospitality we were given meant so much to us. Your taking the time to hear our story and pray for us was a blessing. We are very thankful for this ministry, for this week, and for all God has done.

I was in need of a quiet place to rest and to refocus on what is important. A pastor is always on duty, and a few days away provided some much needed down time to strengthen my connection to God and to my wife. I didn't realize how spiritually drained and exhausted I was until we got to the retreat. I was able to release some of the burdens. This place and this retreat have been a gift from God, and I was in dire need. I am so grateful.

We needed this retreat after dealing with a faction of our church that is working hard to remove me as pastor. During the prayer time, we received some amazing advice and a different perspective that will enable us to handle the situation. As a pastor and wife, we are often without someone to talk to that has no hidden agenda or objective to hurt, betray, or discourage us. This time away afforded us the opportunity to rest, relax, and to renew our bodies and souls. God knew how much we needed this not only to heal from the situation we were dealing with at church but also with each other. We were able to fully discuss our feelings and how we were handling the massive attack from the enemy. As a pastor's wife for 30 years (23 in the same church), it is hard to be objective when someone is hurting the one you love. This retreat enabled us to take a step back, breathe, and talk to God. It made us feel free to once again realize that God is in control, and we need to leave it at His feet. He will take care of us! Being able to talk, discuss, share and fellowship with others helped so much.

This week offered us a time of spiritual refreshment and renewal. The interaction with the other couples helped to remind us that others are in the battle with us. The times we rejoiced together were encouraging to us.

During this week of retreat, the Lord spoke directly to us from His Word. We are so thankful for the time to get away, to pray, and to hear from our great God. Our time of sharing with Charlie and Suzanne along with their prayers for us meant so much to us. Our conversation with other couples encouraged us. Thank you for ministering to us.

The pressure of ministry seems to build over time, sometimes without us realizing it. Even though we are called to it, and we love ministering and caring for others, the pressure just builds up. This time away stopped the pressure and refreshed our bodies and souls to be able to go back and continue the work. It has enriched us. We have met new friends and fellow soldiers of the cross. We were blessed with God's beauty, great new friends, and fabulous food! Having a retreat that provides time away with no pressures and no requirements for us to meet was just what we needed. What more could we ask – time away for just us and God! Thank you so much!

This was an amazing experience for my husband and I to get away by ourselves and get some much-needed rest and relaxation. Neither of us were stressed or worried by the everyday duties of work or ministry. The home cooked meals were amazing as well as the servants' hearts of those who took care of us. What a change! The conversations with Charlie and Suzanne as well as with the other couples really encouraged us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the opportunity to spend a few days away from reality and to remember we were husband and wife before we were mom and dad (or pastor and wife). Rekindling our relationship is not only a blessing to us, but will also be a blessing to our children as well. We are forever grateful for this precious ministry!

## Blessings!

A BIG thanks to *Judy Snider* for traveling with us (in spite of the virus) to help cook and serve the group in Branson MO in May. We are grateful to you!

Our heartfelt appreciation to *Ron and Debbie Moore* who allowed us to stay with them in their home on our way to Columbus (for Dillon's graduation) and drop off ALL the groceries that we had prepared for the retreat in Louisville. Then they brought all those groceries to the retreat house and helped us cook and serve the group during the retreat. *You are special friends, and we love you!*

Our sincere gratitude to our *board* who is helping us navigate these days through the "stay at home" orders and the other restrictions we are faced with as we seek to provide retreats for ministry couples.

***Many, many thanks to each of you who give to support SHOR  
and who labor in prayer for the many needs  
of those we seek to serve***

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ For the upcoming retreats (hopefully) in Blue Ridge GA, Warrensburg NY, and at home (intensives). We are looking to the Lord for His timing, wisdom, and direction.
- ◆ For the couples we work with outside of retreats. This continues to be a huge part of what we do. We need the Lord's guidance as we work to meet their needs.
- ◆ We continually ask the Lord in this time of national crisis to bring REVIVAL in our hearts, in our churches, and in our nation. *Please* join us in this prayer.
- ◆ We continue to seek ways to help pastors' wives.
- ◆ Personally: We have both had the opportunity for several doctors' visits during our time at home. Because of the demands of helping with Suzanne's parents over these last several years, we had let some personal health issues slide. This has been an excellent time for us to address these. We have discovered that Charlie has cataracts and will require surgery in both eyes. These are scheduled on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 17th. We covet your prayers for a full and speedy recovery for him.

# Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
August TBA	SHOR intensives	Memphis TN
September 18 - 21	SHOR wives' retreat	Blue Ridge GA
October TBA	SHOR intensives	Memphis TN
November TBA	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY

## *To Think About . . .*

Answered prayer: 27  
Biblical guidance helps: 50  
Burnout: 15  
Church needs / conflict/ merger / plants / revitalization: 44  
Cultural issues: 41  
Depression: 11  
Encouragement: 88  
Family needs / issues: 79  
Financial needs: 33  
God's will: 24  
Health issues: 68  
Marriage: 26  
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 51  
New Ministry opportunities: 15  
Prayer needs: 100

Other **needs include** Addiction, Currently out of ministry, Deaths, Grief, Legal issues, Parenting, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Sabbaticals, Terminations, and Time management. These couples serve in **43 different states** and **16 foreign countries**.

### **What makes SHOR different?**

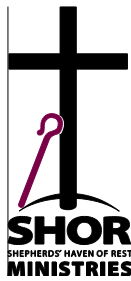
Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge

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](http://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](mailto:info@shorministries.com) to get set up

**All gifts to Shepherd's Haven of Rest Ministries are tax deductible**

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## Did you know . . .

Excerpts from **10 Things Pastors Say Only to Other Pastors**, March 9, 2020 (from Dr. Chuck Lawless, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

*Almost 5 years ago, Dr. Will Browning, Lead Pastor of a Journey Church in the Charleston, SC, area wrote this post. Because my own findings show that his conclusions are still accurate today (if not more so), I'm re-posting it again.*

Every pastor needs a healthy place to vent, though choosing that trustworthy ear to bend must be a careful decision. Many pastors feel freer to be most transparent with someone who has walked in their shoes, namely, other pastors. Throughout the last month, I asked dozens of pastors this question: "What are the things you say to other pastors that you would not dare say publicly?" With their permission, I want to share their answers.

- 1) ***I hate people!*** I said this once in a sermon. Needless to say, my leaders had to sit me down to have a conversation. Many pastors are overwhelmed by the challenges associated with ministry.
- 2) ***Most Mondays I want to quit.*** After Sunday's adrenaline rush, Mondays often feel like a hangover. That, accompanied with the grind of "doing it again," can be draining.
- 3) ***I am fighting an ongoing battle with lust built on the sins of my adolescence.*** I don't mean to paint your pastor in a bad light, but he is fighting some of the same battles you are fighting. The difference is he has nearly no one he can safely share his struggles with.
- 4) ***My marriage is so strained I'm not sure we will make it.*** The divorce rate for pastors is striking, yet somewhat predictable. People who are unable to admit their struggles and unwilling to seek help are set up to fail.
- 5) ***I'm scared to go on vacation.*** A story every pastor has heard (and fears will become his reality) is the one where the pastor goes on vacation, the leaders meet, and he comes home to a pink slip. . .
- 6) ***My greatest concern is that my kids will leave my home resenting me, hating the church, and rejecting Jesus all because of their experience of being a pastor's kid.*** I heard this from almost 100% of the pastors I spoke to.
- 7) ***I'm depressed, and I have to manufacture joy to do my job.*** . . . Many pastors suffer silently through depression behind a well-manicured smile.
- 8) ***My wife begs me to leave the ministry for a more "normal" life.*** Many pastors and their wives dream of a different life where their kids are not under the microscope, they are paid a fair wage, and they have a job with a predicable schedule.
- 9) ***Most of the time I have no idea what I am really doing.*** What other job requires a man to be proficient in oratory, marketing, research, computer information systems, management, finance, and human resources, all while having impeccable theological expertise? Oh, yeah, and you are also expected to raise perfect kids and have a perfect marriage.
- 10) ***If everyone knew how insufficient my devotional life was, they would all leave and I wouldn't blame them.***

I hope 2 applications come from this post: pastors please seek out a confidant and church members encourage and pray for your pastor.

A major goal of SHOR: To provide a "safe place" for pastors and their wives to share their innermost feelings and needs while encouraging them to "stay the course."