

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 19 Issue 1

January - March, 2020

On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

Without a doubt this current time is one of uncertainty. We were a little slower this year beginning the normal schedule because of the final days of Suzie's mom's life. And then after beginning regular retreats in February, we had to adjust when the coronavirus hit. This past year has been difficult for us personally: Suzanne lost both her dad (Feb. 12, 2019) and her mom (Jan. 20, 2020); we lost another original SHOR board member, Bro. Jack O'Kelley, in October; as well as 2 other very dear friends. Several with whom we have close relationships have also lost family members. Then our son-in-law, Dean Fulks (married to Angie) lost his precious mom, Rena, on February 19, 2020. All of these folks have moved on to glory, and we do rejoice in that; however, they are all sorely missed.

Throughout the month of **January**, Charlie worked closely with a local church and her pastor. He is experiencing burn-out and required some time away from his ministry. He is bi-vocational, too, so that presents other significant stressors. Charlie talked with and met with him as well as the elders of the church during the month. Charlie also filled the pulpit one of the Sundays the pastor was off. This is a man we have known for years who is absolutely one of the most humble and faithful servants of the Lord. We continue to pray for this church and for him as they move forward together. We also worked with a number of pastors and wives concerning financial, family, church, and other various issues (see page 3 report). Suzanne's mother went to glory on Monday, January 20, and we held her funeral service on Monday, January 27th.

One of the main burdens on our hearts through these last 18 years has been specifically for pastors' wives. Last year, we spent much time in prayer seeking the Lord's leadership to better help wives. In **February**, we hosted a wives' retreat here at the house Tuesday, Feb. 18 – Friday, Feb 21. We welcomed a **TX wife** who had served with her husband for 10 years in **S. Dakota** (we are joining them in prayer for a special situation) and an **AR pastor and wife** who served in a Dir. Of Missions position very effectively for many years (we are also joining them in prayer about a specific need). A **Kentucky wife** was unable to come the day the retreat began because of an eye emergency (she couldn't drive in). A **Ministry wife** who served in **NY** for 5 years spent a day in prayer with us. We were also able to have a **WY wife** on the phone with us one afternoon. She and her husband are working to begin a retreat ministry in the west – very exciting! Judy sat in with us as she was available between preparing our meals (Kevin pastors at Shelby Forest Baptist Church in Millington). We spent time in corporate prayer for pastors' wives and for their needs while seeking to assess how best to come alongside them to help and encourage them. It was really a precious time. Charlie was

also involved with us and with the AR pastor who was here. Also during the month, Suzanne was in touch with a **LA pastor's wife** experiencing burn-out. Suzie continues to pray for her – God has been faithful to encourage her heart. Judy's daughter, Abby, was married on February 29th. It was a beautiful wedding, and a great day of celebration.

In **March**, we began preparation for the **retreat at Toledo Bend Lake in Louisiana**. On **March 3**, the **Sniders** went back to **court** with their 4 foster children. Although it was a long day, the judge ruled for a continuance. However, on Friday, March 6th, the 4 children were removed from the Snider's care. This has been heart-wrenching. They have had the 3 oldest children (6, 8 and 9) since February 12, 2019, and the baby (1) since May of 2019. They love them like their own children. They were supposed to return to court Friday, March 27th, but, of course, this is now postponed indefinitely because of the virus. Judy and Kevin have been vital to our ministry for years now, and we seek your prayers for them and their family. We were prepared to leave for **LA** on Saturday, **March 14th** to meet with a **TX pastor and wife** who are dear friends. One son has had some serious issues for which we have been covenanting with them in prayer. We were also planning to see Suzie's Uncle James (Ida, LA) on the 15th (he celebrated his 90th birthday on February 13). Suzie was to meet with **2 ministry wives on Monday, the 16th** before the retreat began. We were to host couples from **LA, TX, and AR** at the retreat along with the Davenport's (from FBC Moss Bluff). Two other **LA couples** were set to come during the retreat for a meal. We had it all planned out, and then came the virus . . .

Currently, we are talking with ministry folks on the phone, working through emails and texts, and trying to do all we can to help those who are hurting (see report p.3). We hope begin **retreats** again in **May**. We will continue to plan, and seek the Lord in all things. In 1 Chronicles 16:10 – 12 we read: "Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad. Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually. Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done, His marvel and the judgments from His mouth." Today, we choose to remember the goodness of our great God and trust Him to lead and guide us in the days ahead. We are asking Him to hold you close and meet your every need. In His love

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

With the death of Suzie's mom in January, the confidentiality of the February wives' retreat, and the cancellation of the March retreat, we do not have testimonies to share with you. However, we have received notes of thanks as well as notes with needs from various couples. These are excerpts from some of them:

We are praying for you and for God's strength to serve faithfully! So grateful for you guys.

Thank you so much for your prayers and help. You have met a long-term need, and we are grateful.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted. He is holding you, understanding, comforting, seeing you as no one can. He is closer than the air cradling your skin or even inside your lungs. He is close to the broken-hearted and saves those crushed in spirit. I have been so touched by your kindness.

Thank you for the books you sent. They are beautiful. I find they bring peace and understanding every time I open them.

Thank you for your prayers for us. We are grateful for your faithfulness. It is our prayer that our Lord is blessing and using you to advance His Kingdom in the field in which you are planted.

I have thought about writing you often. Last year was the worst year in the history of our family . . . problems with a daughter has caused her to drift far from the Lord . . . (this is a glimpse into a pastor's family heartache which few know about).

I need your prayers. I have some tests coming up later this month, and I am concerned. I love and appreciate you guys.

Thank you for your kind words and thoughtfulness. I have thought of you often. I do sense God's leading, and I do feel His peace. I am thankful for my hope in Him.

I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate you all and your ministry. I appreciate how you have given of your time and energies to encourage and help me through my ministry challenges. I appreciate your graciousness and just how you reflect the grace of God in all you do.

I wanted to let you know after our original communication that my husband is doing much better. He is preaching better than he has in months and is not as depressed . . . Knowing you all were there, extending your hand to me, was like a life raft in a sea where I was drowning. Thank you so much.

Our family is doing well, thank you. Our granddaughter will turn one this week, and our grandson will be one 3 days later. We are praying grace upon all of our children as we celebrate new lives and honor the memory of our deceased granddaughter. It is a silent dance we do with delicate steps of sensitivity. . . Thank you for remembering them in prayer. It means so much!

My quarantine time was a good opportunity to process things and spend time with the Father. I had no physical problems and am healthy, for which I am so thankful! Praise God!

Our church has provided us a nice parsonage and pay us enough to live. We are praising God and praying the He will use us here for his glory. I love this ministry although it is challenging. The church almost died. It was down to 3 to 5 families that quite by accident met and decided to stay and save the church. . . We do have some young families and have ministries for children, but we need help in that area. We also have no music but only videos that we sing to. We both appreciate your prayers.

Pray for our safety and God's hand on our travel. The uncertainty of the Coronavirus adds significantly to the uncertainty. We aren't in immediate risk, but many around the world are responding with great fear to the unknowns. Pray that we can share God's peace with those around us, and that God will protect and guide.

Blessings!

We are so blessed for the men who serve on our board and help direct the ministry. Each of them are overseers of their own families, serve in their local churches, and have personal challenges, but they remain faithful to the ministry. We are so grateful.

Special thanks to Charlotte Miller (accountant) and Sheri Buse (in the office since moving back from Florida) as well as Judy Snider who is our "anything you need gal." We couldn't make it without the wonderful help you each provide.

A BIG thanks to Jim and Debbie Davenport in Louisiana who walked with us to prepare for the March retreat at their wonderful home at Toledo Bend and then understood when we were not able to come. We missed seeing you!

Thank you to all who make SHOR possible through your gifts and prayers. With the uncertainty right now, your help is valued and greatly appreciated!

Prayer Needs

- ◆ For the upcoming retreats (hopefully) in Branson MO, Louisville KY, and at home (intensives). We are trusting the Lord for His timing and His direction and hoping these will happen.
- ◆ For the couples we work with outside of retreats. This is the focus of our attention right now. Staying home is helping us catch up with some of the folks we have been praying for daily. Please pray for us to have the mind and heart of the Lord in these situations.
- ◆ We are begging the Lord through 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. We need the Lord's clear direction.
- ◆ Personally: We thank the Lord that Suzanne's mom and dad have both gone on to heaven before this virus hit. Our hearts are tender toward those who are trying to care for elderly parents during these days. *Thank you from the bottom of our heart* for the many prayers you have offered for us during the last 2 years especially. We love you and thank the Lord for you!

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April TBA	SHOR intensives	Memphis TN (if possible)
May 12 - 15	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
June TBA	SHOR intensives	Memphis TN
July 13 - 16	SHOR retreat	Louisville KY

To Think About . . .

We continue to work with many couples outside of retreats. Here is an overview of those contacts from 12.1.19 – 3.31.20:

Answered prayer: 13
Biblical guidance helps: 25
Burnout: 14
Church needs / conflict / merger / plants / revitalization: 29
Cultural issues: 9
Depression: 5
Encouragement: 69
Family needs / issues: 49
Financial needs: 16
God's will: 7
Health issues: 45
Marriage: 14
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 37
New Ministry opportunities: 11
Prayer needs: 70

Other **needs include** Addiction, Autism, Cancer, Currently out of ministry, Deaths, Grief, Legal issues, Panic attacks, Parenting, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), and Resignations & Terminations. These couples serve in **29 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



Charlie & Suzanne Grigsby
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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 Shepherd's Haven of Rest Ministries are tax deductible

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Did you know . . .

DR. MARK CROSTON is the national director for black church partnerships at LifeWay Christian Resources; published March 26, 2020 *Facts and Trends Magazine*: **10 Ways to Pray for Your Pastor During the COVID-19 Outbreak**

People often see pastors as strong and confident, yet most of us haven't seen anything like what the world is currently experiencing in our lifetimes. In his work *Lectures to My Students*, Charles Spurgeon wrote: *As it is recorded that David, in the heat of battle, waxed faint, so may it be written of all the servants of the Lord...Usually cheerful as we may be, we must at intervals be cast down. The strong are not always vigorous, the wise not always ready, the brave not always courageous, and the joyous not always happy. There may be here and there men of iron, ...but surely the rust frets even these...*

Please remember pastors in your prayers. Here are 10 ways to pray for your pastor during this COVID-19 season in human history.

- 1) **Perspective:** pray your pastor keeps this crisis in proper perspective (Ecclesiastes 3:15a)
- 2) **Patience:** it may take us a while to get through this (Romans 12:12)
- 3) **Peace:** remember peace is not the absence of trouble but confidence and calmness trusting in the power and grace of God (Isaiah 26:3 and Philippians 4:7)
- 4) **Paycheck:** there are many people, families, and businesses under financial stress during this season. If members are struggling financially, the church struggles financially and sometimes the pastor along with it (Philippians 4:19)
- 5) **Partner:** the pastor is not alone; whatever good or bad, whatever affects him affects his wife as well; pray for your pastor's wife that she might be the kind of support, confidant, and companion needed during this time (Proverbs 31:25)
- 6) **Posterity:** (need I mention the pastor's children?) whether they are younger and missing school, or older and missing work, or somewhere in between or missing their health, the pastor can never do his best work for the community and the church while he is burdened by trying to meet the needs of his family.
- 7) **Pastoral skills:** in times like these, a pastor must be both caring and daring. No seminary class prepared us for this one. We must think out of the box about the logistics of connecting with the congregation, caring for the sick, comforting the grieving, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and handling the online experience, too. (Philippians 4:13)
- 8) **Physical wellness:** pray for your pastor to find balance, rest, good food, and his own self-care.
- 9) **Parishioners:** pray that the members of the church will remember that God is in control and that we can "cast all our cares on him, because he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7). When you pray for your members, you are helping your pastor.
- 10) **Preaching:** this time requires a whole new kind of preaching (ie - empty pews, cyber-followers who may have never been to church, ever changing needs). Your pastor needs to hear a fresh word from God. (2 Timothy 2:4a)

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."