

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 17 Issue 1

January - March, 2018

On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are excited about beginning our **17th year** of SHOR Ministries. As we formulated our end of year reports for our upcoming board meeting, we found that we ministered to almost **700 ministry couples** through retreats and Biblical guidance in 2017. We have already had a great start to 2018 and can't wait to meet the new couples the Lord has planned to bring our way.

Over the Christmas holidays, we experienced a **major leak** from our upstairs into our den below. We had colder than normal weather for an extended period so that many in our area had frozen pipes. At first, we thought that the upstairs bath over our den had a leak in both the commode seal and the bath drain. However, as we cut open the den ceiling to observe what was happening, we found a huge block of ice. After watching the ice melt and looking for leaks, we determined that the majority of the water was coming from leaks in our roof! Because of so many needed repairs in W. TN due to burst pipes, contractors and plumbers have run behind. We have **now repaired our roof** (and watched to make sure there are no more leaks). In mid-March, the upstairs toilet was repaired (the bathtub seems to be fine). By the end of March, all of the repairs to the downstairs should be completed.

Also during December, **Suzanne's mom** experienced more contraction with her legs and became bed-bound. Suzanne's dad (Dr. Gray) was hospitalized with a UTI and pneumonia. We started **hospice care for Mimi** the first week of January. Dr. Gray has regained some strength, but is still not back to where he was. We now have 24 hour care for them (they continue live next door). As a result of the problems with our house and the extra care for Suzie's parents, we ended up cancelling the January retreat. Through 16 years, we have avoided cancelling retreats, but these circumstances forced us to re-book the couples into other weeks. During this time, Charlie has also experienced some health issues, but we are very happy to report to you that he is doing **much better!** We are so grateful for all of the prayers offered on our behalf during this time.

In **February** we hosted **3 couples** in a retreat here in **Memphis**: a **Texas pastor and wife** (former IMB missionaries to Mexico) who are experiencing significant health issues (since the retreat, she broke her hand and required surgery, and he has begun cancer treatment); a **Virginia pastor and wife** working through some personal issues while serving faithfully in their church; and a **Tennessee pastor and wife** who are intentionally setting aside time to keep their marriage vital while handling ministry demands. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with these couples! Kevin and Judy Snider were

invaluable help during this time as well. Because of the problems with our home, we hosted these couples at a local motel. It all worked out very well. During **February** we had **2 couples** come for short visits. These were a blessing to us. Since Christmas, we have had several very close friends and family members pass away. They will be greatly missed.

The first weekend in **March**, we traveled to Columbus, OH, for our granddaughter Sydney's musical production (she had the female lead in **Suessical the Musical**). She will graduate in late May. It was a blessing for us to be with Angie and her family and meet a number of Sydney's friends. Because of all of the travel we have done with SHOR, we have not been to Columbus often. This was a real treat! The second weekend in March, our son Chad and his family were here for a visit. David and his family also got to come out during that time so it was great fellowship! March 2 was Dean and Angie's 22nd wedding anniversary, March 3 was Lydia's 15th birthday, March 4th was Ezra's 5th birthday, and March 6th was Chad and Jessica's 8th anniversary. We are very blessed with a wonderful family who are all serving the Lord where He has called them.

On **March 19** we traveled to Louisiana for a **SHOR retreat on Toledo Bend Lake**. We hosted 4 couples: a **Texas pastor and wife** seeking God's will after their church closed March 4; a **Wyoming pastor and wife** serving in their first pastorate in a remote area; a **Texas pastor and wife** caring for 3 grandchildren (their church may no longer be able to pay them); and a **Louisiana pastor and wife** whose church is going through transition and uncertainty. Our good friends Debby and Jim Davenport shared their gorgeous lakeside home with us. They also provided much of the food and helped us cook --- a true blessing. It was a great week! Our first **board meeting** for 2018 was on **March 26**. We continually thank the Lord for the board's leadership with SHOR. The last week of March, Angie and her family came home for spring break. We love having them home!

Yesterday, we read in **Isaiah 26:4**: "Trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock." We praise Him for His steadfastness and faithfulness, and pray He will encourage your heart today as He shelters you in THE ROCK! *We love you & are so grateful for you.*

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

We needed a time to get away from daily routines. We were blessed to be renewed as we had hoped. In a time when Christians can be divided by strong opinions, it was very encouraging to enjoy fellowship with other believers and feel the community of commitment to Christ.

This retreat gave us an opportunity to come together as a husband and wife to reconnect and discuss our future together. This would not be something we could have done or have afforded otherwise. We had quality time together that was uninterrupted and much needed. The hospitality and generosity of SHOR was a great blessing to both of us.

SHOR ministries gave us a chance to come away together and focus on some issues we have been avoiding. It just seems there is no good time to work through personal things when you work and serve in a church. Most of the people you minister to do not expect you as a pastor and wife to have your own issues. Being with other couples was very encouraging to us. The continued prayers for our situation means more than we can say.

The fact that SHOR offers retreats with no agenda really allowed us to rest and enjoy being together. We had the privilege of spending time with the other couples by the fire or other special areas around the house. That fellowship and the selfless kindness shown to us meant so much.

One of the realities of being a pastor is that you deal with people – people who are always in need. Many of them look to you to meet many of those needs. That expectation creates constant pressure. The SHOR retreat didn't just give us time away from that, but it actually reversed our usual roles. Our hosts constantly and sacrificially served us. The knowledge that all they did, and that all that was provided to you was free because someone had given to make it so. This was a tremendous blessing and encouragement. The new friendships we have formed with the other couples mean so much!

After 13 years of ministry in our church, we find ourselves at a crossroads. It appears the giving has gotten so low that we will not be able to continue to get a paycheck very soon. For us, the question is: What is best for our church and our church family? The timing of this retreat was perfect in allowing us to get away for a couple of days to think and to pray. We have been able to come apart from the pressures of our work and daily life and just breathe. No alarm clocks, no schedules to keep, no expectations put on us – we haven't even had to think about what to fix for our meals, let alone prepare them or even clean up. We have felt so special and are very privileged to have been a part of this worry free, expense free retreat. It has been a blessing visiting with the other pastors and their wives, as well as our hosts. To know others care so much about us and the work we do is such an encouragement to us as we continue to serve the Lord and His Church. We are so thankful for this opportunity. We have been very blessed.

After some extremely busy months involving church issues and the construction of a parsonage, it was time for a break! Unbeknownst to my wife and me at the time, this retreat turned out to be just what the doctor ordered. It was a wonderful time of relaxation for us both. The accommodations were wonderful, the fellowship with others that were going through similar circumstances helped us; and the relaxing fishing – all these things added up to making our days here a most wonderful getaway. This is truly a ministry that is blessed by the Lord.

The Pastors' Retreat has been the most blessed experience. We have met wonderful people who really care and are ready to pray *for* you and *with* you. Serving in the pastorate, we needed this time of refreshing and reflecting on how uniquely God has everything planned out. We are so grateful for Charlie, Suzanne, and all those who have supported this ministry. Thank you for caring!

This time to relax and do nothing was great! The sweet and gracious spirit demonstrated by SHOR blessed us!

Blessings!

Special thanks to *Mid-America Seminary Housing* for allowing us to serve meals in the clubhouse during the February retreat. It is a great facility and allowed us wonderful fellowship.

Heartfelt gratitude to Suzanne's sister, *Charlotte Miller*, who has spent countless hours lining up help for and ministering to Mimi and Papa next door. Without you, we couldn't do what we do.

Our genuine appreciation to *Judy Snider* and *Sheri Buse* who serve alongside us. You are God-sent, and we are grateful to you and for you.

A BIG thanks to *Jim and Debby Davenport* for donating their wonderful lake house and for giving their hearts and their time to love on, cook for, and serve ministry couples alongside us. We love you!

We are very grateful to each of you who pray and give to make SHOR possible!

We wish you could personally hear the thankful hearts of the couples we serve – YOU make a difference!

Prayer Needs

- ◆ For the upcoming 2018 retreats in Memphis TN (3), Branson MO (2), Louisville KY, and Blue Ridge GA.
- ◆ For the couples we serve outside of retreats. These contacts continue to demand more time and spiritual energy than the retreats. Please do pray we can find local help for the couples outside our area.
- ◆ We continue to be greatly burdened FOR REVIVAL for our churches and for our country. Would you join us asking the Lord to bring a movement across America? Someone asked me today if I thought God would raise up another Billy Graham. It couldn't hurt to ask Him!
- ◆ Please pray for us as we strive to serve Suzanne's parents next door. We need grace for this time.

Thank you: We continue to see a number of prayers answered: an **AR couple** who lost their son had a significant answer concerning a possible legal issue; an **IN wife** thought to have cancer had a benign tumor; a **KY pastor** was finally approved by his insurance to begin treatments (this took MONTHS); and a **TX church** voted to approve a merger with another church (this also took quite a long time). We rejoice over these direct answers to prayer and many others we are not at liberty to share!

Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 7	Suzanne speaking	Clarksdale MS
April 12 – 15	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
April 28	Allison Family Reunion	Ida LA
May 7 – 10	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
May 25 - 28	Sydney's graduation!!	Columbus OH
June 17 - 20	SHOR retreat	Collierville TN
July 17 – 20	SHOR retreat	Louisville KY
August 7 - 10	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
August 31 – September 3	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
September 25 - 28	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA

To Think About . . .

We continue to work with many couples outside of retreats. Here is an overview of those contacts from 12.1.2017 – 3.15.2018:

Answered prayer: 26
Biblical guidance helps: 39
Burnout: 9
Church needs / conflict/ plants / revitalization: 26
Depression: 13
Encouragement: 86
Family needs / issues: 53
Financial needs: 31
God's will: 14
Health issues: 53
Marriage: 13
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 46
New Ministry opportunities: 20
Prayer needs: 64

Other **needs include** Anger, Anxiety, Currently out of ministry, Deaths, Legal issues, Grief, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Retirement needs, Staff issues / needs, Termination, and Time Management. These couples serve in **30 different states** and **18 foreign countries**.

This is where most of our time and effort is invested as we serve through SHOR. God is faithful to answer prayer – *Praise Him!*

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
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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 388 MEMPHIS, TN

Did you know . . .

5 Things I learned about depression in ministry by Tony Rose (senior pastor of LaGrange Baptist Church, LaGrange, Kentucky). First published Spring 2018 in *On Mission Magazine* [used with permission]

Depression is spoken about often but seldom understood. I recently read a statement in a well-known Christian publication, "I've never met a bout of depression that a good night's sleep wouldn't fix." I can tell you the author had never met depression. Here are five things I have learned, not just *about* depression, but *through* it.

1) *Depression is no respecter of persons.*

Depression is like a prowling monster looking for likely and unlikely candidates to lure into darkness. Do not buy into the lie that depression only affects the weak. Some of God's great servants faced this darkness. There are no exceptions. Everyone is susceptible to the enemy's weapon.

2) *Depression is far worse than you can imagine without experiencing it.*

You cannot just snap out of depression. It can be as crippling as having two broken legs. The undue stigma associated with depression, especially for pastors, causes deep internal shame. The associated shame makes recovering from depression much more difficult. Telling someone to "snap out of it" is like hitting a man's broken leg with a baseball bat. Words of compassion will bring healing. Words of correction may increase darkness.

3) *It can undermine a sound-minded faith.*

Depression cannot separate the believer from Christ. It can, however, disrupt one's sound thinking and convince the most devout believer he is no longer loved by God. In the darkness of depression, a believer can doubt every promise of God and be convinced that every judgment of God is upon him.

4) *Those who comfort the depressed are under great strain.*

The demands on a pastor's wife while caring for the depressed husband are taxing beyond imagination. She will need help, too.

5) *Remember God never wastes our suffering.*

The "night vision" of faith can only be learned in the dark (Isaiah 50:10 – 11). Depression can be the harshest but best teacher you may ever have. Depression taught me the depths of God's tender mercies, the richness of His grace and my definitive need for Him. Depression taught me to trust God in the dark while waiting for my feelings to catch up with my faith.

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."**