

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 18 Issue 1

January - April, 2019

On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are a month late with our first newsletter of 2019 – our apologies! We began the year as usual doing a deep clean of the house to prepare for retreats and finishing up year-end letters and accounting. Then in mid-January, Suzanne's dad experienced a **neurological event** that changed his quality of life significantly. We had to make adjustments to his care as we began our **18th year with SHOR**. In the midst of Suzie's mom's continued decline and the change in Dr. Gray's health, we lost our beloved chocolate lab, Socks, who had developed Cushing's disease and an extremely enlarged heart.

The Lord was gracious to let us begin the year with what we are calling "**SHOR intensives**." The weekend of **January 25 – 27**, we hosted a **Louisiana couple** that we have known for many years who have unresolved issues. Suzanne spent time with the wife while Charlie spent time with the husband. We then met with both of them. We continue to pray that the Lord will complete the work that He is doing in their home. Our **2nd intensive** was **January 31 – February 3**. We hosted a **staff couple** who served many years **in Florida**. We won't go into details, but this is a couple we love very much who have been unable to move forward together. It was a special time, and we are praying the Lord will do the work only He can do in the days to come. Please pray for both of these couples.

During the 2nd intensive, Charlotte (Suzie's sister) came to stay with the Allisons. After the retreat was over, Charlotte and Suzie realized they were no longer able care for Papa at home. On **Monday, February 4**, **Dr. Gray** was taken to **Reynold's Hospice House** in Collierville. We realized after we got him moved that we were unable to take care of Mimi with them in different places. So on **Wednesday, February 6**, we moved **Mimi** to **hospice house** as well. The plan was to take them back home as soon as we could work out an effective way to care for Papa; however, he quickly became much worse and **passed away** Tuesday night, **February 12th** from heart failure. Suzanne's mom has never realized that he has died nor does she know that she is not at home. We made the decision to leave her in Collierville where she has 24 hour nursing care available. The visitation and **funeral for Dr. Gray** was on **Monday, February 18th**. Mid-America Seminary had a separate **memorial** for him on **Monday, February 25th**. We tried to participate in our home church's **Global Mission's conference February 10 – 13**, but even though we did get our booth set up, we were unable to be

there as planned. We were also scheduled to have a **SHOR retreat** in our home **February 12 – 15**, but were forced to **cancel it** when all of these things happened.

After Papa's death, we had a couple of people express interest in the Allisons' home. So, after the services in Papa's memory and settling Mimi into Hospice house, **we began cleaning out their home**. As you can imagine, it has been a very emotional experience for all of us. It has been surprising that Mrs. Voncille (Suzie's mom) has no sense of Dr. Gray's death. Her dementia is much worse than any of us realized. We are so grateful for a wonderful hospice staff who cares for her as well as a loving, Godly woman who sits with her.

Suzanne traveled to **E. TN** to speak at a **women's retreat** for a **Bristol, VA** church on Thursday, **February 28th**. She **spoke 4 times** on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to a wonderful group of ladies. They prayed over her and encouraged her as the loss of her precious dad was so new. God was gracious to uphold her during those days.

In early March, we continued to work through the memories in the Allisons' home. On Monday, **March 18th** we traveled to **Texarkana, TX** where we had dinner with a faithful **pastor and wife** who are dear friends. They have supported SHOR personally for many years and have served their church for over 30 years. It was a special time. We also ran into **another pastor and wife** we have not seen for years – an added blessing! On **Tuesday, March 19th**, we ate lunch with Dr. Gray's last living **brother, James**, and his sister-in-law, Margaret (Alan's wife). Then we continued on to **Toledo Bend Lake** for a **SHOR retreat**. This retreat had a couple of last minute cancellations, but we were able to meet with these couples: a **Louisiana staff couple** who has just retired (he recently got a pace-maker); a **Louisiana pastor and wife** whose church has been revitalized in the last year – a great answer to prayer; and **Louisiana pastor and wife** whose church is in decline and who are seeking God's will for the future. Suzie also spent time with the wife from the 2nd SHOR intensive in early February. God is answering prayer, and we are grateful!

We were scheduled for another SHOR retreat the week of April 9 - 12 at home; however, we had an **estate sale** at the Allisons' the weekend of **April 12 – 13**. None of us realized what a huge undertaking this would be. With Mimi at Hospice House, we are no longer able to maintain their home and provide her with the care she needs.

. . . continued on next page

Personal note, cont.

Things just got so busy between cleaning out the house and taking care of Mimi that we decided to cancel that retreat. The couples who were booked to come understood our situation, and were very gracious. We decided to have mini “**SHOR intensives**” instead. So far this month we have met with a **MS couple** who is transitioning in their ministry; a **TN staff pastor and wife** who just resigned their church because of significant church issues; a **TN pastor and wife** who have been through a family issue and are seeing God at work in their church (a wonderful answer to prayer); and a **TN assoc. pastor and wife** serving in a growing church plant but dealing with family issues. The end of the month we met with a **local pastor and wife** who are serving faithfully but seeking God’s will for their ministry, and a **missionary husband and wife** who are home to give birth to their 5th child. God is good to allow us these one-on-one times.

We had planned to go to the **Allison family reunion** in Ida, Louisiana (Papa’s home) on **April 27th**. However, we were just unable to manage the trip. We have almost finished work on the Allison home. We did list it with a realtor on Wednesday the 24th. We would appreciate your prayers for the buyer the Lord has for their wonderful home.

Also, in the first 4 months of this year, several changes have occurred within our family. Jessica gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, **Olivia Lane**, on January 8th. We have only been able to see her twice so far this year – that’s just not enough!! **Chad and Jessica** have recently resigned their position with the Arkansas State Convention in Northwest AR to join Dean and Angie (our daughter and her husband) at Lifepoint Church in Columbus, Ohio. Chad is joining the preaching team there at the main campus as well as helping out when needed at their other 3 plants (soon to be 4). He will also serve with NAMB in their church planting efforts in the greater Columbus area. We would ask for **prayer that their home** in Northwest AR **would sell** soon since they have already bought and moved into their Ohio home.

Angie and Dean continue to faithfully serve at Lifepoint Columbus. They will celebrate 15 years there this summer. **Sydney** is closing out her freshman year at Marshall University. She is majoring in International Studies

with a minor in Spanish and History. She works on campus with international students as well. We are so grateful for her walk with the Lord and her influence in the lives of those He brings her way. **Dillon** is 17 and is completing his junior year of high school. **Sylvia** is finishing 8th grade. Both of them are running track this spring and are active in their church and youth group. **David** continues his work through his physical therapy clinic here in Memphis. We are grateful for all who support him by using his abilities to help their health issues. **Karen** teaches 4th grade at Tipton Rosemark Academy where **Luke** is in 6th grade and **Lydia** is a Sophomore. Lydia won her gymnastics state meet again this year, but has dislocated her right knee for the 4th time. We are unsure what this means for her as she goes forward. We are extremely blessed with our family (hopefully we’ll get pictures this summer when we are together). They were all home when Papa passed away, and we are grateful. Charlie began the funeral service, Dean prayed, Chad closed with a message, and David presided over the graveside. What a blessing!

Dr. Gray Allison, our dear “Papa,” served as the **chairman of the board for SHOR Ministries** since it’s inception. Before SHOR ever began, Papa prayed many hours with us about the great need for this type of ministry and the direction it should go. He walked with us, helped guide us, attended retreats (as he was able), and never failed to pray for us. He will be sorely missed. **We covet your prayers** for our family during this time. Mimi continues her slow decline, but remains as sweet as ever.

Today we read in Psalm 29:11: “The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.” We look to Him and continually give thanks for you!

With grateful hearts,

Suzanne and Charlie

(**Retreat testimonies** will return in the next letter – because of the on-on-one SHOR intensives, most notes have been very *personal* so we felt it better not to publish them.)

Blessings . . .

Heartfelt thanks to our dear friends, **Jim and Debby Davenport** for allowing us to use their wonderful lake home on Toledo Bend for our March retreat. They shopped, cooked, encouraged, and helped us in every way possible, and we are more grateful than words can express.

Our genuine gratitude to **Bro. Bryan Hall** and the folks from **Fellowship Chapel in Bristol VA** for allowing Suzanne the joy of sharing the Word of God to your sweet ladies. Your love and prayers for her were timely and appreciated.

Our love and thanks to each of you who have sent cards, brought food, and encouraged us during the loss of Dr. Gray and the continued illness of Mrs. Voncille. We have needed each and every prayer --- **THANK YOU!**

**Many thanks to all of the unnamed ones of you who faithfully pray and give to provide retreats and Biblical guidance helps to ministry couples.
We are more grateful than we can ever express.**

Prayer Needs

- ◆ For the upcoming SHOR retreats in Missouri (2), Kentucky, and Georgia
- ◆ For the couples we try to help who are going through difficult times – personally, in their families, or in their churches and ministries. It is freeing to share deep burdens with someone removed from your location and your situation. We need God's wisdom daily – this is a huge prayer need.
- ◆ We continue to pray FOR REVIVAL for our churches and for our country. As we watch churches and pastors struggle, we become more and more burdened for a great movement of the Lord.
- ◆ Please pray for Suzanne's family during this time. Dr. Gray's loss was significant in numerous ways, and Mimi's slow decline is difficult to watch.
- ◆ For the last 18 months, Charlie has had a number of health challenges. Although we have not had the answers we have sought through various tests, he has improved. Would you please ask the Lord to strengthen us and give us His wisdom to minister effectively to those who are hurting?

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 6 – 9	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
May 17	SHOR board meeting	Memphis TN
June	*time off	
June 29 – July 6	Family time	Gulf Shores AL
July 16 - 19	SHOR retreat	Louisville KY
August 13 – 16	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
September 10 – 13	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA
October TBA	SHOR intensives	Memphis TN
October 27 – 30	Caregivers Forum	Ridgecrest NC
November TBA	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY

To Think About . . .

We continue to work with many couples outside of retreats. Here is an overview of those contacts from: 1.1.19 – 4.30.19

Answered prayer: 21
Biblical guidance helps: 32
Burnout, Depression, Panic attacks: 7
Church needs / conflict/ merger / plants / revitalization: 34
Currently out of ministry: 18
Encouragement: 80
Family needs / issues: 66
Financial needs: 22
God's will: 11
Grief: 6
Health issues: 88
Marriage: 31
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 68
New Ministry opportunities: 25
Prayer needs: 83
Resignation / Termination: 10

Other needs include Abortion, Addiction, Autism, Deaths, Human trafficking, Leadership conflict, Legal issues, Mental health issues, Missions opportunities, Parenting, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Retirement issues, Sabbaticals, Social issues, Suicide, and Staff needs. These couples serve in **34 states** and **20 foreign countries**.

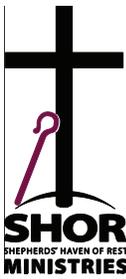
What makes SHOR different?

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
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 . . .

The Secret Pain of Pastors by Philip Wagner (pastor, Oasis Church in Los Angeles)
Published by www.churchleaders.com (September 5, 2018)

Peter Drucker, the late leadership guru, said that the **four hardest jobs in America** (and not necessarily in order, he added) are: 1) The President of the United States; 2) A University President; 3) A CEO of a hospital; and 4) A **Pastor**.

Is that true? Pastors love God and love people. They get to pray for people, lead people to a faith in Jesus Christ, and teach the Word of God. **That's the dream job.** You can read the Bible all day, pray, play a little golf and preach. I want to do that! Here's the secret: **Being a pastor is hard work.** *It's not for wimps!* This is the reality – the job of a pastor can be 24/7 and carry unique challenges. Some pastors wear themselves out trying to help people. Some wound their families because they are so involved in ministry. Others flourish in their ministry and personal life.

Approximately 85 percent of churches in America have less than 200 people. Sixty percent of churches are under 100 people. The average size congregation in the U.S. is 89 people, according to The Barna Group. Staffs are small, and needs are great. In many situations, the pastor needs to be a Bible teacher, accountant, strategist, visionary, computer tech, counselor, public speaker, worship director, prayer warrior, mentor, leadership trainer, and fundraiser. *Who can be all of that?*

- **Ninety percent** of pastors said the **ministry was completely different** than what they thought it would be like before they entered the ministry.
- **Seventy percent** say they have a **lower self-image now** than when they first started

Coming next: Some of the unique problems that pastors face: *Criticism . . .*

A major goal of SHOR: To **provide a “safe place”** for pastors and their wives to share their inner most feelings and needs while **encouraging them** to “stay the course.”