

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 17 Issue 2

April - June, 2018

## On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

Well, we must be getting old because the first 6 months of this year have just flown by! The retreats so far have been a huge blessing to the couples we have hosted. We continue to work with folks outside of retreats as needed. This part of the ministry is the most demanding.

**Suzanne's precious mom** has been slowly declining, but she still has her sweet smile and rarely complains. She is truly a blessing to all who care for her. **Dr. Gray** (Suzanne's dad) has lost a great deal of strength. He has some heart issues and continuous neck and shoulder pain. He says at 94 something's bound to hurt! It is so wonderful to have them close next door to cherish these days.

On **April 7 Suzanne** spoke at a **Women's Event in Clarksdale MS**. She saw a young woman who had been saved after a 2004 event – what a blessing! Another precious lady shared about the loss of her granddaughter – the Lord used this time to minister to her hurt. After Easter, we hosted **3 couples** here at home **April 12 - 15: a young Alabama pastor and wife** with 3 children who are serving faithfully (he was diagnosed with cancer last June, had surgery and received treatments – he is doing well, and we are praising the Lord!); **a Tennessee assoc. pastor and wife** recovering from a tough church experience and some close losses over the last several years (they are making many important decisions during these days); **an Alabama pastor and wife** who are also faced with critical decisions for their ministry and their church. It was a great week with these couples, and we are praising the Lord. After the retreat, we talked with an **Arkansas couple** seeking God's will about a new ministry. Would you pray for the Father's provision and clear direction for them during these days? The **last week of April** we made a quick trip to **E. Tennessee** to see Ronnie Arnold and his wife Kathy. Ronnie had a heart attack and a reoccurrence of his cancer. Kathy is also dealing with a current health issue. They are cherished friends, and we covet your prayers for them. The Lord completely orchestrated this visit to allow us to see **a dear lady** who has had a significant loss this year, and to spend time and pray with an **E. Tennessee couple** who have been out of ministry. We are thrilled to tell you that this couple is now involved in a new ministry opportunity. God is good! On **April 28 Suzanne** spoke at a Women's Event in **Horn Lake MS**. It was a joy to be with these ladies and see what the Lord is doing.

The **first week of May**, we had a **young Arkansas pastor** visit with us who is seeking God's will for future ministry. We also had a wonderful **Florida pastor and wife** come just to visit with Dr. Gray and Mrs. Voncille. It was a special time! We traveled to **Branson** on **Sunday, May 6** to

begin the **May 7 – 10 retreat** with **3 couples**: an **Arkansas assoc. pastor and wife** seeking the Lord's timing for their ministry decisions; an **Iowa pastor and wife** who experienced a difficult church situation before their current church (they are making many family decisions at this time); and a **New Mexico pastor and wife** who are facing health challenges that are affecting their stamina as they serve their church. These were great couples, and the week was a true blessing. After traveling home, we went to a **baby dedication service** for a precious young ministry couple on **Mother's Day**. We are praying for the Lord's leadership in their family and ministry. On **Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**, we traveled to **Columbus OH** for our oldest granddaughter's, **Sydney's, graduation**. We are excited for her as she begins college at Marshall University this fall. Our family spent a couple of days together at Angie's before we traveled back home. This time was so special to us.

During **June**, Charlie and I both had several routine Doctor visits. We are happy to tell you that Charlie's blood pressure has leveled out and the other issues he was having are all much better. We did not travel to Dallas for the **So. Baptist Convention** this year. We are burdened for our convention and our churches and continue to ask you to pray with us for revival. Any time we travel or hold a retreat, Suzanne's sister, Charlotte, comes to be with her parents. We are so grateful to her, but don't want to add to her load. We hosted **3 couples** at a **Memphis retreat June 17 – 20**: a **Mississippi pastor and wife** experiencing burnout after serving faithfully in the churches where the Lord has placed them; a **bi-vocational Iowa pastor and wife** dealing with some family issues (they both work hard at their jobs, in their church, and serving their family); and a **Tennessee pastor and wife** in a small community ministering in the church where she grew up – that can be very challenging! These were special couples, and we enjoyed our time with them. An **AL pastor and wife** and a **TX pastor** both came for short visits the last of June. The Allisons celebrated 72 years of marriage June 27<sup>th</sup>. A great milestone! Our entire family will be home the first week of July.

Recently we have prayed Proverbs 3:5-6 over several couples: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." What a **faithful** GOD we serve! With grateful hearts,

*Suzanne and Charlie*



# Retreat Testimonies

The Lord has taken us through tumultuous waters over the past 8 years. The question of leaving the pastorate (or ministry altogether) has been a constant ringing in our ears. Upon hearing about SHOR retreats – while believing it might be helpful – there were always factors making it impossible to attend. This year, we grabbed the *life-rope*. Having been badly damaged physically and emotionally in every area of life, we do not readily trust – particularly to speak of (or show) our wounds. However, when we met Charlie and Suzanne we immediately sensed their spirit of compassion and desire to serve and minister to hurting hearts. While we thoroughly enjoyed having time to listen to the sound of birds while simply staring at the calm waters of the lake from the safety of our balcony, we were encouraged most by the sweet concern and tender prayers of the Grigsbys. Knowing that we have godly new friends and prayer warriors as we continue in the churning waters that yet lie ahead is a comfort. We have experienced God's grace on so many levels, and now in finding a safe place in the harbor of SHOR Ministries.

My wife and I needed some time away but we could not afford to go anywhere. This retreat was just what we needed. We ate and ate – the food was excellent. They would not let us do anything for ourselves so we felt like we were royalty. The fellowship with others in ministry was refreshing, and the time of sharing and prayer was a blessing.

We felt so pampered from the moment we met Charlie and received our “goody – gift” bag to the times of constant, loving service that Suzanne and Charlie showered us with at every meal. Our schedule is very hectic, and we desired some time away. Having the opportunity to relax in a beautiful setting was exactly what we needed. Our prayer time with Charlie and Suzanne was very special; we will treasure this week spent with such a loving, nurturing couple. We return to ministry refreshed and renewed.

We have had some tough family situations and having another job besides the church has caused less focus on ministry than we realized. This retreat gave us an opportunity to just rest and get refocused. It couldn't have come at a better time!

Having 5 children at home makes a getaway like this nearly impossible. This week for us has been refreshing fun and renewing to our marriage – we even held hands on our walks (we haven't done that for a long time). Charlie, Suzanne, and Judy are great hosts. We know much time, energy, and finances went into a week like this. It is obvious that they all genuinely care!

It was so good to be able to take some time to rest and reflect. We were cared for so well at SHOR, and it enabled our cups to be filled so that we can go back and be poured out! This is such a unique opportunity, and we were blessed beyond measure to receive it. It is so rare to get quality alone time with your husband when you have 3 kids ages five and younger and are in full-time ministry!

WOW! What a blessing to be able to “come apart” with like minded folks who have “been there, done that.” Charlie and Suzanne made everyone welcome and comfortable from the very first minute. They showed real concern for each couple. Their hospitality is unmatched, and their attention to detail was meticulous. A BIG thanks to those who give to this ministry which allows pastors and their wives to recharge our spirits and stay in the good fight. Meeting other couples in ministry and sharing our struggles encouraged our hearts.

After 8 years in the pastorate, we were feeling tired and needing a time of renewal. We knew that we had honestly been “running on empty” for quite a while, but we just kept pushing. It was wonderful to be able to be transparent and to hear from others that understand where you are in life and ministry. Thanks to all those who chose to give financially to make this available. It was truly a blessing!

Thank you for listening to us and praying specifically for us. It really did us some good! We needed this time.

We were encouraged through your kindnesses and prayers. What a blessing to know you are not standing alone in the battle. We are praying for you as you walk through your own “battles”, as well as the challenging ministry to which God had led you.

## Blessings!

Special thanks to *Brenda Britt* and the women's ministry of *Riverside Baptist Church* in Clarksdale MS for allowing Suzanne to share the Word at their spring event. Heartfelt gratitude to *Janie Smith* (who sang beautifully) and *Tracy Bousson* who accompanied her on the trip – you are great friends!

A BIG thanks to *Pastor Greg Cook and his wife Ryan* and the women's ministry of *Calvary Baptist Church* in Horn Lake MS for having Suzanne share from Ecclesiastes 3 for their ladies' day. She was richly blessed by you all!

Our genuine appreciation to Rick and the sweet ladies at *Red Bud Cove Bed & Breakfast* in Hollister MO for all you did to help us with the May Branson retreat. We are grateful!

Our love and thanks to *Rebecca Howard* for all she does to help us pamper couples here in Memphis – your sweet, bubbly spirit lifts us all!

***Many, many thanks to each of you who intercedes and gives to SHOR!***

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ For the upcoming 2018 retreats in Louisville KY, Branson MO, Blue Ridge GA, and Memphis TN (2). We have couples booked from Michigan, Iowa, Arkansas, S. Dakota, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Alabama, Illinois, Texas, Missouri, and Tennessee for these retreats. Each have specific reasons for coming.
- ◆ For the couples we work with outside of retreats. Helping at the time of crisis is vital. To join us in specifically praying for these, please email us at [info@shorministries.com](mailto:info@shorministries.com) to receive a monthly prayer sheet.
- ◆ We continue to be greatly burdened FOR REVIVAL for our churches and for our country. Would you intercede with us for the Lord to do the work only HE can do?
- ◆ We covet your prayers for Suzanne's mom and dad (next door) and for our family and the caregivers the Lord has provided. We are resting in the Lord's timing.

**Thank you:** We are seeing a number of prayers answered: a **MS church planter and wife** went through a church split and have now begun a revitalized church; a **TX pastor** has completed cancer treatments successfully, and **his wife** has recovered from a broken hand; a **KY couple** is transitioning to a new position in MS; a **terminated TN youth minister** has begun a new ministry in KY; and an **E TN pastor and wife** who had been out of the pastorate has started working with a new ministry. We are SO excited to see the Lord at work in these (as well as other situations we are not able to share).

# Schedule

| <u>Dates</u>            | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 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   |
| October 16 – 19         | SHOR retreat | Memphis TN      |

# To Think About . . .

We continue to work with many couples outside of retreats. Here is an overview of those contacts from 3.16 – 6.20.2018:

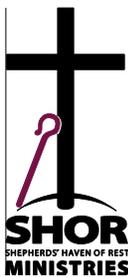
Answered prayer: 28  
Biblical guidance helps: 31  
Burnout: 16  
Church needs / conflict/ plants / revitalization: 44  
Depression: 11  
Encouragement: 66  
Family needs / issues: 50  
Financial needs: 21  
God's will: 7  
Health issues: 37  
Marriage: 20  
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 45  
New Ministry opportunities: 28  
Prayer needs: 39

Other **needs include** Addiction, Cancer, Currently out of ministry, Deaths, Legal issues, Grief, Pastoral stress, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Retirement needs, Staff issues / needs, and Termination. These couples serve in **31 different states** and **16 foreign countries**.

This is where most of our time and effort is invested as we serve through SHOR. *God is SO faithful to work in these situations!*

## 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](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 Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries are tax deductible**

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*Did you know . . .*

**“Ten things I’ve learned from those who have NOT fallen in ministry”**

*By Dr. Paul Chitwood, Executive Director of the Kentucky Southern Baptist Convention*

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“Here are some things I’ve learned from more than 2,000 Kentucky Baptist pastors faithfully serving their churches and families, and tens of thousands of others faithfully leading in our Southern Baptist churches and entities, who haven’t fallen:

- **They haven’t fallen YET.** Any naïveté about a mentor not having feet of clay was shattered before I turned 30 when the man who shaped me as a student and preached my ordination left his wife and married a student. Only those who are in the grave are no longer vulnerable to sin and its consequences.
- **They walk with God.** I’ve long counseled those under my supervision that 90% of the difficult conversations I might have to have with them would never be necessary if they simply walk with God. It’s the best safeguard from moral failure.
- **Those who haven’t fallen guard their lives.** They police their relationships, the company they choose to keep, their patterns of speech and behavior, and their thoughts.
- **They have an Ephesians 5 approach to their marriage.** The man who loves his wife to the death of self and understands the mystery of covenant marriage wherein the two are one flesh creates the opportunity for emotional and physical intimacy that protects his own life.
- **They know that, “When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent” Proverbs 10:19.** Some call them “prophetic,” others label them “equal opportunity offenders,” but the bombastic, shock-factor leaders and preachers often prove themselves more self-contradicting than prophetic, more adept at tearing down than building up, and more likely to be on the sidelines than in the game in the last quarter.
- **Those who haven’t fallen remember.** They remember their wedding vows, they remember their children, they remember all those people and churches who invested in them, pray for them, and love them. They remember those whose hearts they’d never want to break. They remember their Savior and their desire to honor him and bring no reproach on his gospel.
- **They fight.** They fight the prowling enemy of 1Peter 5 and they fight the enemy in the mirror, knowing that no one has greater capacity to wreck them than themselves.
- **They retreat.** They retreat from work and the world to rest and refuel. They retreat from battles that have become more about pride than anything else. And they retreat from temptations and caustic people and situations.
- **They deny.** They deny themselves sinful pleasures, excessive luxuries, lame excuses, and compromising accommodations.
- **They fear.** In wisdom, they fear God, fear their own capacity for sin, and they fear moral failure.

***On behalf of wives, sons, daughters, parents, churches, and our Lord, let me say to those who have NOT fallen, “Thank you. We honor you. Keep fighting the fight. Don’t let us down.”***