

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 18 Issue 2

May – August, 2019

## On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are excited to report on the ministry for the last four months! On **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**, we traveled to **Branson MO** to host 3 couples in a **SHOR retreat**. An **Arkansas pastor's wife** came down with flu-like symptoms the day the retreat began, and they were unable to come. We hosted a **Missouri pastor and wife** (dealing with health issues and working to revitalize their church) and a **Wisconsin pastor and wife** (on sabbatical after recently resigning their church – they are seeking to discern God's will for their future). We also had a former **Illinois pastor and wife** who are currently out of ministry come. We believe God's work in their lives was encouraging to the other couples – God is good! We held our first **board meeting** of 2019 on **Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**. With Dr. Gray's (chairman of the board) passing and Jack O'Kelley's retirement (vice-chairman), we elected new officers. Jimmie Williams has become the new chairman, and Alan Swafford will serve as the vice-chairman. We are so grateful for them and for John Hyneman and John Calcote who have served alongside us faithfully. On **May 25<sup>th</sup>**, we celebrated our 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We thank the Lord for the years He has given us together.

On **Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we met with a **local ministry couple** seeking God's will for their ministry. On **Thursday (6.7)**, we had an **unexpected visitor** to our home: a lady who was in our first church (1977) came to share with us many disturbing issues she is experiencing at this time. Suzanne met with her again **Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**. She needs much prayer. Suzanne spent personal time with a **dear friend from Louisiana** who made her aware of an ongoing staff ministry couples' needs. This same week, we also met with a **couple** facing a **life-threatening surgery** and attended the **funeral** of a dear friend. We spent **one-on-one time** with a **NY ministry couple** making a major transition as well as a **missionary couple** with marital issues on **Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**. Charlie met with a **businessman** who **helps missionaries** while they are on stateside on **Tuesday (6.18)**. We hope to partner with him, as we are able. Suzanne spent **intensive one-on-one time** with a **local staff wife** facing many personal challenges on the **18<sup>th</sup>** as well. A **Louisiana staff couple** (currently out of ministry) and their 2 boys visited with us the weekend of **June 20 – 21, and 24<sup>th</sup>** – a huge blessing!

Over the week of **July 4<sup>th</sup>**, we were with **all of our children and grandchildren**. We had a great time! After returning from our family week, we discovered a **minor leak in an upstairs bath** that had done extensive damage to our home. We remain in the process of repairing these areas. On **Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**, we met with a **local staff couple** having serious marital issues.

We hosted a **SHOR retreat** in **Louisville, KY** the week of **July 15 – 19** with **4 couples**: a **western KY pastor and wife** (having a major transition in their family and facing several challenges in their church); an **Indiana pastor and wife** (being forced out of their church); an **Ohio pastor and wife** (serving faithfully, but with major concerns in their family); and a **local couple** who pastored in **upstate New York** for **21 years**, but had to return home to help with his mother. They are grieving the loss of their church family and facing many adjustments. Our special friends, **Ron and Debbie Moore** were by our sides helping us cook and serve the group. It was a wonderful week! While we were in Louisville, one of our dear friends, **Bill Scott**, went home to be with the Lord. Charlie preached Bill's funeral **Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**. This same week, an **AL pastor and wife** were **terminated**, and a **Texas pastor and wife** experienced a significant **church conflict**. On **Monday, July 29**, we attended a luncheon for **Roads of Hope**. This ministry is making an impact by working to stop the trafficking of orphans in Moldova and Ukraine. While we were there, we met a **young pastor** who was **terminated** from his church in **S. Florida**. We are praying for God's direction for their ministry. That week, Charlie talked with a **local minister** who had been **fired** from his position. This is a sad situation.

On **August 1<sup>st</sup>**, Suzanne met with a **local ministry wife** caught in a **significant conflict**. The **next week** we both had some doctor visits. Charlotte came **Aug. 8 – 10** to help Suzie and Gray clean out Papa's office at the seminary and conduct some SHOR business. We traveled to **Branson MO** on **Monday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>** to host **4 couples**: an **Oklahoma pastor & wife** (they have many accumulated hurts and health issues); a **Missouri pastor and wife** (they are wounded from an earlier church experience); an **Oklahoma Dir. of Missions and wife** (they are transitioning back into the pastorate); and an **Oklahoma pastor and wife** (they are preparing to retire from the pastorate). Just before we left for Branson, Charlie's first cousin lost her husband suddenly. On **Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**, Charlie had a part in his funeral. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> **board meeting** of 2019 was **Friday (8.23)**. We both had the joy of sharing with the men and women at **Ridgeway Baptist Church** the evening of **August 25<sup>th</sup>**. We are looking forward to fall.

We read today in Psalm 145:9: "The Lord is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works."

Be blessed in Him today!

*Suzanne and Charlie*



# Retreat Testimonies

We are in our mid-60s and beginning our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a church revitalization. We love what we are doing, but we've been exhausted the last few months. The SHOR retreat was a perfect break for us to rest and regroup. The fellowship was a refreshing encouragement and the time off was a great opportunity for us just to be together. SHOR is really Shepherds' Haven of Refueling!

We were so glad that we were not turned away when we let Suzanne and Charlie know that we had recently retired. If we ever needed this retreat, it has been at one of the most pivotal points in our ministry. We plan to be in "the ministry" until God takes us home, but we are transitioning to a new season of life . . . and a way of living that is brand new to us. It was so helpful to get information, encouragement, rest, and prayer at this critical time. We really enjoyed the conversations with like-minded believers who share the same struggles and challenges (pastoring). This was a great encouragement to us. Now that we have retreated, we are more equipped to advance! Thank you.

Listening to the couples talk about how the Lord has provided for them financially when they've had such limited means has helped us remember how the Lord has faithfully provided for our family throughout 45+ years of ministry. The SHOR retreat is one great example of how He has used others' generosity to bless us. The fellowship, the delicious (and wholesome) meals, the great accommodations and setting (in a location we would have never otherwise known about), the downtime and more (God ordained meetings) make the SHOR retreat a tremendously refreshing experience. The meeting that was significant to us was when we met the pastor and wife who served in Canton, NY for 21 years. That was our first pastorate! We had heard about them, but never met so it was a special treat to meet them at the retreat and hear a little about the ministry 36 years later. God is just so *good*. Thank you for the special prayer time and encouraging remarks and counsel.

We have a very challenging ministry. This year has brought a long series of hardships and attacks on our family and ministry. We had already experienced many struggles. We

had no idea what we were signing up for when we found out about the SHOR retreat, but we knew we needed to get away and clear out minds. The space we were given to reconnect as a couple and individually with the Lord was exactly what we were hoping for. The friendships we made with the other couples were a very unexpected blessing. We are so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this retreat. We feel encouraged, strengthened, and refueled to go back into our ministry trusting God to work through us however He sees fit.

This retreat was such an unexpected, timely gift from God. Ministry presents so many demands -- spiritually, physically, emotionally -- all at the same time so that before you know it, you are desperate to get away, rest, and regroup so that you can be most effective and fruitful in your service. The rest and the prayer time meant so much. This retreat came at a very specific time of need for us. We just came out of a stressful time and have upcoming church and family decisions that we needed time away to consider. With kids and pastoring, we would not have been able to financially afford time away. This retreat was a gift sent by God. Thank you for those who give to support this ministry. Your gift not only makes a difference in our marriage and our family, but also has given us what we needed to regain much strength to serve our Lord.

Your theme verse of "come aside to a secluded place and rest" was not only what the Apostles needed; it is what our Lord's disciples need today. This format and setting provided just that. We really enjoyed the times around the table and the prayer time with Charlie and Suzanne. As we plan for God's next chapter in our lives, God's timing was perfect to provide this place of rest and seeking his face. To God be the glory!

I just want to thank everyone involved with this ministry. It has been a busy, frantic summer. My wife and I have been very active in many ministries (including our church). These last few days have given us the opportunity to renew and refresh our relationship as well as renew our spirits to take the next step into our ministry. We enjoyed the fellowship with other ministry couples. This retreat has truly blessed us.

## Blessings!

Our genuine appreciation to the men who serve on the board for Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries: Jimmie Williams, Chair; Alan Swafford, vice-chair; John Hyneman; and John Calcote. We are more grateful than we can ever express.

Our love and thanks to Ron and Debbie Moore who served alongside us at the wonderful Kentucky retreat. You are kindred spirits, and we appreciate you!

Special thanks to Pastor Ashley Ray at Ridgeway Baptist Church for allowing Charlie and Suzanne the opportunity to share the Word with the men and women of the church. You all blessed us!

***Thank you to all who make SHOR possible through your gifts and prayers.  
We love you and continually pray the Lord's riches blessings on you.  
The couples who are encouraged are grateful to you.***

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ For the upcoming FALL retreats in Blue Ridge GA, Ohio (intensive), and upstate New York. We are burdened for the couples who are booked to come. Please pray the Lord will meet their needs and give them a true time of rest.
- ◆ This year we will attend the Care Givers Forum in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. We are hopeful that this will help us network with other available ministries so that we can refer couples who need help other than what we are able to provide. Please pray this will be a fruitful time.
- ◆ For the couples we work with outside of retreats. The longer we are active in SHOR, the more ministry couples we know, the more we are aware of the issues ministry folks are experiencing. Please ask God's wisdom for us.
- ◆ REVIVAL for our churches and for our country continues to weigh heavy on our hearts. Please pray with us.
- ◆ Personally: Suzanne's mom continues to live at the hospice facility in Collierville. She has never recognized that Dr. Gray has gone before her to heaven. We continue to work toward better health so that we can have the stamina we need to serve effectively. We covet your prayers for our personal walk with Christ and for our physical well being. We also ask that you pray for clear direction as we go forward in SHOR.

# Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 10 - 13	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA
October TBA	SHOR intensive	Ohio
October 27 - 30	Caregivers Forum	Ridgecrest NC
November 12 – 15	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 5.1 – 8.15.19:

Answered prayer: 23  
Biblical guidance helps: 34  
Burnout: 8  
Church needs / conflict / merger / plants / revitalization: 35  
Depression: 7  
Encouragement: 56  
Family needs / issues: 60  
Financial needs: 26  
God's will: 20  
Health issues: 62  
Marriage: 20  
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 68  
New Ministry opportunities: 29  
Prayer needs: 69  
Resignation / Termination: 10

Other **needs include** Abortion, Anger, Cancer, Cultural issues, Currently out of ministry, Deaths, Grief, Moral issues, Parenting, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Retirement needs, and Sabbaticals. These couples serve in **34 different states** and **21 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](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 . . .

***The Secret Pain of Pastors*** by Philip Wagner (pastor, Oasis Church in Los Angeles) continued . . .  
Published by [www.churchleaders.com](http://www.churchleaders.com) (September 5, 2018)

### Some of the unique problems pastors face are:

- 1) **Criticism:** Pastors can be criticized by a lot of people for a multitude of things: *Music is too loud or worship is not long enough or worship is too long; Sermon is not deep enough or it's too long; You talk too much about money . . .*
- 2) **Rejection:** Members leave, leaders leave, and pastor's friends leave. The smaller the church, the more obvious it is when people leave. Some leave for reasonable decisions; many leave "ungracefully." They leave big churches too by the thousands. They may say: *we want something deeper; my needs aren't being met; I'm not getting fed . . .* These comments feel like personal rejection.
- 3) **Betrayal:** Trusting church members with personal burdens can backfire. They may end up telling the pastor's personal issues to others. Staff leaders can take church members away. The pastor trusts a person with the platform or title, and that person uses the influence given to them to take people away. The Judas kiss.
  - **40%** report conflict with a church member at least once a month
  - **85%** of pastors said their greatest problem is they are tired of dealing with problem people, such as disgruntled elders, deacons, worship leaders, worship teams, board members, and assoc. pastors.
  - **The #1 reason pastors leave the ministry** is that church people are not willing to go the same direction and goal of the pastor. Pastors believe God wants them to go in one direction, but the people are not willing to follow or change.
  - **40%** of pastors say they have considered leaving their pastorates in the last 3 months.
- 4) **Loneliness:** Who is my friend? Who can I trust? If I tell another pastor my problems, will he criticize me, tell others, or treat me differently? **70%** of pastors feel they don't have a close friend.
- 5) **Weariness:** **50%** of the ministers starting out will not last **5 years**. **70%** felt God called them to pastoral ministry before their ministry began, but after 3 years of ministry, only 50% still felt called.
- 6) **Frustration and disappointments:** Disappointments come in many ways: Because of smaller congregations, the average compensation package for pastors is between \$35,000 and \$40,000. There are many things pastors in this salary range are not able to do for their family. There are many areas of ministry in which judging "success" is difficult. Pastors can be hard on themselves. We work in an area that good work and good effort does not always mean success.

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."