

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 14 Issue 2

April – June 2015

On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

Where does the time go!! We have completed the first half of 2015 holding **9 retreats** with couples from **13 states** in S. Texas, Georgia, Arkansas, Missouri, W. Virginia, and 4 at home in W. Tennessee. In between the retreats, the Lord continues to bring couples to us who are discouraged, burned-out, seeking Biblical guidance for a variety of reasons, and needing help after being terminated. These are just a few of the reasons we meet with couples out of retreats times. The needs of ministry couples are significant.

In **April**, we traveled to **Branson MO** to host **4 couples** the week of the 6th through the 9th: a *Louisiana pastor and wife* whose church staff has had multiple problems; their church is working through these issues, but it has been tough; a *Kansas pastor and wife* with 5 children who are also caring for aging parents – they needed time away from church and family demands; an *AR pastor and wife* who are seeking God's will for future ministry; and an *Iowa pastor and wife* who have had significant health issues for the last 7 years – they are much better, but are adjusting to the needs of ministry along with some physical limitations. We used a beautiful Bed & Breakfast on Tablerock Lake that worked well with our group. It was a great week! We also hosted a retreat in **Memphis** the week of **April 19 – 22**. We had 4 couples: a *young couple from Georgia* who were terminated in February (they have 2 young children and a baby on the way) and are seeking the Lord's will for their future ministry; a wonderful older *Louisiana pastor and wife* who have a son undergoing extreme chemotherapy for cancer; a *bi-vocational OK pastor and wife* who are working hard and needing a break; and an *AL tri-vocational pastor and wife* (he works a full-time job, pastors, and serves as a National Guard chaplain) who are stretched to the limit and appreciated the time away together. The fellowship with these couples was so sweet. During these days, a precious *Texas pastor's wife* had a setback recovering from posttraumatic stress syndrome. We are asking the Lord to touch her and restore her. After the April retreat at home, Charlie and Dr. Gray (Suzanne's dad) traveled to **North Louisiana** for the Allison family reunion and for the burial of Papa's youngest sister, Betty Sue McNeese. Suzie stayed home to care for Mimi. This same week, Charlie's brother's wife's mother also passed away. The next week he traveled to **Louisiana** again to preach Mrs. Adkins' funeral. We rejoice in the home going of some of God's most precious saints!

On **May 7th**, **Dr. Gray** celebrated his **91st** birthday! We had a small lunch for him with Suzanne's sister and her

husband as well as dear friends. How blessed we are to have Papa and Mimi next door to us! We hosted **4 couples** in our **home** the week of **May 11 – 15**: a *TN pastor and wife* who have gone through a rough time and have some deep hurts (her parents are having significant health issues); a *LA Hispanic pastor and wife* who were recently terminated because of a personal problem – please pray for them; an *AL pastor and wife* with 6 children who are preparing to go to Indonesia as missionaries; and a *Missouri pastor and wife* serving faithfully and needing a true break from their hectic schedules. It was a wonderful week, and we are thanking the Lord! Over the week of **Memorial Day** we spent time with our entire family (14 of us now) in S. Alabama. We all commented at the end of the week that we believe it was our best time away as a family ever – what a true blessing!

We had our **2nd board meeting** of the year on Friday, **June 5th**. We continually thank the Lord for the men who serve alongside us in the ministry. We hosted a retreat in **Roanoke, W. Virginia** the week of **June 8 – 12** with **3 couples**: an *Ohio pastor and wife* who have served 33 years in their church (her mother passed away after battling Alzheimer's – they needed this time!); a *TN couple* (former IMB missionaries) who have gone through a rough time but now believe the Lord is opening a new ministry to them; and an *Ohio pastor and wife* who are also both serving in rescue missions while leading their church. They give out continually so it was a joy to give back to them! After the retreat, we traveled to **Columbus OH** for the **Southern Baptist Convention**. We were so blessed on Sunday, June 14 to hear our son Chad preach in a church plant in Mount Vernon as well as hear our son-in-law Dean preach at the Pastors' Conference at the convention. We hosted our booth on Monday and Tuesday at the Pastors' Wives' Expo sharing the ministries of SHOR with almost 1000 folks. We were also able to spend specific time with several ministry couples. It was a great trip!!!

In Psalm 34:1 we read, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth." We continually thank the Lord for all He is and does. We love you and are *so grateful for you!*

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

We came here very overwhelmed. In the past 6 months, we have dealt with extreme illness, loss of a grandparent, death of a vision, and bringing a teen into our home (then realizing he had been victimized at a young age and was deep in sexual sin). We have 3 small biological children as well. We have also been struggling with a difficult situation in our pastor's wife's life. We came because someone cancelled at the last minute. We got here and the beauty and peace and stillness of this place were so very refreshing. We could feel the Father's presence in this place. As if the serenity and beauty weren't enough, we were even more blessed by our time with Suzanne and Charlie. They listened and really cared. They did battle for us as they prayed over our children and our hurts. We were drowning, and you threw us a rope. We are so grateful to our gracious Lord Jesus for this special time.

We recently moved back home after spending 13 years in a church plant. We were exhausted and did not have resources to get away by ourselves. This retreat allowed us time away from a demanding new ministry to rest and renew our spirits. It gave us a safe place to share our struggles and hearts without judgment. We felt loved and encouraged.

Our marriage just went through a hardship and we really needed to come together to find ourselves again. Being in such a beautiful surrounding – a quiet place – was something we needed. Spending time together without thinking about church or family was such a help. This has been a healing time for us.

As a Pastor it is hard to get away and relax and not have the demands of study, ministry, and administration pulling you in different directions. As the pastor of a smaller church, it is hard to justify to myself the cost to get away and have a time of renewal with my wife and not worry about the cost of motels and meals. This retreat covered all of that and allowed us to have a worry-free time of rest. We enjoyed the time of fellowship with a small, intimate group of others in ministry. The opportunity to fellowship and be served was refreshing.

We have a major decision to make about where God might be leading us. Several churches have called us to come in view of a call. The time away from that pressure was greatly needed. We were able to have uninterrupted time to talk to God and each other. It was perfect timing for us! It meant so much that Charlie and Suzanne prayed with us and for us.

The SHOR retreat allowed us time to reconnect with each other and with the Lord. We appreciated the freedom to rest and reflect. We also were greatly encouraged from our time spent with Charlie & Suzanne. It was therapeutic to share our struggles over the past couple of months and be honest about the hurt we experienced.

In the midst of a busy schedule, both personally and in ministry, it was such a blessing to have a time "to come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." This retreat was just that – a time to rest in the Lord and to receive encouragement not only from Charlie, Suzanne and Judy but also from the other ministry couples that attended. You will never fully know the impact this ministry has had on our lives!

We recently moved to a new ministry in an area that was totally unfamiliar to us. We did not know anyone else in local ministry available to talk to us and empathize with us regarding our challenges as we minister. We felt so welcome here – loved, appreciated, and truly cared for. Not having a daily schedule allowed us time to relax and rest. We are so very grateful for being given this opportunity. Having a mentoring couple sincerely listen and pray for us meant SO much.

Both of us have struggled with debilitating health issues over the last several years while we were involved in mission work and starting 2 new churches. Most of our vacation time and funds have been swallowed up by medical procedures. To have this getaway provided to us so we could simply rest is a great blessing we will never forget. God was gracious to us through SHOR. Charlie and Suzanne were wonderful to us – serving, praying, and laughing. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. We and our church will benefit from our time here.

Many times we don't have anyone to talk with that has ministry experience and understands our issues and needs. Charlie and Suzanne are great listeners who are filled with compassion and empathy. They talk through our prayer concerns, and it is vital to know they are lifting our needs before the Lord. I felt like after this week we had discovered two new friends who care about us and our ministry health. So many pastors and wives could benefit from this kind of retreat because they are hurting and may be financially unable to pay for time away. Thanks so much for making this week possible!

Blessings!

Our special thanks to our dear friends, Paul and Romola Barnett and Mrs. Wanda for their love and encouragement to our hearts and to our family

Our sincere appreciation for our SHOR board members Dr. Gray, Jack O'Kelley, John Hyneman, Jimmie Williams, John Calcote, and Alan Swafford who uphold us in prayer while guiding us in the work of the ministry

Our warmest gratitude to Diane Nix and Donna Gaines who continue to allow us to introduce the ministries of SHOR to pastors and their wives through the Pastors' Wives' Expo at the convention. We pray the Lord's richest blessings on you both as you serve Him

A BIG thanks to Suzanne's sister, Charlotte, for continuing to come and help Dr. and Mrs. Allison (Mimi and Papa) so that we can continue to travel out and serve.

Many, many thanks to all of you who pray for the needs and ministries of SHOR and who give to make it all possible. God bless you!

Prayer Needs

- ◆ *For our upcoming retreats in Pueblo CO, Destin FL (2), Memphis TN, and Coeur d'Alene Idaho*
- ◆ *For the couples scheduled for these upcoming retreats. It is such a battle for them to take time away to be refreshed and restored. (see insert!!)*
- ◆ *We are beginning to plan for 2016. We need the Lord's wisdom for the scheduling of retreats, their locations, and the facilities we will use. With Suzanne's parents now being 88 and 91 and the progression of Mimi's multiple sclerosis, we desire to stay sensitive to their needs.*
- ◆ *For our physical well-being and spiritual stamina as we minister to those in crisis and who are hurting*
- ◆ *PRAISE: After experiencing a SHOR retreat last year, a Texas couple who was terminated from an 18-year pastorate held a retreat for 3 other ministry couples in April. It went great! They will do another retreat in September. We are thrilled for the calling on their lives, the experiences that they offer, and their heart for others in ministry. Please do pray for them as they follow the Lord.*

Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 19 – 22	SHOR retreat	Pueblo CO
August 2	Charlie preaching	N. Mississippi
August 11 – 14	SHOR retreat	Destin FL
August 17 – 20	SHOR retreat	Destin FL
August 27 – 30	Marriage weekend	Branson MO
September 4 – 7	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
September 14 – 18	SHOR retreat	Coeur d'Alene ID
October 5 – 9	SHOR retreat	Townsend TN
October 22 – 25	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
November 5 – 9	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
November 12 - 15	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY

To Think About . . .

The following are excerpts from retreat applications of folks scheduled for upcoming retreats: (please pray for them as they prepare to attend a retreat – this is a critical need)

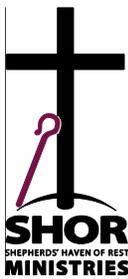
What do you believe to be the greatest problem you face in your ministry?

- + I'm often overwhelmed with differing priorities: work, family, home, etc. I don't believe maintaining my current roles and responsibilities are sustainable for much longer. I definitely feel a responsibility to, with God's direction, sort this out. I trust God can use a time like this retreat to bring resolution to some of these issues.
- + Our church is very small . . . we are very busy. We need to learn to prioritize so we have time for each other/ family.
- + I have been at my church for 24 years and have been through a rough period for the past 3 years. I want to come back with a renewed passion for the Lord and His Church!
- + My current position in youth ministry is new to me and dealing with the issues that teenagers are facing in today's world is different and challenging to me

What are your wife's greatest needs?

- ♥ Balance and rest
- ♥ Revival and refreshing. She has been through a tough time at church with me, and it gets old!
- ♥ Encouragement and peace as she helps to rear our children, guard our home and protect my ministry to our church.
- ♥ Evaluate past ministry hurts and get fresh perspective and vision.

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



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

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Why SHOR exists . . .

From Focus on the Family, March 30, 2015 (Copyright © 2015 by Tim Popadic. Used by permission.)

Pastors, let me ask you something your staff cannot ask you: *if you don't start setting the example by creating Sabbath rest and margin in your own life, how can you possibly lead a staff that is taking their cues from you?* It drives me crazy when I hear that Pastors are regularly being asked to come in to church and even to lead ministry on their days off. I was part of that crazy cycle for twenty years. About four years ago now I stepped out of day-to-day ministry and took on the life of a ministry consultant. The biggest change for my family was that they now had their dad back every weekend. It was as if we had to "re-learn" what family time was. I realized in that moment that I had allowed ministry to become greater in my life than my own family. *Newsflash: When the pastor loses his family, all church growth stops.*

My prayer for you this next season would be to create margin and balance in your ministry and family life. Don't be afraid to say no to new ideas that increase your work load and decrease your family time. *Surprise your staff and give them time off to spend with their families.* Reward your ministry leaders for placing margin back in their lives. Finally, model Sabbath in all that you do. Only YOU can change the metrics of YOUR church. Your family and your ministry teams will thank you!

Life can get so loud we forget to shut it down. Maybe that's why God made such a big deal about rest in the Ten Commandments! Of the ten, which one occupies the most space? Murder...adultery...stealing? You'd think so. But curiously, these commands are tributes to brevity. God needed only five English words to condemn them all. But when it came to the topic of rest, it took a paragraph in Exodus 20: 8-11. *But. . .but. . .who's going to run the store?* We offer up one reason after another, but God silences them all with one poignant reminder. "In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day." God's message is plain. *If creation didn't crash when I rested, it won't crash when you do!*

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