

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 15 Issue 4

September – December, 2016

## On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

Where has the year gone? It seems just like yesterday we were traveling to S. Texas to begin our 2016 retreats. We have experienced some of the best retreats of our 15 year history with SHOR this year as we have hosted couples from 24 states and Canada in Texas, Alabama, Missouri (2), Georgia, W. Virginia, Colorado, New York, and 7 at home in Tennessee. We continue to work with couples between the retreat times with various issues (see page 3). God has been so good, and we are praising Him.

We hosted a **retreat at home Sept 2 – 5** with **4 couples**: a former IMB missionary couple embarking on new ministries; an OK pastor and wife needing time to reflect on the direction of their church; a MO assoc. pastor and wife torn in many directions with family and ministry responsibilities; and a Kentucky pastor and wife needing time away together. What a tremendous week! From the beginning of SHOR in 2002, **Bro. Jack O'Kelley** has served on our board of directors. Early Friday, Sept. 2, his precious wife, **Joan**, went home to be with the Lord. Charlie was honored to have a part in her service on Sunday, Sept. 4. The next week 3 close friends or family members had surgery. We are happy to tell you all were successful procedures! We traveled to **Branson MO** on Sunday, **Sept. 18** to begin a retreat on Monday, with **4 couples**: a Canadian officer and wife with the Salvation Army seeking God's will for future ministry; an Arkansas pastor and wife who have experienced a church split and are dealing with some family issues; an Oklahoma pastor and wife who had just resigned their church and are struggling financially and with some health problems; and a N. Mexico pastor and wife (she has been in cancer treatments, and they were both very tired). The week was a blessing to all. We traveled home after the retreat ended Thursday and held our **3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting** of the year on Friday, Sept. 23.

Suzanne had the privilege of traveling to Flagstaff and Sedona, **Arizona**, with a mission group from our home church, Kirby Woods Baptist **October 4 -11**. She met with and spoke to over **20 pastors' wives** on Friday night. These ladies shared that nothing like this has ever been provided for them before. She also taught 3 sessions on Saturday for local ladies as well as the ministry wives. She continues to be in touch with several of these as they serve in difficult ministries. During this week she also prayer walked on the No. Arizona campus, spent time with the BCM director and some of the college students, ministered in a nursing home, and shared time with a local pastor's family and a church planting team. Charlie remained home to help care for Dr. Gray and Mrs. Voncille and to continue the work with local couples needing Biblical guidance. We held a **retreat at home October 17 – 20** with

**4 couples**: an Indiana pastor and wife who have experienced significant losses; an Ohio pastor and wife who are serving faithfully (she has health problems and no insurance); a Kentucky pastor and wife with 7 children who have just led their church to merge with another church (they needed a break); and a Mississippi pastor and wife experiencing total burnout – please pray his church will grant him a sabbatical. This was a wonderful retreat, and we are thanking the Lord.

Our grandson, Hayes, was set to arrive via C-section on Friday, Oct. 21; however, he decided to come on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup>. We traveled to Chad and Jessica's on Friday to meet our new grandson and play with 3.5-year-old Ezra. It was a fast trip, but absolutely TERRIFIC!! Suzie returned home with a sinus infection that knocked her down for a while. A close friend's granddaughter was married on October 29<sup>th</sup>. A dear friend was baptized at Bartlett Baptist (where Charlie pastored) on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup>. Both were a tremendous blessing to us!

We celebrated **Mimi's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** on November 3<sup>rd</sup> – what a great day! We began a retreat that day in our home with **4 couples**: an OK pastor and wife who are seeking God's will for future ministry; an OK pastor and wife with 4 children who needed time away together; a MS assoc. pastor and wife – he is suffering from burnout; and an OK pastor and wife who are healing from a hurtful church experience. This was a sweet time with precious servants! Our home church Kirby Woods began the **Global Impact Conference** on Sunday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a highlight of our year. We traveled to **upstate New York** on Friday, Nov. 11 and hosted **4 couples**: a PA pastor and wife who have been through a tough year in their church (their 13 yr. old daughter needs prayer); a bi-vocational NY church planter and wife with 4 children who needed time away after a demanding year in their ministry; a PA pastor and wife seeking God's will for their future; and a NY staff pastor and wife who lost their son and are just weary (she is having some health issues). It was a great week! We were blessed to visit with several local ministry couples during this time. We will host our **end of year board meeting** in our home on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

In this wonderful time of year, we praise God for His precious gift in Matthew 1:23: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." With grateful hearts,

*Suzanne and Charlie*



# Retreat Testimonies

This past year has been so heavy with responsibilities both with the church ministries and family. We were at a breaking point! We needed time to refocus and remind ourselves God is stronger than us, and we need to rely ON HIM. This week gave us the time to read His Word and focus on it for ourselves. So many times we are thinking of others and how we can encourage them, but this time was for us! Charlie and Suzanne have such a beautiful, fun personality that we felt right at home. Their love and concern for pastors is so obvious. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. (We wish we could have met you years ago!) We have been blessed beyond measure.

After the last 16 months of battling cancer (DRs appointments, tests, treatments, etc.), even though our church has been great, this time was much appreciated. We needed rest and simple relaxation. It was so good to sit around the table and share stories and laughter.

*We continue to ask the Lord to raise up others to help pastors. Here's one of those answered prayers!!*

This was a God-ordained retreat! We didn't know anything about it, and I was a little nervous. We have been in ministry over 30 years, and although it has been wonderful, we experienced tremendous hurt in one of the churches we served. We were both deeply wounded. We went on from that church and served in another church nearby. My husband began experiencing strokes to his right eye a year ago and has almost lost all vision in that eye. To make a long story short, he ended up having open-heart surgery to replace his aortic valve, perform one bypass, and fix several holes in his heart. We were serving bi-vocationally, and the stress was tremendous. I was also very hard on myself and our 2 sons. We prayed that God would show us what to do and what would be best for our family. In April, we stepped down from the pastorate. The reason this was a "God ordained retreat" is because several years ago we saw the importance of offering hurting pastors and their families somewhere to go to rest, heal and recharge free of charge. It is our dream to build a place on a lake where this can take place. The SHOR retreat confirmed this calling – praise the Lord! My husband is now an insurance broker, and I work with him. Our goal is to make enough money to buy a property and sustain a ministry to hurting ministry families. You are a blessing to so many, and we hope to do the same!

We were spent ... empty, wounded, weary... from the past two years of ministry and life in general. We had come through a very hurtful church split, death of a parent, serious health issues ourselves as well as our parents, loss of a job, and problems with our adult children. I felt like a "hot mess!" Suzanne and Charlie reminded us of our calling, ministered to us in the midst of our mess, refreshed and encouraged us. We were able to laugh again! The picture Suzanne gave me that encouraged me most was that I could crawl up in the Savior's lap when the battles come, and that He would hold me and comfort me. I needed that! Thank you, dear friends, for taking us into your arms and allowing God to work through you to heal the hurts and strengthen our spirits. We love you both and will continue to pray for this invaluable ministry.

My husband and I are at a place in our ministry now where we want to quit. We are physically, emotionally, and spiritually drained. We have been torn to pieces by people (professed God's people) so many times that we do not feel we can recover from it emotionally. We have lost our purpose that God has for us at times. We also feel that we are so drained spiritually that we cannot be what we need to be in our church. I was reminded during this retreat that my heart for the Lord and for people is where it has always been – ready to serve and love! My heart has just been broken and needs time to mend and heal. I was also reminded that God called us, and He is always there. I was also shown that there are God-called people to show us the love of Christ through this ministry. What I felt most was LOVED unconditionally by people we just met – precious! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We are broken people. But we have hidden it well. It felt so good for someone (Charlie & Suzanne) to tell me, "It's OK." I have been searching and praying for direction. Those prayers were answered through this SHOR retreat. For the first time in a very long time, I feel I have some direction. I cannot really express the thankfulness I have for these folks who spoke lovingly, yet firmly, into our lives.

We have never been so weary, in mind, body, and heart. We give and give (gladly!), but rarely receive (and we don't expect to). We really needed this time to "come up for air." A thousand "thank you" to those who made this possible!

# Blessings!

Special thanks to Kirby Woods Baptist Church (specifically my wonderful pastor's wife, Myra Collier, and our precious women's ministry director, Amy Barron) for the tremendous opportunity of participating in the Arizona mission trip. What a great privilege to serve alongside you and the others from Kirby. *I love you all!*

With Loving appreciation to our dear friends, Doug and Louise Goettsche, at gorgeous Cornerstone Victorian Bed & Breakfast in Warrensburg NY for all you do to make our New York retreats perfectly wonderful. We love you!

\*When you think of them, please pray – Doug is now cancer-free, but has been in cancer treatments most of this year. They have been *SO good* to us for the last 12 years, and they covet your prayers.

***We are so grateful to you for all of the prayers and the financial support for the Ministries of SHOR!***

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ *For the upcoming 2017 retreats in S. Alabama, Louisiana, and 2 at home (January and February). We are still working on the remainder of the year so we appreciate your prayers for God's places.*
- ◆ *For the couples the Lord will bring to us both through retreats and in emergency situations. Please ask the Lord to give us His wisdom.*
- ◆ *For regular monthly or quarterly support for the work of the ministry as well as prayer warriors to uphold the various ministries of SHOR. We continue to ask for 500 people to give \$20 or more a month. Although we have been greatly blessed through the years, we are currently in the red for 2016.*
- ◆ **PRAISES:** Most of our ministry focuses on those who are saved and serving in the local church; however, this year we have been very blessed to see several profess Christ: a dear friend of ours who is 74 years old confessed Christ (Suzanne is meeting with her regularly); Charlotte witnessed to a home care-giver for Mimi and Papa who also accepted the Lord (Suzanne and Charlotte are both discipling her); a waiter in a local restaurant prayed to receive Christ (Charlie is helping him); Suzanne prayed with a pastor's daughter in Arizona who confirmed her salvation; and in New York we shared the gospel with a couple at breakfast at the B & B. The wife is a new Christian, and the Lord is definitely working in his heart. Would you pray for his salvation?

# Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 23 – April 24	Suzanne teaching	MABTS, Monday evenings
January 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Memphis, TN
February 8 - 11	SHOR retreat	Gulf Shores, AL
February 23 - 26	SHOR retreat	Memphis, TN
March 20 – 23	SHOR retreat	Toledo Bend, LA
APRIL 16	EASTER	
April 18 - 21	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
May 15 - 18	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
June TBA	SHOR retreat	Roanoke W VA

# To Think About . . .

Through the years we have focused our reports to you around the retreat ministry; however, after 15 years, we spend much time helping ministry couples outside of the retreat times with Biblical guidance. Dr. Gray, chairman of the board, has requested that we share these so that you get a clearer picture of all the ministry involves. This is a summary of the year's contacts through mid-November:

Addiction 4	God's will 17
Answered prayer 28	Grief help 13
Burnout 31	Health issues and needs 150
Cancer 29	Marriage 38
Church (inc. conflict, issues, plants, and needs) 67	Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions 126
Counseling needs (general) 54	New ministry opportunities 46
Currently out of ministry 23	Prayer needs 134
Death 50	Resignation / termination 29
Depression 25	Retirement needs 7
Encouragement 121	Retreat needs (people who need something other than what we offer 69
Family (inc. conflict, issues, needs) 122	Other (i.e. visa, disaster relief, pastor search, suicide) 20
Financial 60	

\*These are contacts with couples from 35 states and 23 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



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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*From our family to yours . . .*



***MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

***Mimi and Papa's 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, June 27, 2016***

*Our entire family was home to celebrate together this summer. We are not in order by family, but this is Dr. Gray & Mrs. Voncille, and the 3 of us: Suzie, Charlotte, and Gray with our spouses, and all of our children and grandchildren. Mimi and Papa have 6 living grandchildren and as of now 11 great grandchildren (you can see the expecting Moms in the picture).*

***It was a GREAT DAY!***