

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 15 Issue 1

January - March, 2016

## On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are now in our 15<sup>th</sup> year with SHOR Ministries! The start to this year has been our best ever in a number of ways: *God has been directly answering prayers*; the retreats have been such a blessing to us as well as the couples the Lord is sending; the places we have gone have been tremendous; and we are assured of the need for the ministry in which God has placed us. *Thank you for being a part!*

Our home in **Arlington TN** is now 20 years old so we began the year with some needed repairs in order for us to continue to host couples here for retreats. We are doing some major repairs now that the weather is warmer. It is a help to host couples here to be available for Dr. Gray and Mrs. Voncille next door, to be the best stewards of the funds the Lord provides, and to save on the "wear and tear" of travel as well as have Judy here to help us. We traveled to **South Texas** for a **retreat January 19 – 24**. A **TX pastor** scheduled to attend lost his best friend the day before the retreat started and had to cancel so that he could preach the friend's funeral. We hosted **3 couples**: a **TX pastor and wife** (he was on sabbatical and experiencing burn-out); an **AZ pastor and wife** (they are working through issues within their church – she had a wreck shortly after the retreat and needs prayer); and a **TX assoc. pastor and wife** (they both have full-time jobs in addition to ministry responsibilities and needed time away). We had the privilege of spending time with some dear folks who love SHOR during the retreat. It was a great week! The day after we got home, Papa (Dr. Gray) had outpatient surgery to replace his pacemaker batteries. He did well, but it took time for him to get over the surgery itself.

We hosted a **retreat at home Feb. 4 – 7** with these **three couples** (a **TN pastor** cancelled the day the retreat began because of a change in his wife's work schedule): a **N. Carolina church planter and his wife** who are serving faithfully and pursuing a ministry to help young people suspended from school; a **GA pastor and wife** who are faced with a major ministry decision; and an **AR assoc. pastor and wife** who were dealing with a critical family issue (**God directly answered our prayers during this retreat, and we are still praising Him!!**). The Lord blessed this retreat in several special ways. He is just SO good.

We had the privilege of speaking at **Hickory Grove Baptist Church** for their **Valentine's Banquet** on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. They support the ministry and are a tremendous encouragement to us. Suzanne had the honor of teaching the **Pastors' Wives class at Mid-America Seminary** on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. This semester topic is conflict. She shared from Romans 7 (internal conflict) and from Nehemiah 4-6 (external conflicts). It is a joy for her to meet and invest in

these young women who are just beginning their years of ministry.

We traveled to S. Alabama on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> to host a **retreat in Gulf Shores** with **4 couples**: a **FL pastor and wife** (she has had 2 significant losses in the last few months and has a stressful teaching job as well as having some dislocated ribs [ugh] – they needed this time); a **TX pastor and wife** (they have had some struggles in ministry but are serving faithfully and enjoyed time away together); a **LA church planter and wife** (they are excited about the victories God is working but cherished the time at the retreat together); and a bi-vocational **FL pastor and wife** (they are both working hard in their jobs as well as their church and were grateful for these days). We were SOOO blessed by Ron and Debbie Moore (a **KY assoc. pastor and wife**) who drove 10 hours to come serve with us! It was one of our best retreats – ever. The **first week of March** at home, our son Chad, Jessica and Ezra (he turned 3 March 4<sup>th</sup>) came for a visit while they were in transition to their new home in N. West Arkansas. Chad is now serving the Arkansas State Convention as a church-planting strategist. Dean & Angie celebrated 20 years of marriage on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lydia (our granddaughter) turned 13 on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Chad & Jessica had their 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It was a great week!

During our February retreat at home, Charlie developed a kidney stone. We thought he passed it; however, he did not. On Wednesday, **March 9<sup>th</sup>**, he had the stone surgically removed. We began a **retreat at home March 10 – 13** (a **KY pastor** cancelled on the 9<sup>th</sup>). We hosted 3 couples: a **KY transitional pastor and wife** (he also has a vital ministry to declining and plateauing churches – their home flooded on the 9<sup>th</sup>, but they came anyway!); a **KY pastor and wife** who are serving faithfully but needed this time; and a **missionary couple** who are preparing to return to the field in April with their 3 small children. The Lord used this time to bond these couples and encourage their hearts. We had our first board meeting of the year on Monday, **March 14<sup>th</sup>**. Our children and grandchildren are home for Easter.

During the celebration of our Lord's resurrection, we rejoice with Paul in 2 Corinthians 2:14: "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ." All thanks to Him and our sincere appreciation to you for joining with us in serving our Lord and Savior.

*Suzanne and Charlie*



# Retreat Testimonies

As a minister working with multiple churches and traveling, my wife and I do not always get time together. This retreat was a beautiful mix of time alone as well as interacting with the other couples. Every ministry couple needs this opportunity.

We came to this retreat looking for a time of rest and encouragement. We've been in fulltime ministry for 1 ½ years as a church planter in a very difficult place. God has truly blessed us with fruitful ministry; however, the laborers have been few. In the midst of this new ministry, we are dealing with hurt from previous pastors with whom we have served (major integrity problems). This retreat was a place for us to get away and unplug and clear our heads for a few days. The prayer time with Charlie and Suzanne was our favorite part of the retreat. To have someone listen and pray over our needs meant so much to us. We loved the wonderful meals as well as the ride on the boat! It was a blessing to just rest and not have an agenda.

SHOR Ministries goes above and beyond to provide a beautiful, serene setting that enables couples to relax. We needed this retreat to be refreshed and reconnected with each other. With all of the demands of ministry, SHOR provides a safe environment for couples to unwind. Sometimes all of us wonder, "Who pastors the pastor and his wife?" SHOR does that and so much more! Everything from the hosts, to the accommodations, to the food was done with excellence. Thank you for loving pastors and specifically for loving us!

It is often very difficult to humble ourselves and be served! We are much more comfortable in the role of servant, but sometimes we must take the space to sit at the feet of Jesus and worship. We need time to honestly, deeply connect with our spouse. This retreat created that space for us. We were truly blessed by our prayer and ministry time and the hospitable attitude with no agenda or expectations. What a treasure!

My wife and I were in a really good place when we came to the retreat. We have been in a healthy church for the last 18 months, but in prior years we were in a very unhealthy church. We have 5 kids from 14 – 21 so we do worry about their walk with the Lord. Charlie and Suzanne spent time with us and prayed for us. The peace, hope, and joy this week brought to us will never be forgotten.

As a ministry family, it is a very humbling thing to be ministered to. We have been reminded of our need for rest and retreat from the demands of ministry. We are encouraged by the care and compassion that has been demonstrated towards us. The prayer time, the chance to fellowship with others, and the fact that all of the retreat was offered at no cost meant so much to us.

Finding time to get away, just the two of us, can be very challenging with work and church schedules. Not only is time hard to find, but also having funds available to get away is not always realistic. Having an opportunity to get away and be ministered to at no cost was a tremendous gift and blessing. The last church where we served wounded us greatly. We had been experiencing things and feelings we felt bad about. Then we were able to meet with other pastors and wives who had been wounded in ministry before, too. They were able to encourage us and help us to see that the things we were experiencing were normal. What a comfort to us! The constant heartfelt service of the SHOR team made us feel so special.

We live overseas and very seldom have time away or quiet. We also do not have chances to be alone as husband and wife without children. This retreat allowed us to get some much-needed rest as well as the opportunity to spend uninterrupted time with the Lord. This was particularly important for my wife since our children need her from sun up to sun down! The timing of this retreat was good for us to refocus at the end of our furlough and hectic traveling / speaking schedule. As a result of this retreat and the generous giving of the donors to SHOR, we have been refreshed and renewed in a way we could not have provided for ourselves.

I have been experiencing tremendous stress in many areas of my life and ministry. Sometimes the only thing that really helps is getting away from it to completely relax. This retreat allowed us to do that, and it has been a blessing.

The SHOR retreat came at a critical time in our lives. Spending time with you and other ministers has been so refreshing. It was awesome to see God work in direct answer to our prayers, and a stronghold of the devil pulled down during our time with you. It is obvious to us that God orchestrated the whole event!

## Blessings!

Our genuine gratitude to our special friends Dale and Theresa Borgfeld for all you do when we are at 5 D Ranch each January.

Sincere appreciation to the Dlugosch family for their generosity in providing the wonderful ranch for our group. Special thanks to Dave for sharing his house with us. We love you, Patty & Dwayne. You are all such a blessing!

A BIG thanks to Jim & Debby Davenport for helping us cook and serve for the January retreat. You two are the best!

Heartfelt thanks to Pastor Bobby Williams and the wonderful folks at Hickory Grove Baptist Church for allowing us to share in your Valentine's Banquet. Our gratitude to Lee Ann Spradlin for including Suzanne in the Spring semester for the Pastors' Wives' class at Mid-America Seminary. We are thankful for these opportunities to share the Word.

Loving appreciation to Ron and Debbie Moore, our brother and sister in ministry, who blessed us and the couples in S. Alabama more than we could ever say. You are special!

**MANY, MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PRAYS FOR  
AND SUPPORTS THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY!**

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ *For the upcoming retreats in Branson MO, Blue Ridge, GA, Roanoke W. VA, and at home. These are all booked full.*
- ◆ *For the couples the Lord is bringing to us both through retreats and in crisis situations. We need the Lord's guidance as we meet with these folks, and they covet your prayers.*
- ◆ *We continue to ask the Lord for 500 individuals or churches to give \$20 or more a month to support the ministry. A broad base of regular donors makes a huge difference. (We average 185 donors a year)*
- ◆ *Charlie's struggle with this kidney stone episode has taken a toll on him. Please pray for our health. Dr. Gray continues to have some "light-headedness." We are taking him to physical therapy. Mrs. Voncille is stable, and we are thanking the Lord!*

## Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 4 – 7	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
April 11	Speaking: Suzanne	MABTS, Memphis TN
April 21 – 24	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
May 9 – 12	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA
May 28 – June 1	Preaching: Charlie / Dr.Gray	Mansfield LA
June 9 – 12	SHOR retreat	Roanoke W VA
July TBA	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
August 14 – 17	SHOR retreat	Grand Junction CO
September 2 – 5	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
September 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Boise ID
October 4 – 11	Missions trip	Sedona AZ
October 17 – 20	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA
November 3 – 6	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
November TBA	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?

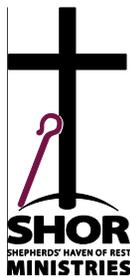
- ✦ How to know when I am still leading well and when I am becoming a hindrance to this full-time church
- ✦ My greatest need is to walk and serve in the strength of the Lord. I have dealt with criticism on how I communicate ideas for change from several and felt challenged in my leadership.
- ✦ Apathy and unreal expectations
- ✦ Healing from hurtful situations and resisting bitterness in my heart
- ✦ A new vision for our church

What are your wife's greatest needs?

- / Refreshment and renewal spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Our family lives under the dark cloud of drug addiction (son). My wife is worn down.
- / She needs a refreshing and time away from the pressures of church and her business. She needs an opportunity to talk freely and safely with others about issues that may be on her heart.
- / She needs to be healed from what seems like constant hurt to her so that she can trust others again
- / We have a rebellious daughter, which is exhausting; need for refreshing in her spiritual walk.

**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  
***Would you please consider helping us to help them?***



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 . . .

From *Three Emotions Pastors Bear Which Are Unknown to Most Congregants* by Erik Reed (LifeWay, Nov. 23, 2015)

As I seek to outline a few things pastors feel emotionally as they labor, I want to assure you we are not all emotional misfits. There are incredible moments we experience in pastoring which remind us, while we could do other things with our lives, this is the calling God has given us. Pastoring is not all smiles, rainbows, and cupcakes. And to be completely honest, sometimes it downright hurts. In a decade of pastoring I have experienced the gamut of emotions and difficulties. I can speak directly about the things I have faced. I can also speak to things I have witnessed in other dear brothers that I am friends with or have mentored/coached. The following are three things pastors feel, and regularly work through emotionally, that most—including their congregations—are not aware of.

***Insecurity*** You may see us with a smile, but do not let it fool you. Yes, our smiles are genuine, especially if we love the church we have the privilege to lead by serving. But behind those smiles are men who sometimes feel in way over our heads. We second-guess ourselves. We wonder if we would have said something or done something differently if the outcomes would have been different. We constantly wonder, "Am I doing a good job?" We see other ministries and wonder why we are not experiencing that kind of fruit. Insecurity. We often feel the need to justify our compensation. We will rarely verbally justify it. We just work ourselves to death to justify it. And to top off all these things, we know we are dealing with eternities, souls that live forever. Who is sufficient for such things? Certainly not us.

***Misunderstood*** As a pastor who is constantly using words to communicate ideas, plans, and truths, eventually someone will mischaracterize or misinterpret something we say or do. We often say things people do not like to hear. People like to size us up fairly quickly or make character judgments, without even knowing us. Sometimes as pastors we have to make decisions or hard calls. There are situations when we have information that informs our decision and knowledge others do not have, but we are not at liberty to share. In some cases, people question every motive we have for every decision we make. "He only wants us to give so he can have a raise." "He only wants us to invite so he can say he has a bigger church." As a pastor, one of the things I was completely unprepared for was the frequency of being mischaracterized or misunderstood and realizing that the wise thing, more times than not, was not to defend myself.

***Lonely*** I do not always feel lonely. But I do at times. The feeling of loneliness can stem from not being included in "outside the church" get-togethers. Many pastors feel lonely because they feel used. People reach out to us when they need something, or to complain about something, but never just to say "hi." I have had people complain, get upset, and leave the church because I did not call them when they lost their job. These same people, for whom I had been there for in countless situations, and personally helped financially, were not there for me or my family when we dealt with serious health issues with our son. Again, people expect us to be there for them, but often feel no responsibility to be there for us. That can be a lonely place.

***Why did I write this?*** I want my pastor brothers to know they are not alone. Keep pressing on, friends. I want congregants to encourage, honor, and bless your pastor. Even though he is imperfect, he is an extension of the love and care of Jesus to you. Be aware of the emotions he is constantly working through.