

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 15 Issue 3

July - September, 2016

## On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are beginning fall with great expectations for our upcoming retreats and ministry opportunities. In 2016, we have seen wonderful retreats and tremendous answers to prayer. So far we have held retreats in Texas, S. Alabama, Missouri, Georgia, W. Virginia, Colorado and at home in Tennessee (5). We have hosted pastors and wives from 22 states plus Canada. Their response to the retreats has been encouraging and affirming.

We had **thirty-five** friends and family members home for **Mimi and Papa's 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** the last of June. It was a great celebration for all of us! At the end of June our ministry assistant, **Sheri Buse**, who did all of the paperwork for us, moved to Florida (she has been with us since 2006). She will continue working a few hours a week. **Judy Snider**, who has been helping Suzanne with the cooking (as well as other aspects of the ministry), has assumed some of the office duties. Please pray for all of us as we transition many responsibilities. We are tremendously blessed with these two ladies!

The **first part of July**, Charlie and Suzanne took some time off together at home to prepare for the second half of the year. We were also able to catch up with some Biblical guidance situations during this time. God is at work, and we are praising Him! In the early morning hours of **Monday, July 11**, our electrical substation exploded and burned. For several days we had power outages and power surges significantly affecting our office work. Although the company threatened mandatory blackouts, we did not experience any. However, because of the inability to cool our home adequately, we hosted these **4 couples** in the **July 28 – 31 retreat** at a local hotel in **Collierville, TN**: a *bi-vocational TN pastor and wife* who are serving faithfully but needed time away together and fellowship with other ministry folks; an *Indiana pastor and wife* who are making major decisions about her job and their future ministry (**he was terminated the Wednesday after they got home – please pray for them**); a *Virginia assoc. pastor and wife* who just resigned their church (they are unsure of the Lord's direction for the future); and a *MO pastor and wife* who are stretched thin between work and ministry and family (they needed encouragement and fellowship). The **Wyoming church planter and family** who spent sabbatical time in Memphis June and July returned back to Casper on August 7<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed our time with them as the Lord allowed them to strengthen their family and take time away. Since returning to Wyoming, they have seen 3 people come to Christ!

We traveled to **Grand Junction, CO**, on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> to begin a retreat on Sunday afternoon, the 14<sup>th</sup>. We hosted **5 couples**: a *Colorado pastor and wife* needing to

slow down and rest (he serves our convention faithfully as well as his church that is currently in a building program); an *Arizona pastor and wife* who have a disabled daughter and are making decisions about their future ministry; a *Montana Dir. Of Missions and his wife* who are *moving to Maryland* in October (they needed time to reflect and to consider options for the future); a *Utah pastor and wife* who are missionaries to Mormons and are very isolated (they needed Christian fellowship); and a *Colorado pastor and wife* serving faithfully but needing time away together. Another local *church planter and wife* spent time with us during the retreat (he lost both of his parents in Ohio this last year). The fellowship and prayer times with these couples was a true blessing. **Dr. Gray** (Papa) started teaching two classes in evangelism at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis on **Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**. He is thoroughly enjoying his time with students and sharing his passion for winning souls. We are blessed that he still has the zeal to teach and is able to do so at 92 years of age! Charlie and Suzie made a quick trip to **Tuscaloosa AL Wednesday, August 24 – Thursday, August 25** to visit a **potential retreat site**. We met with a wonderful Christian woman who has a heart for pastors and wives, and we were encouraged. On **Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**, Papa (Dr. Gray) preached the homecoming service at **Providence Baptist Church**. It was a joy to hear him share on Faith from Hebrews 11. We took a wonderful caregiver who helps with Mimi with us to church (she has recently committed her life to Christ). 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 sweet group! By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in **Branson MO** with 4 couples from Oklahoma, N. Mexico, Arkansas, and Canada. We will share specifics of this retreat next time!

In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul says: "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began." Thank the Lord for His salvation and for His calling. How blessed we are to serve a mighty God! We love you all --

*Suzanne and Charlie*



# Retreat Testimonies

The retreat was exactly as presented: no charge and no agenda, which continues to surprise the attendees. The attentiveness to the guest is unequalled. Charlie, Suzanne, and Judy were hospitable from the moment we arrived. They met us at our car and helped us with our bags, and then waved goodbye as we drove away. The atmosphere was very relaxed, and we truly felt free to use our time as we saw fit. Spending time with the group at dinner was very enjoyable. We met new friends in the ministry that will forever be on our hearts. The conversation at the dinner table was light and fun as stories were shared and friendships forged. The prayer time with Charlie and Suzanne was our favorite time. They were both so attentive to our individual needs. They listened carefully and then offered compassionate insight for each situation. It is very evident that they both have walked where we are walking.

We appreciate the opportunity to step away from the day to day demands of ministry and to experience some solitude with each other. Sharing our story with Charlie and Suzanne, two caring and wise listeners, has encouraged us and refreshed us for the future. Our prayer time with them will be a special memory for us. The meals were “over the top,” and Judy did an amazing job!

After arriving back in the states permanently from mission work overseas, it was hard to find my “place.” To understand what God’s next assignment for me was: where, how, etc. Taking the retirement package (VRI) was a fast decision and though God brought peace in that, the future steps were vague. I feel I have been “running” and this retreat invitation was like a precious open armed love gift from God to come aside to a quiet place with Him. To just be able to read His word, talk with Him, listen for long amounts of time, and feel His loving-kindness and comfort was wonderful. I did not realize how much I truly needed this until I was here.

We were pleasantly surprised about the uniqueness of SHOR. This ministry understands the need for a pastor and his wife to spend time alone and with God. While we understand this to be necessary, it is seldom done. Most retreats keep you too busy with an itinerary. We enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere with no expectations, no schedule, and the amazing meals.

This week was an unexpected blessing. Life crowds in and before you know it you are on the never-ending treadmill with no end in sight. The retreat is like a cocoon of rest. It is like stopping the rat race for a time so that you can take a moment to focus on what is truly meaningful. It allows you to reset your life compass. Thank you for the wonderful blessing.

This retreat was well timed because of some volatile situations in terms of ministry leadership in our church. Charlie and Suzanne are a wonderful, experienced ministry couple who both encouraged us to continue faithfully in our own ministries. They also helped us to focus on what was most important in allowing the Holy Spirit to lead in our church as well as our own lives. We are excited to see how God will use this renewal and refocusing of our lives for the advancement of His kingdom. Thank you so much for such wonderful service, laughter, and love.

We were in need of this retreat for healing. We were tired, and we needed encouragement and rest. Through our time together God showed us His sweetness, His mercy and grace. He also revealed to us we were damaged, but not destroyed. As we walked back through our journey over the past 17 years, and more recently the last four or so, we were able to do so without the anger and frustration that was so very present prior to our coming. We leave knowing we still need to continue the process and journey of healing, but have moved past the anger stage. This is a good God thing! Thank you for this time and for the freedom to feel without judgment. Many thanks to Judy for all she did to make the meals so wonderful.

My wife and I did not know how much we needed to get away until we got here. The fellowship with the other pastoral couples was encouraging, the time spent with Charlie and Suzanne was uplifting, and the time spent together as a couple was refreshing. Thank you, SHOR, for an amazing experience!

The last several months have been stressful and a challenge to both of us. This retreat provided an opportunity to rest, reconnect, and fellowship with like-minded pastors and their wives. The prayer time meant the most to us. This retreat was a true blessing.

## Blessings!

Heartfelt thanks to both Sheri Buse and Judy Snider for all the behind the scenes work they do to make SHOR run smoothly. We love you both and continually thank the Lord for blessing us with your sweet servants’ spirits.

Sincere appreciation to Rebeccah Howard for working with us to relocate the July retreat to the Marriott Hotel in Collierville TN. You are a sweetheart!

A BIG thanks to Mid-America Seminary for providing missionary housing for those who are in need of a respite.

Our genuine gratitude to Mike and Kelly Banks for connecting us to the wonderful Bed and Breakfast in Grand Junction where we hosted our August retreat. We love you!

Special thanks to Nesha Smelley for hosting us in your wonderful home and encouraging our hearts.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GIVE TO MAKE SHOR POSSIBLE!**

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ *For the upcoming retreats in Branson MO, Blue Ridge GA, and Warrensburg NY, and at home. Couples share that there is a real spiritual battle against their taking time to enrich their spiritual walk and their marriages.*
- ◆ *For the couples we are working with in Biblical guidance situations. We need God's leadership as we come alongside those who are hurting.*
- ◆ *We are losing the place we have used in S. Texas in January. We are constantly on the look-out for strategic locations where we can host 4 couples plus us. We know the Lord has the places, and we are asking him to continue to provide. Travel and food costs continue to rise so we ask for His provision for these as well.*
- ◆ *Early on Friday morning, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, our dear friend and board member's wife, Joan O'Kelley, went home to be with the Lord. Bro. Jack has served on our SHOR board since April of 2002 when we began. Mrs. Joan has prepared numerous desserts and helped Suzanne in many ways. We love her dearly. Charlie had the great privilege of sharing at her memorial service on Sunday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Please hold Bro. Jack close in your prayers. They were married for 65 years and have been members of Bartlett Baptist for over 60 years.*
- ◆ *Suzanne has a wonderful opportunity to go with Kirby Woods Baptist Church in October to speak to pastors' wives on Friday night and to a women's retreat on Saturday. We are hoping to make good contacts in Arizona for the future. Charlie will stay home to help with Mimi and Papa. We would both appreciate your prayers for this time.*
- ◆ *Please pray for our spiritual walk and sensitivity to the Lord's leadership, our physical strength and stamina, and for traveling mercies. The fall is a very busy time of year.*

# Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
October 4 - 11	Missions trip	Sedona AZ
October 17 - 20	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA
November 3 - 6	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
November 13 - 17	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
<b>New for 2017!!</b>		
January 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
February 8 - 11	SHOR retreat	Gulf Shores AL
February 23 - 26	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
March TBA	SHOR retreat	Toledo Bend LA
Spring semester (Mondays)	MABTS teaching	Memphis TN (Suzanne)

# To Think About . . .

The following are excerpts from retreat applications of some 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?*

- ✦ We are wrapping up a year of battling breast cancer. While I did not preach for 3 months, I still ministered in many ways. I am tired physically, spiritually and emotionally.
- ✦ Our church split October of 2015. I am so discouraged, and several leaders in the church are also struggling with discouragement. Few workers are overworked and do not see any fruit from their labors.
- ✦ Our biggest struggle for years now has been financially. Finances are one of the reasons why we had to step down in April. We could not survive - trying to build a new business that could take care of us financially and continuing to do all the things at the church was too much. I had open heart surgery in December and physically I just couldn't keep up with everything.

*What are your wife's greatest needs?*

- ♥ Job! She's been unemployed for over a year; Encouragement; Time away from hardships.
- ♥ She wants to receive clarity on what God wants us to do at this point in our lives. She is under a lot of strain.
- ♥ For the past year and a half, my relationship with our oldest son especially is not good! I need to talk to SOMEONE that will help me deal with this.



Charlie & Suzanne Grigsby  
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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

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## Did you know . . .

From *Lifeway Research* (Jan. 12, 2016) by Lisa Cannon Green

### Among pastors who left the ministry before age 65:

TOP 5 ANSWERS: Why you left the pastorate –

- |    |                      |     |
|----|----------------------|-----|
| 1) | Change in calling    | 40% |
| 2) | Conflict in a church | 25% |
| 3) | Burnout              | 15% |
| 4) | Personal finances    | 12% |
| 5) | Family issues        | 12% |

No sabbatical. No help with counseling. No clear picture of what's expected. Hundreds of former senior pastors say these were the crucial elements missing from the final churches they led before quitting the pastorate. A recent study by LifeWay Research points to ways churches can encourage pastors to stay in the ministry, said Ed Stetzer, Executive Director of the Nashville-based research organization. "Almost half of those who left the pastorate said their church wasn't doing any of the kinds of things that would help," Stetzer said. "Having clear documents, offering a sabbatical rest, and having people help with weighty counseling cases are key things experts tell us ought to be in place." LifeWay Research surveyed 734 former senior pastors who left the pastorate before retirement age in four Protestant denominations. Trouble begins early, the survey indicates, with 48 percent of the former pastors saying the search team didn't accurately describe the church before their arrival. . . Most expected conflict to arise, and it did—56 percent clashed over changes they proposed, and 54 percent say they experienced a significant personal attack. Yet nearly half (48 percent) say their training didn't prepare them to handle the people side of ministry. . . Though almost two-thirds (63 percent) spent more than a decade as a senior pastor, they eventually moved on—most to another ministry role other than senior pastor (52 percent) but 29 percent to non-ministry work.

Forty percent say they left the pastorate because of a change in calling. They also cite such issues as church conflict (25%), burnout (19%), personal finances (12%) and family issues (12%). "These things are interrelated," Stetzer said. "If you're burning out, chances are when conflict arises you're not going to respond well, and that will make the conflict worse." . . . *Current and former pastors agree the job is demanding: 84 percent of current pastors and 83 percent of former pastors say they feel on call 24 hours a day, while 48 percent of each group say the demands of ministry often feel like more than they can handle.*

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