

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 16 Issue 1

January - March, 2017

On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

I had a reflective moment as I typed "Volume 16" on the top of this newsletter! It seems unbelievable that we have completed 15 years with SHOR Ministries. We often talk about all the wonderful people we have met: pastors and wives, missionaries, owners of the places we use for retreats, and church folks who have been so gracious to help out, pray, and support the work. We are so blessed to have served together these years and to get a glimpse of all the Lord is doing across the country among His people.

January began with a ton of paperwork to close out 2016 and a much-needed deep house cleaning. Although Mimi and Papa (next door) are suffering through the aging process (90 and 92 now), they are stable. We are SO grateful. Papa did not miss a single day of teaching in the fall at Mid-America – his 45th year to inspire young ministry students in Personal Evangelism!

I am told that our newsletters are too "wordy" so I am trying to put things in more readable form for you. We have had a GREAT start to the year with these retreats:

Jan. 19 - 22 at home: we hosted a **bi-vocational AL pastor and wife** faithfully serving their church & running a chicken farm (they work hard); and a **TN church planter and wife** who run non-stop & face financial challenges (they have a great opportunity to buy a church building – please ask the Lord to provide the needed funds). **Two couples (MS and TN)** canceled the week of the retreat (one in cancer treatments – please pray for Rick; and the other with family needs).

Feb. 8 – 11 at Gulf Shores, AL: an **Iowa Dir. Of Missions and his wife** who are facing decisions about retirement (they have served faithfully for over 30 years); an **AL pastor and wife** who have experienced church conflict (she has health issues; they are coping well making changes in their church, but needed encouragement); and a **MS pastor and wife** experiencing challenges in their marriage and ministry. A **LA pastor** lost the oldest member of his church and was not able to come. A **KY assoc. pastor and wife** drove 10 hours to help serve and cook alongside us. They are a tremendous encouragement to the couples and to us!

Feb. 23 – 26 at home: a **Missouri pastor and wife** seeking the Lord's will for a new ministry position in Oklahoma; an **Alabama pastor and wife** serving faithfully, but dealing with several key church issues; and a **local TN pastor and wife** dealing with family issues and decisions in their ministry.

By the time you receive this letter, we will have completed our 4th retreat at **Toledo Bend Lake** in Louisiana (March 20 – 23) with 4 couples from **TX (2), LA, and AR**. Since I have to complete the newsletter before this trip, I will share details in the next newsletter.

We have continued to work with couples outside of retreats. Here is an overview of those contacts:

Answered prayer:	18
Church needs / conflict:	35
Counseling needs:	18
Deaths:	22
Encouragement:	52
Family needs / issues:	45
Financial needs:	11
God's will:	11
Health issues:	39
Marriage:	16
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions:	38
New ministry opportunities:	13
Prayer needs:	39
Termination:	6

We also dealt with Abortion, Anxiety, Burnout, Cancer, Currently out of ministry, Depression, Discouragement, Divorce, Drug Addiction, Eating disorder, Grief issues, Leadership, Mental health, New Baby, Panic Attacks, Pregnancy Issues, Reconciliation, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Retirement needs, Sabbatical, Staff needs, Surgeries, and Time Management.

These contacts are really the heart of the ministry as we walk with couples to encourage them to stay the course. We have seen the Lord do some wonderful things: a **seminary couple** has seen healing in their family; a **SC assoc. pastor** who was terminated is now serving in a pastorate and *loving it*; an **IMB missionary** who had to return to the states for cancer treatments is now clear and back on the field; an **IMB missionary's son** had a moral failure, but has had a breakthrough. God is good!

Suzanne has been teaching the **Monday night pastors' wives' class at Mid-America seminary** on Counseling. She has over 30 young women and is enjoying every minute!

In Romans 13:15 Paul says: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." We love you and thank the Lord for you!

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

This was a wonderful getaway! Just having down time with no decisions or pressures, having alone time together and time to reflect on just how good God is. What an amazing ministry! We are so thankful we were able to experience it. The prayer time was amazing! We enjoyed meeting new friends and learning about their ministries.

This retreat was a lifeline for us. We had been swallowed up by ministry and forgot how to slow down and take a breath. Ministry demands had stretched us negatively, and the worst thing was we didn't even realize it. Spending time with Bro. Charlie and Suzanne refreshed, refilled, and refueled our marriage. It was SO needed. The time with Dr. Gray Allison was the icing on the cake. We have been renewed, and *the fire is back*.

We are so busy in ministry and that can be very stressful. We don't take time off because of finances. Being able to attend the SHOR retreat was such a blessing! We have never been anywhere that we could totally relax and be ministered to like this. The hosts took care of EVERYTHING! We were pampered. The hosts listened to us and encouraged us – something that never happens to ministry families. It was so refreshing. This touched our hearts. We go back to our church very encouraged.

We have experienced a great deal of transition in a short amount of time. It was good to be in an environment where we could share our feelings related to those transitions and think through future plans. We felt valued by the leaders and other couples who listened to our stories as we listened to theirs. Building new relationships and helping us sort out “what's next” was extremely helpful. The prayer time with Charlie and Suzanne meant a lot to us. We would encourage others to participate in a retreat such as this. Thank you SO much for this time!

We have been searching for something like SHOR ministries for a long time. We needed a retreat, but we just could not afford it. This was a Godsend! Being part of a small group was encouraging. It was so evident how much we were cared for. We were given the opportunity to share our hearts freely. We thank God for SHOR Ministries. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

This retreat was so much more than I expected. It was not “head” heavy on teaching. There wasn't a rigorous schedule to follow. They catered to you, they encouraged you, they were transparent with you, and it was phenomenal. My wife and I shared that this ministry is so valuable and needed, that if I had it, I would give them a million dollars every year! Charlie and Suzanne make a good team and have hearts full of love for ministry couples. I pray the Lord Jesus Christ continues to bless them, this ministry, and their families (and Judy and Kevin, too)!

This was our first time away from our church since being their pastor. I did not realize how badly we needed this time together without the normal pressures we deal with as a pastor. I have always had a problem relaxing, however, these past few days have been very relaxing and such a blessing. The time to “let down” and listen to everyone with their unique situations was special. We enjoyed the prayer time with Charlie and Suzanne. This retreat challenged my wife and me to spend more quality time together to recharge our spiritual batteries in the future.

Getting away from the frustrations of church life was greatly needed. Having a place to go, to get away in a peaceful atmosphere was wonderful. It was good to fellowship with other pastors and wives. Being able to freely share our hearts was encouraging. Being served by Charlie, Suzanne and Judy was humbling and a great blessing.

As pastors and ministry leaders we all know that money is tight as well as time. So, often we feel almost guilty if we leave our ministry for any other opportunity; but in reality, we need time away to be refreshed and renewed so that we can better minister to our people. Charlie and Suzanne invest so much time loving on us and praying for us. It is a huge blessing. I wish every pastor and wife could experience a retreat like this – it is truly wonderful!

THANK YOU for providing a much-needed respite from the demands of ministry and family. This has been a roller-coaster year for us, and it hardly seemed like there was time to catch our breath. This retreat provided just the physical, spiritual, and emotional renewal we badly needed. No worry about the cost made it possible for us. Our zeal for ministry has returned.

Blessings!

Loving appreciation to our dear friends Ron and Debbie Moore who walk with us and encourage us. Your love for pastors and their wives and your precious servants' spirits are refreshing to our souls

Heartfelt thanks to Lee Ann Spradlin and Susan Thompson for the opportunity for Suzanne to teach on Monday nights at Mid-America. Getting to know the new generation of ministry wives is exciting!

Our genuine gratitude to the Kingsman and Pathfinders classes at Bartlett Baptist (Charlie pastored there 1996 – 2002) for loving on and encouraging us. We are more grateful than we can say.

Special thanks to Bruce and Sylvia Haines for allowing us to get away at their home – we love you both!

One of the hardest things for us is never seeing so many of you who make SHOR Ministries possible. Please know how grateful we are to all of you who pray and give. It makes a difference!

Prayer Needs

- ◆ *For the upcoming retreats in Toledo Bend, LA; Branson, MO; W. Virginia and at home. We rarely have a couple that doesn't have a hard time leaving home and ministry to come to a retreat. Please pray for the Lord to protect this special time for them.*
- ◆ *For the couples we are walking alongside in Biblical guidance situations. Specifically right now two precious couples are experiencing difficult problems with their pregnancies. Both lost babies last year. Please join us in prayer for them.*
- ◆ *We are working on the second half of the year retreats for 2017. Our granddaughter, Sydney, in Columbus OH will be a senior this next year. We need to plan carefully not to miss a major event for her as well as making sure Dr. Gray and Mrs. Voncille are cared for. Charlotte's father in law, Errol Miller, passed away last November. Her mother in law is having health issues so sometimes it is impossible for her to come help. Please pray for wisdom.*
- ◆ *Please pray for the remaining weeks of the Monday night class on counseling that Suzanne is leading at Mid-America Seminary. There is SO much material and so little time! (March 27, April 10, and April 24)*
- ◆ *There are a number of churches struggling with declining membership as well as finances. Hard decisions are being made in many of these. Please pray for revival!*
- ◆ *Please pray for us to be spiritually growing and challenged, physically strong with good stamina, and empowered with God's wisdom as we serve.*

Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 20 – 23	SHOR retreat	Toledo Bend Lake LA
April 17 - 20	SHOR retreat	Branson MO
May 16 - 19	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
June 4 – 7	SHOR retreat	Roanoke W. VA
Spring semester (Mondays)	MABTS teaching	Memphis TN (Suzanne)
July TBA	SHOR retreat	Collierville, TN
August 14 - 17	SHOR retreat	Branson, MO
September 1 – 4	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
September 19 – 22	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA
October 10 – 13	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
November TBA	SHOR retreats	Warrensburg NY

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?

- ✦ Burn out; lack of results in ministry; work load
- ✦ Staying fresh in ministry after 30 years; growing leaders and enlisting servants
- ✦ To be restored and renewed, both physically and spiritually, because I am at the point of burn out. Primarily, to hear the voice of God!
- ✦ Disappointment and hurt; healing and restoration
- ✦ We haven't had a real vacation since 2009. To allow my wife and me to be able to talk, refresh plans/dreams and goals for our marriage, family and to evaluate ministry plans and strategies.

What are your wife's greatest needs?

- ♥ She is experiencing fear, anger, and many hurts; she needs healing and time to recover
- ♥ She is involved in everything, and though our people are caring, she does not see much support for what is done.
- ♥ She needs some time with no expectations or demands on her time from others: no sick dad to care for, or grandkids to watch, or church responsibilities for a few days.
- ♥ We have 3 kids (the oldest just turned 4). She is in a tough season of life right now, especially with the increased demands on me. It is hard being a church planter's wife in a growing church. She needs time away with the Lord and with her husband.



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
- 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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Did you know . . .

People often ask us why the ministry is more difficult today. Here are some cultural insights from Thom Rainer (Lifeway Resources, *Growing healthy churches together*, March, 2014) that may help frame these challenges:

. . . The American culture has shifted dramatically in a relatively short period. The United States is becoming more like an international mission field. . . All of these areas are key to reaching our new and challenging culture.

A new language. If a pastor or church staff member does not "speak" social media, he or she is neglecting one of the fastest growing trends. It is not a fad, but a primary means of communication.

A non-Christian culture. Our nation is fast becoming a non-Christian nation. While we lament the relative decline in the numbers who follow Christ, we must also accept the reality that those in our community cannot be assumed to be like us, or to hold our values.

A new work/life balance. Pastors and church staff members have always been on call 24/7. But now they are **connected** 24/7 as well with computers, smart phones, and other technological advances. For better or worse, *the world of work and personal life is becoming increasingly blurred.*

Unregenerate church members. Cultural Christians are those who really know they are not believers, but are affiliated with churches for cultural reasons. But another group includes those who may cognitively assert a belief in Christ, but have really not had a conversion. But we are seeing the cumulative cost of weak discipleship and false conversions in our churches.

Less automatic cultural respect of church leaders. In past years, those who held the title of "pastor" or some similar nomenclature were revered in the community just by the position they held. Such is not the case today. Respect must be earned one day at a time.

A more critical world. Many pastors and church staff members do not deal well with the more transparent and critical world in which we live. Some retreat to a form of passivity or paths of least resistance. And some quit altogether.

More churches in need of revitalization. As many as nine out of ten of our churches are in need of some level of major revitalization. There are tens of thousands of these churches, and the implications for equipping leaders for them are vast.

Rainer continues, "I see this new reality and this new mission field as a great opportunity. It's a new and challenging reality requiring a missional mindset. It requires total dependence on the One who sends us to the mission field. And that is exactly where God wants us."

Would you please consider helping us to help them?