

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 16 Issue 2

April - June, 2017

On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

What a glorious spring we have had this year! The retreats continue to be a blessing to those who attend – praise the Lord. We are seeing the Lord work in various situations outside of retreats as well, and we are thanking Him.

We hosted a **retreat** the end of March at **Toledo Bend Lake** with 4 couples: an **AR pastor and wife** who had a challenging 2016 in the ministry; a **LA pastor and wife** experiencing complete burn-out (he resigned from his church March 26); a **TX assoc. pastor and wife** who have served faithfully for 30 years at their church (they celebrated their wedding anniversary with us); and a **TX Hispanic pastor and wife** also experiencing burnout. The Davenport's lake house is a beautiful setting, and Jim & Debby do a great job helping us serve and with the meals.

Angie and her family came home for the week of spring break. We had dear friends from California in for a visit. We also hosted a couple from **GA** who are planning to **begin a ministry** for pastors and their families. They spent a day "picking our brains" about SHOR, and what we have learned over the last 15 years. We are praying the Lord will continue to raise up ministries in each state to serve ministry families.

In April, we hosted a **retreat in Branson MO** with **4 couples**: an **Arkansas pastor and wife** serving faithfully but needing a break; an **Iowa pastor and wife** dealing with some family issues; an **Oklahoma pastor and wife** seeking God's will for future ministry; and an **Illinois pastor and wife** who needed time away after he had a heart attack and bypass surgery. God has answered prayer in their lives, and we are so grateful. After this retreat, we traveled to **Columbus OH** to see Sydney's play, *Mary Poppins*. It was special for us to visit at their new home. After returning to Memphis, Charlie and Suzanne both answered questions posed by her **Monday night Class on April 24th** to complete the semester teaching on Counseling. Although she has taught this class before, this was by far the best. The girls interacted so well. We are praying this will be good preparation for these ladies as they go out to serve around the world.

In May, we hosted a **retreat at home** with 4 couples: a young **MS pastor and wife** asking the Lord to prompt their church to seek growth and Kingdom vision; a **KY assoc. pastor and wife** (he has some undiagnosed medical problems significantly affecting him --- please pray as the DRs work to diagnose him); a **TN church planter and wife** preparing for a new church start; and an **AL inner city pastor and wife** celebrating their wedding anniversary and needing some time away together. This was a great week! Charlie took Dr. Gray (Papa) to Mansfield LA to preach in a **Bible Conference over Memorial Day weekend**. They both had a great time (pretty

remarkable now that Papa is 93!).

Because of the timing of getting this letter to the printer, we will share about the **W. VA retreat** in the next newsletter. We hosted couples from Oklahoma, W. Virginia, and Tennessee.

This quarter, we have continued to work with couples outside of retreats. Here is an overview of those contacts:

Answered prayer:	27
Church needs / conflict:	25
Counseling needs:	47
Deaths:	14
Encouragement:	78
Family needs / issues:	57
Financial needs:	15
God's will:	19
Health issues:	48
Marriage:	7
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions:	23
New ministry opportunities:	7
Prayer needs:	34
Termination:	5

We also dealt with Adoption, Burnout, Cancer, Currently out of ministry, Depression, Discipleship, Discouragement, Divorce, Grief issues, Leadership, Legal issues, New Baby, Pregnancy Issues, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Retirement needs, Spiritual growth, Staff needs, Surgeries, and Time Management.

These contacts continue to be the heart of the ministry as we walk with couples to help them to stay the course. God has been specifically answering prayer. Here is one great way the Lord has worked (a note we received from a pastor who was in a retreat last year – we've been praying for this son for months): **"Our son is clean (since Jan.12) and safe at home with us. He works hard each day for a bricklayer and attends church each Sun. Amen! God is blessing him. Continue to pray for genuine salvation and transformation that brings God GLORY!"**

Today we read in Psalm 100:2: "Serve the Lord with gladness." We have never been more grateful for the opportunity of serving Him. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. We love you!

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

What a blessing this retreat has been! Charlie and Suzanne have ministered to, loved, and supported our family for a number of years. Their words of encouragement, love, prayers and concern have always helped us to get through many things over the years. We came here hurting and having to make some very hard decisions. This time with them to talk through things helped so much. And the healing process was started. We pray God will continue to bless this ministry.

We are so grateful for SHOR Ministries for giving us this time to get away and be refreshed. We needed time to pray over past, present, and future decisions. We were in need of spiritual, physical, and emotional rest. This break from “doing ministry” while being ministered to has encouraged our hearts in a tremendous way. The team loved on us, had precious servants’ hearts, spoiled us, fed us wonderful meals, provided a beautiful place, encouraged each couple, and made each one of us feel so special. The time of prayer with each couple blessed us more than they will ever know. We ask the Lord’s blessings on this ministry, on the couples who touched us here, and on those of you who give to make it all possible.

The Lord made a way for us to get to come to this retreat – this time and this special place. We needed “down time” – rest, relaxation, and spending time outdoors. This provided true renewal for us. We made some awesome memories, new friends, and enjoyed unforgettable fellowship – a true taste of heaven on earth!

My wife and I came hurting, tired, and literally at our wits-end. Honestly, we were ready to quit ministry. We felt burned-out and unappreciated by our ministry team. After asking twice for a sabbatical, the Lord opened the door at SHOR for us to come to a retreat. From the moment Suzanne opened the front door, we felt embraced and loved. The presence of the Spirit of the Lord was so evident. Everything was awesome: the fellowship, delicious food, the accommodations, the hospitality, and getting to know and sharing with other pastors who, basically were going through the same things we were experiencing. It was all so helpful and refreshing. We feel restored and encouraged.

We have not been able to totally get away for almost 8 years. I am bi-vocational so between finances and schedules, I just could not manage it. When we have tried to take a break, it has been a “stay-cation” or with family. This retreat has been badly needed. Suzanne & Charlie consistently communicated value, support, and understanding of our hurts, struggles, joys, and concerns both for our family and our church. We had time to rest, pray, talk and enjoy one another. We appreciated that there was no instruction, correction, or training; just love, support, and encouragement. We deeply appreciated our prayer time, and we are so grateful to know we have another prayer warrior on our team.

This is the first time we have gotten away for a time of refreshing and relaxation in 16 years. The only trips we have taken have been working trips. This retreat was such a special time for us to enjoy each other. We needed to have fun, to laugh, to fellowship, and to rest. God is really good!

We have been in a remodel at our church (top to bottom) while continuing all of the ministries of the church. Needless to say, that made for an exhausting schedule! This retreat was such a blessing – a time of refreshing just before our upcoming revival meetings and just after a busy Easter season. God is good all the time, and we are grateful and blessed to be able to partake in such sweet fellowship and to be pampered by SHOR.

We needed this retreat to try to help us unwind and reconnect with each other. We are preparing to re-launch our ministry. The prayer time was invaluable. We gained fresh perspective and insight. The rest, the prayer, and the new friends we made meant so much to us.

We are very busy and have very little quiet time. We are constantly trying to meet the needs of others. This experience was a God-send! Being able to relax and enjoy time with each other as well as sharing with other ministry couples was wonderful. The fact that it was provided free of charge allowed us to come (personal funds were just not available). It was an amazing time for us.

Blessings!

A BIG thanks to Jim and Debby Davenport for opening their beautiful Toledo Bend Lake home for SHOR retreats. Thanks for going the extra mile in providing and helping with the meals. We love you and enjoy serving with you!

Our genuine gratitude to Larry and Nancy Pridmore and the sweet folks of Southside Baptist Church in Mansfield LA for hosting Dr. Gray (Papa) and Charlie for the Bible Conference. They both appreciated the opportunity to preach (Papa 5 times!), and the love that was shown to them. We are grateful to our friends in the area who came to share this special time with them.

Heartfelt thanks to Judy Snider (the “whatever” you need girl!), Sheri Buse, and Charlotte Miller who work with us to accomplish the every day tasks of paperwork, cooking, and serving Mimi and Papa. You girls are the best! We don’t say it enough, but we are grateful for all you do so that we are free to encourage ministry couples.

***Many, many thanks to all of you who pray
and give to make SHOR possible.***

Prayer Needs

- ◆ *For the upcoming retreats in Collierville TN, Branson MO, Blue Ridge GA, and at home. Couples tell us that actually leaving home and ministry is hard for them. Please do pray for the Lord to provide for their families and their other responsibilities so that they can take a few needed days away.*
- ◆ *For the couples the Lord brings to us struggling in different areas. *We asked for specific prayer for 2 young pastors' wives expecting babies. One pregnancy is progressing nicely (due in August). The other baby was born May 25th. Even though the baby boy has some issues, they are not nearly as severe as we expected (so far). Please do pray for these families.*
- ◆ *We continue to look for strategic places for retreats. Availability changes and so must we!*
- ◆ *We are hearing almost weekly of churches going through hard times. Many are without pastors. Finances continue to be an issue. Join us in lifting up our churches and in praying for revival.*
- ◆ *Please pray for us to walk closely with the Lord spiritually and to take care of ourselves physically. Dr. Gray turned 93 on May 7th. He and Mimi will celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary June 27th. These are precious days with them.*

Thank you: *Many thanks for praying for Suzanne as she led the Monday night Pastors' Wives' class. It was pure joy for her to share the Word as well as her ministry experiences. The girls in the class were a true blessing to her.*

Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 4 – 8	SHOR retreat	Roanoke W. VA
July 17 – 20	SHOR retreat	Collierville, TN
August 13	Missions Conference	Mobile AL
August 20 - 24	SHOR retreat	Branson, MO
September 1 – 4	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
September 18	Staff retreat	Memphis TN
September 19 – 22	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA
October 1- 4	Revival	LaFollette TN
October 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
November 3 – 7	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
November 10 - 12	SHOR retreat	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?

- + Burnout, communication, trust
- + The challenge of leading a 200-year-old church in the 21st century while trying to do effective ministry
- + Breaking down strongholds that hold us back as a church
- + To refocus. I have spent 20 years as the church's pastor and have lost my vision.
- + Financial provision; Living within our time and energy limits

What are your wife's greatest needs?

- ♥ To reconnect and restore our marriage
- ♥ Encouragement, rest and spiritual renewal
- ♥ With 5 kids and being a stay at home mom, time with me and time with the Lord
- ♥ Burnout and discouragement
- ♥ To be around seasoned pastors' wives who can guide her on the "do's" and "don'ts" of ministry.

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
- 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 . . .

After last quarter's newsletter, Thom Rainer posted an updated "**Ten Reasons it is more difficult to be a Pastor today**" (thomrainer.com -- May 1, 2017). If you want food for thought, go to the website and read the various responses to this post.

Yes, it is indeed more difficult to be a pastor today than earlier years. At least ten major issues led to these challenges.

1. **The advent of social media.** As a consequence, private criticisms have become public forums. The fish bowl life of a pastor's family is now 24/7.
2. **Podcast pastors.** When I was a pastor, there were only a few well-known television pastors as points of comparison to my inferiority. Today, church members have hundreds, if not thousands, of pastors on podcast they compare to their own pastors.
3. **Diminished respect for pastors.** When I was a pastor, most people held my vocation in high esteem, even those not in church. Such is not the case today.
4. **Generational conflict in the church.** While there has always been some generational conflict in the church, it is more pervasive and intense today.
5. **Leadership expectations.** Pastors are expected today to have more leadership and business skills. We constantly hear from pastors, "They didn't teach me that at seminary."
6. **Demise of the program-driven church.** In past years, church solutions were simpler. Churches were more homogeneous, and programmatic solutions could be used in almost any context. Today churches are more complex and contexts are more varied.
7. **Rise of the "nones."** There is a significant increase in the numbers of people who have no religious affiliation. The demise of cultural Christianity means it is more difficult to lead churches to growth.
8. **Cultural change.** The pace of change is breathtaking, and much more challenging today. It is exceedingly more difficult today for pastors to stay abreast with the changes around them.
9. **More frustrated church members.** Largely because of the cultural change noted above, church members are more frustrated and confused. They often take out their frustrations on pastors and other church leaders.
10. **Bad matches with churches.** In earlier years, there was considerable homogeneity from church to church, particularly within denominations and affiliated church groups. Today churches are much more diverse. A pastor who led well in one context may fare poorly in another unless there is a concerted effort to find the right match for a church and pastor.

These ten reasons are not statements of doom and gloom; they are simply statements of reality . . . But challenges in ministry are common throughout the history from the first church to today. Such is the reason no pastors can lead well without the power, strength, and leadership of the One who called them.