

SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 16 Issue 3

July - August, 2017

On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are excited about the upcoming fall days and the folks who are registered for retreats. The Lord has been so faithful, and we are praising Him.

We hosted a **retreat** in **W. VA** with 3 couples: an **OK pastor and wife** who were worn out and needing uplifting fellowship; a **bi-vocational W. VA assoc. pastor and wife** (he works with the coal mines and has long hours – they work hard at their church and rarely get a break); and a **TN pastor and wife** who cherished this time away (he recently completed his PhD.). It was a great week.

In **July**, we hosted a **retreat** here in **Memphis** with 3 **TN couples**: a **pastor and wife** taking a month's sabbatical who have been through some serious church issues; a **local staff pastor and his wife** who are invested in helping their church through a very critical time; and a **local ministry couple** currently out of ministry (we are praying for God's will). The Lord orchestrated this week to meet special needs, and we were grateful.

The **end of July** we spent time with all of our **children and grandchildren** -- a special week for us. On Sunday morning, **July 30**, our **dear pastor and wife** resigned from our home church to move to a new pastorate in N. Carolina. Although we are happy for this new opportunity for them, we are saddened at their loss. They have been so faithful to encourage us. We had **dear friends** from **TX** come in for a brief visit July 30 – 31 (they have helped us with the January retreats for a number of years). This was a sweet time.

The first couple of weeks of **August** brought some serious Biblical guidance situations: an **Arkansas pastor and his wife** were just forced to resign (they have to move by September 1st from the church owned home); a **Louisiana pastor and his wife** (currently out of ministry) who need extensive help; a **middle TN youth pastor** was terminated; and a **Georgia ministry couple** who recently separated. Also a **young Alabama pastor** was diagnosed with a **malignant tumor** on his bladder. He had surgery and began treatment on August 30th. (He is in his 20s with 3 small children).

Judy and Suzanne traveled to **Mobile AL** to participate in the **Mission's Fair** of a supporting church, **Luke 4:18 Fellowship**, on **August 12 – 13**. We were blessed and encouraged as we shared the ministries of SHOR. (Charlie remained home to help with Mimi and Papa.) On **Tuesday, August 15th**, Charlie and Suzanne were richly blessed to lead a **staff retreat time** for the men and women who serve Kirby Woods Baptist Church (our home church here in Memphis). We covet your prayers for our church and these precious servants during these days.

We traveled to **Branson MO** on Sunday, August 20th for a **retreat** with these 4 couples: a **Texas pastor and wife** seeking a fresh vision for their church; a **Colorado pastor and wife** needing time away together before a busy fall schedule; a **S. Dakota church planter and wife** seeking God's clear direction for their future; and an **Arkansas pastor and wife** who just resigned from their church (please ask the Lord to open a new door of ministry for them).

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

Burnout 11

Church needs / conflict: 22

Counseling needs: 28

Encouragement: 60

Family needs / issues: 37

Financial needs: 20

Health issues: 33

Marriage: 15

Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 34

Prayer needs: 39

Termination: 5

Other needs include Anger issues, Anxiety, Currently out of ministry, Depression, Discipleship, Grief issues, Leadership needs, Pregnancy Crisis, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Retirement needs, Staff needs, Suicide, Surgeries, and Time Management.

These contacts take most of our time as we walk alongside the ones He brings to us. God is faithful to answer prayer. Here is an email just we received: **One of our family prayer requests was for our oldest son who is 16. I want to say thank you for your prayers. He surprised us last week by posting how much he had been "wavering between faith and sin" and blaming God for his problems. He said Sunday's sermon was a wakeup call and realized he was the one that needed to change. He got rid of several books and DVDs that he said were not good for him. He has been much easier to live with! PRAISE GOD FOR ANSWERED PRAYER!**

These last couple of months have brought heavy burdens. Today we read in Romans 8:26: ". . . the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans." We are grateful for His faithfulness. Much love to each of you --

Suzanne and Charlie



Retreat Testimonies

My husband is the only full-time staff at a young church plant, and we have 3 children under the age of four. We quickly realized the need to carve out time to rest, connect, and recalibrate before our lives started running in unhealthy directions. When we discovered that the SHOR retreat would be no cost to us and all meals would be provided, it seemed too good to be true. After being here, it truly proved to be a shepherd's haven. We rested, studied, prepared for the future, and simply enjoyed one another's company as well as the company of other believers. After this week, we feel refreshed and prepared for the next season the Lord has for us. This retreat has definitely been a refuge and encouragement to us. I know our children and church community will be so grateful for the impact it has had on our lives. We can't wait to go tell our fellow pastor friends!

We have had a very hard few weeks. We, as a church, are at a pivotal point and will need to make some hard decisions very soon. We needed time away to rest, relax, pray, and reflect. SHOR Ministries provided that for us. We honestly did not know exactly what we needed, but God did, and He provided SHOR. This week gave my wife the encouragement and renewed vision to be all that God has called her to be in her own ministry areas. We are headed home ready and united to face the challenges that lie ahead knowing we are not alone in the cause of serving the Kingdom. SHOR is just what we needed!

With the hustle and bustle of everyday life in ministry, you don't realize how worn down you become. This time spent with SHOR refreshed and refueled us, and allowed us to meet other ministry couples and spend time in fellowship with them. Thank you for a wonderful experience. We were truly blessed!

When you are in the middle of the fire and the battle, retreat seems to be the last thing you would think of, but it was so obvious to us how God's Holy Spirit can use time away from the fray to minister to His wounded. It was meaningful to hear the hurts of other pastors and wives to be able to pray with and encourage them. It was helpful to share our hearts and things that are happening in our lives with someone who is truly understanding and compassionate.

My wife and I are truly a team in ministry. We have been laboring for 22 years side by side. Over that time we have not had an extended time away so that we could truly recharge our batteries. In addition to pastoring, I have been in school since 2000, with the exception of a couple a years. My school journey involved a lot of sleepless nights and stressful moments. I needed a break, and I am thankful that the SHOR retreat gave us the opportunity to disconnect from the rigors of ministry. I will forever be grateful for the time, the people, and the memories.

Having served ten years in our current church and over 20 years in pastoral ministry, we were ready for a break. When we were given a month of sabbatical leave, we knew this was something we wanted to experience. Seeing the testimonies each time in the SHOR newsletter showed us that many pastors and their wives are hurting and experiencing burnout. We could relate, and we knew that Charlie and Suzanne would "get it." God used them to encourage us and help us feel loved and valued.

Ministry is challenging, and leadership is often times stressful. Yet time away from ministry and leadership is rare. SHOR has provided an incredible time for physical and spiritual rest. My wife and I have really enjoyed our time away from our ministry setting, and are so grateful for the time we have had together. SHOR Ministries is helping couples like us in such a remarkable way! We are especially grateful for the ministry of Charlie & Suzanne to us as well as all the couples who attend these retreats.

This retreat was really refreshing. We enjoyed talking to other pastors in a relaxed situation. We loved hearing from others whose stories and goals are similar as were their frustrations and struggles. We met a couple who was so like our past – young children, homeschooling – and another who envisioned our future – empty nest / short-term mission trip focused. Very encouraging!

We both appreciated the opportunity to just have TIME. No real schedule or agenda with packed meetings or classes. We felt loved, seen, and truly heard. Being specifically prayed over meant so much to us. We needed this more than we can say!

Blessings!

Special thanks to Rebecca Howard for helping with the arrangements for the July Memphis retreat. You are a blessing to us!

Heartfelt gratitude to our dear friends, Paul and Romola Barnett, for making our stay in Mobile so wonderful!

Our genuine appreciation to Bro. Fred Wolfe and the folks at Luke 4:18 Fellowship. Your faithful prayers and support for SHOR have been a tremendous encouragement to us. *We love you all!*

A BIG thanks to Bro. Ed Reed for the opportunity of sharing with the Kirby Woods staff. We are enormously grateful for our home church and the faithful staff who serve us.

THANK YOU ALL
for your love, support, and prayers

Prayer Needs

- ◆ For the upcoming retreats in Blue Ridge, GA; Warrensburg, NY (2); and at home (2). Fall is extremely busy. The retreats are booked full, and we are looking forward to each of them.
- ◆ For the couples we work with outside of retreats. We need the Lord's wisdom in each situation.
- ◆ Would you please join us in praying for revival: **personal revival** (clean servants, completely committed to Him); **church revival** (rededication of our members and salvation for the lost among us); and **national revival** (a true movement of the Holy Spirit across our country)
- ◆ Please pray for our personal spiritual walk, for our stamina, and for continued direction from the Lord.
- ◆ Dr. Gray has returned to teaching this fall (2 classes of personal evangelism). We rejoice in his ability to "keep on keeping on." We are grateful for the daily help with Mimi to help free him to continue to serve.

Thank you: God continues to answer our prayers. Thank you for walking with us and praying. We wish we could share all the answers we see, but it is impossible. Just know HE is at work!

Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 1 – 4	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
September 8	SHOR board meeting	Memphis TN
September 19 – 22	SHOR retreat	Blue Ridge GA
October 1- 4	Revival	LaFollette TN
October 15	Charlie preaching	KWBC pm, Memphis TN
October 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
November 3 – 7	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
November 10 – 12	SHOR retreat	Warrensburg NY
	<u>NEW FOR 2018</u>	
January 24 – 27	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
February 8 - 11	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN

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?

- + Taking over an unhealthy church which severely lacks discipleship
- + To be able to be open and honest about where I am in ministry; to receive hope and guidance on my decisions
- + Keeping my focus on God when there are so many personal and ministry related distractions
- + Fear of man - I see how I am tempted, in numerous ways, to live for the approval of man rather than God's
- + Personal hurts and how to be a Godly leader

What are your wife's greatest needs?

- ♥ Friendship -- she has been extremely lonely as a pastor's wife for many years
- ♥ To be around seasoned pastors' wives who can guide her
- ♥ To be refreshed and encouraged
- ♥ To heal and rest, and grow in love for my Lord and my husband
- ♥ Time away from people who depend on her too much to do what an associate pastor would do (if we had one)

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 . . .

Many of you know our son, Chad, who now serves as a Church Planting Strategist for the Arkansas State Convention in Northwest Arkansas. He has previous experience pastoring church plants in Tennessee as well as Arkansas. Because of his current position, he knows statistics that caught our attention. When we were all together in late July, he shared the following:

- There are roughly 2.9 million people in the state of Arkansas.
- Of those 1.3 million (about 44%) have no religious affiliation.
- In the Northwest quadrant of Arkansas, there are approximately 513,000 people. On Sunday, about 25,000 of these folks participate in worship in So. Baptist Churches (**only 5%!**)
- In recent years in Arkansas, an average of 16 churches have been closed each year.

Although these statistics reflect Arkansas, we believe this to be a microcosm of the "Bible Belt." With many pastors leaving the ministry and with churches struggling, there is a tremendous need for help and encouragement.

Chad also said that Mark Clifton, the Sr. director of church re-planting for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), explained that we close 5 more churches than we plant every week.

The NAMB (North American Mission Board) website shares this statement: "On average, 17 Southern Baptist churches shut their doors for good every Sunday, leaving underserved and unreached neighborhoods in cities across North America . . . we believe we can slow the death rate if we do two things: discover men called by God to replant churches, and discover churches in need of being replanted."

All of these concerns re-energize us for the purpose of SHOR ministries: "To provide a ministry of spiritual help and encouragement to pastors and wives (including staff members, missionaries and their wives) that serves to rekindle the fires of their passion for God and ministry as well as their love for each other."

Please do pray for SHOR as we seek to serve the Lord to help His leaders be ready for the challenges that they face. What a great privilege to serve those who serve in His name!