

# SHORline

a newsletter of Shepherds' Haven of Rest Ministries

Volume 17 Issue 4

Mid-September - December, 2018

## On a personal note . . .

Dear friends,

We are winding down our 17<sup>th</sup> year with SHOR Ministries. As we look back over the years, we are extremely grateful for the Lord's provision and for the wide support with prayer and finances that so many of you have provided for us. It has been a true blessing to meet pastors, missionaries, and church staff men and their wives during these years. **Thank you** for your continued love, support and prayers!

**Suzanne's mom** is still slowly declining. Although she is extremely limited physically, she remains joyful and a blessing to all who care for her. **Dr. Gray** (Suzanne's dad) suffers with neck and shoulder pain and with circulation issues. Not being able to teach this year has been extremely hard on him. The hospice staff is a tremendous help and blessing.

On **September 16<sup>th</sup>**, **Charlie** had the joy of preaching the **145<sup>th</sup> anniversary service** for **Ridgeway Baptist Church** in Memphis (his first church staff position from 1975-1976). We saw many old friends and were encouraged by them. We traveled to **Glasgow KY** on **Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>** for the **memorial service** for **Mrs. Pat Gaunce**. She and her family have been dear friends to us through the years. We hosted a **SHOR retreat** in beautiful **Blue Ridge, GA** the week of **September 24 – 28**. We use a private bed and breakfast owned and operated by Gail Johnson, a Godly lady who loves the Lord. Suzie traveled to Atlanta on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> to meet with a **GA ministry wife** who has had an extremely difficult year. She covets your prayers. We had **3 couples** in retreat with us: a **Florida pastor and wife** dealing with a major family situation (please pray); a **Florida bi-vocational pastor and wife** seeking the Lord's direction for the future of their church; and a local **Georgia pastor and wife** praying through a major transition for their church and expecting their 7<sup>th</sup> child. We also spent time with a dear **widowed staff pastor's wife**, a very special friend to us through the years. It was a wonderful week!

The **1<sup>st</sup> week of October** was our granddaughter, Lydia's, homecoming week. It was fun to enjoy that special time with her. That week we were in touch with a **Mississippi pastor** experiencing life-threatening health issues, and a **N. Mississippi pastor** preparing for a sabbatical. We are hoping to spend time with them soon. We hosted **4 couples** for a **retreat in our home beginning Tuesday, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>**: a wonderful **TX pastor and wife** who are faithfully serving but praying for God's will for their future (they are in their 70s); an **Illinois pastor and wife** with 6 children who were just forced to resign their church (they are moving and living in an RV for now); a **Louisiana staff pastor and wife** who are working through a difficult time (personally and in ministry); and an **Illinois pastor and wife** serving in a church revitalization (this is difficult work) and having health issues. This couple has a heart to

encourage and serve pastors and wives – we are thrilled with their willingness to bless others in ministry. It was a week filled with fellowship and encouragement. An **Alabama couple** who went through a tough time in ministry over 10 years ago contacted us to share that they are beginning a **ministry to help churches in crisis**. There is a tremendous need for this type of ministry, and we are praying for them as they come alongside those who are struggling.

We celebrated **Suzie's mom's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday** on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Although Mimi doesn't usually eat solid food anymore, she ate an entire pancake on her special day! We rejoiced in spending extra time with her that day. We had close friends from Louisiana visit on **Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**. We enjoyed sweet fellowship with them. We traveled to **upstate New York** on Tuesday, **Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>** to prepare for the retreat in Warrensburg. We hosted **4 couples**: a **New Jersey pastor and wife** with 3 teenaged daughters needing time away together to reflect and be renewed; a **Massachusetts pastor and wife** who are newly married and in a declining church – they have many decisions in the days ahead; a **Connecticut pastor and wife** ministering in a Haitian church and needing time with others in ministry to fellowship; and a **New York pastor and wife** facing some health issues and seeking a new vision for their church. We shared some special time with **2 other New York pastor and wives** while we were there. This week at the beautiful Cornerstone Victorian Bed & Breakfast with our wonderful friends Doug and Louise Goettsche is **ALWAYS** one of our favorite weeks. This was our **15<sup>th</sup> year** to go there, and it just keeps getting better and better.

We traveled home on Wednesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> to prepare for Thanksgiving. Chad and his family came in on **Friday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**. This will be the last time we will see them until the baby comes in early January. We are working hard to **plan for 2019** and for the end of year **board meeting** that will be in our home, **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. During this holiday season, we are focused on God's continual presence remembering Matthew 1:23: "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*" which translated means, "God with us." Be blessed in this glorious time of year!

*Suzanne and Charlie*



# Retreat Testimonies

Our church has been going through a rough time. The people are great, but we have experienced a period of downsizing. People have moved due to job situations, and others have passed on to be with the Lord. Leadership is just us – the pastor and wife – right now. Finances are tight at the church as well as personally since I am now (along with my wife) retired from our secular work. We face rebuilding our church without the support we had when we first began. In addition, I have experienced heart palpitations (currently being treated). This retreat has given us the opportunity to regroup and refocus. In regrouping, we are considering the directions and opportunities in front of us – what resources are available. In refocusing, we have gotten our vision back on God the Father and his sufficiency. We are remembering this is His church, not ours. He is our strength and provision. Thank you for your love and care. We are returning home rested and refreshed for the mission the Lord has set before us.

This retreat was a blessing for both of us. We wholeheartedly thank all who gave to make it possible for us. Everything about the retreat was beyond our expectations. Getting away from home and church demands to be refreshed means more than we can say.

The demands of ministry life can be all-consuming on a marriage, and as such, it is vitally important to carve out time to rest and get away as a couple. It was so refreshing to have someone else care for and think about our needs – physical, mental, and spiritual. The fact that this retreat is free to us was such a blessing. We are so grateful.

The hospitality and love shown at SHOR was so meaningful and wonderful. We were blessed by the immediate connections we felt with others of the faith – having Jesus in common. I have been inspired and encouraged in my walk being around seasoned believers. Thank you so much for serving in this unique ministry.

This has been a great time for us to relax and enjoy the company of other ministry couples. In only a few days, we bonded together, shared our stories and our prayers for the future. This has been the most memorable retreat we have ever participated in.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time at SHOR away together. We are experiencing a “life crisis” and needed time away from everything. We were not sure exactly what to expect, but we are leaving with a peace knowing that we have added prayer warriors who are calling our names specifically out to the Father. We are grateful!

My wife and I are going through a crisis with our adult daughter. It has been very emotional, straining, and challenging to our faith and our relationship with her. This retreat allowed a period of continual counseling and soul searching, enabling us to share and in a non-judgmental environment, and to receive encouragement and prayer.

All these years of listening to my sweet husband’s preaching I’ve never tried it myself . . . until now. . .

1) Thank you for your **perseverance** – 5 years is a long time to wait especially when your daddy told you 2 or 3. \*\*

2) Thank you for your **patience** – I can’t be the only one who popped up the toaster without hitting cancel!

3) Thank you for **pointing to Jesus** – He’s all that we need, and I’m learning that He’s all that I want.

4) Thank you for your **powerful prayers** of protection and provision. Is anything more important than prayer?

5) Thank you for your **pampering**. I don’t remember ever feeling so loved and cared for. Really!

God bless all who cook, clean, offer Biblical guidance, coordinate, and contribute! Whew! Glad I don’t normally “preachify!” This retreat allowed the Lord to confirm His direction for our family. And now, we have new friends to love and pray for!

\*\*Note on #1 above: At retreats, many couples ask us how we were led to begin SHOR and how it is financed. When Dr. Gray Allison (Suzie’s dad) began praying with us in 2000 about our vision for SHOR, he told us it would take about 3 years to become financially stable. After 3 years passed, Suzie walked over to Dr. Gray’s house and said, “You said it would take 3 years.” He kindly looked at her and said, “I meant 5, but I hated to tell you that at the very beginning.” We bless God for His provision and for all we have learned (especially during those early years) walking in complete dependence on Him.]

# Blessings . . .

Special thanks to *Pastor Ashley Rey and his wife, Kerri*, for allowing us to be a part of the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at *Ridgeway Baptist Church* in Memphis. Charlie literally “cut his ministry teeth” in this church in 1975-76. We cherish any time we get to spend with them!

Our genuine gratitude to Gail Johnson and her daughters at Willow Falls in Blue Ridge GA for hosting our group and making it all so nice for us. We love you!

Our love and thanks to Doug and Louise Goettsche at Cornerstone Bed & Breakfast in Warrensburg, NY, for all you do to make our retreat wonderful for each couple. We enjoy all the laughs we share. You encourage our hearts.

***Many thanks to all of the unnamed ones of you who faithfully pray and give to provide retreats and Biblical guidance helps to ministry couples.  
We are more grateful than we can ever express.***

# Prayer Needs

- ◆ For the upcoming SHOR retreats in Louisiana, Missouri, and at home (3)
- ◆ For the couples we try to help who are going through difficult times – personally, in their families, or in their churches and ministries. It is freeing to share deep burdens with someone removed from your location and your situation. We need God's wisdom daily – this is a huge prayer need.
- ◆ We continue to pray FOR REVIVAL for our churches and for our country. As we watch churches and pastors struggle, we become more and more burdened for a great movement of the Lord.
- ◆ Please pray for Suzanne's parents as they continue to slowly decline. We are blessed with excellent caregivers and a wonderful hospice staff. We cherish the days we have with them.
- ◆ We are grateful that the Lord has given us strength and stamina to continue to serve pastors, missionaries, and staff ministers and their wives. We are thankful that we have no major physical issues, but it has been a trying year for Charlie. Right now, he has a viral infection of his cornea in his left eye. Would you pray we would be faithful to **walk daily in the Word and prayer with the Lord, to exercise regularly, and to eat a healthy diet and get proper rest?** We believe the Lord has more work for us to do, and we want to serve Him with our best.

## Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 23 - 26	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
February 12 - 15	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
March 1 - 3	Suzanne speaking	Bristol VA
March 19 - 22	SHOR retreat	Toledo Bend LA
April 9 – 12	SHOR retreat	Memphis TN
May TBA	SHOR retreat	Branson MO

## To Think About . . .

We continue to work with many couples outside of retreats. Here is an overview of those contacts from 9.6 – 11.30.2018:

Answered prayer: 34  
Biblical guidance helps: 22  
Burnout and Depression: 11  
Church needs / conflict/ merger / plants / revitalization: 29  
Currently out of ministry: 10  
Encouragement: 53  
Family needs / issues: 31  
Financial needs: 33  
God's will: 9  
Grief: 10  
Health issues: 27  
Marriage: 13  
Ministry needs / opportunities / transitions: 42  
New Ministry opportunities: 22  
Prayer needs: 36

Other needs include Adoption, Deaths, Discouragement, Leadership conflict, Moral issues, Parenting, Retreat needs (other than what we provide), Retirement needs, Sabbaticals, Staff issues/needs, and Terminations. These couples serve in **35 states** and **15 foreign countries**.

### What makes SHOR different?

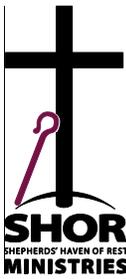
Ministry couples attend SHOR retreats at no charge

Charlie & Suzanne are available to talk with and to pray with each couple

Ministry couples are served and allowed to rest with no agenda

Couples can reach out to us at any time for prayer, support and help (outside of retreats) at no charge

**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**

*Have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

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*Did you know . . .*

**8 "Armchair" Pastors Who Frustrate Me** written by Chuck Lawless [Southeastern Seminary], October 1, 2018

"Okay, I admit it. I'm writing with some frustration today because I watch committed pastors struggle because of "armchair" pastors in their church (that is, those who aren't pastors, but who feel serious freedom to tell pastors how to do their job). Here are some armchair folks who frustrate me:

1. **Those who have no clue about theology, but who tell a pastor when he believes wrongly.** I know laypersons who are theologically strong, but I also know some who aren't. The latter are often the ones who tell a pastor when he's "wrong."
2. **Those who are sure they know how the pastor should spend his time.** After all, they're certain they already know how he is spending his time, even though they haven't spent any time with him.
3. **Those who "guide" the pastor in how the church should spend the budget, even though they give minimal (or perhaps no . . .) dollars to the church.** Their level of financial sacrifice gives them little leverage to speak into these matters, but they direct the pastor nonetheless.
4. **Those who tell the pastor how a pastor should raise his children.** This one probably annoys me more than any of these. If you're concerned about your pastor's children, pray for him and them. He might just be more burdened than you are . . .
5. **Those who tell the pastor what the Lord has "told" them to tell him.** To speak for the Lord apart from rightly proclaiming His Word is a dangerous move indeed, so all of us likely need to be careful here.
6. **Those who are convinced a pastor can read minds.** These are the armchair pastors who get angry with a pastor for not responding to a need about which he had no knowledge.
7. **Those who tell the pastor he should confront somebody, but without using their name in the conversation.** Unless you've walked in these shoes (and armchair pastors usually haven't), you cannot know how difficult this position is.
8. **Those who see themselves as the unofficial church leader.** Their "yes" vote for a pastor is really only perfunctory, since they'll remind him about their positions and power anyway.

May I ask you to pray for your pastor today particularly if he has "armchair" pastors in the church? AND pray for any armchair pastors in your church as well -- that they might re-think how they might help your pastor? All of us can be armchair pastors at times . . .

A major goal of SHOR: To **provide a "safe place"** for pastors and their wives to share their innermost feelings and needs while **encouraging them** to "stay the course."