

Sabbath Rest

Statistics, True or False?

When the Lord placed the calling to create an environment of Refuge on our hearts back in 1996, we did not have all the resources available to do research like we have now in 2016. The statistics painted a very dark picture of the State of the Pastorate.

Recently new statistics were presented, some of them done by the same research organization, showing a much different picture. No, we don't claim to have had such a great impact on our own.

Were the figures exaggerated 20 years ago? Maybe.

Are they more accurate now? Maybe.

We simply know from our own experience since Shepherd's Refuge started over 10 years ago, we have had the privilege of serving hundreds of pastors, ministry leaders and missionaries that desperately needed a place to retreat to that provided a safe, secure and affordable environment. Because:

⇒ *Some face discouragement, because of unrealistic expectations placed on them by others or by themselves.*

⇒ *Some face financial challenges, because of the lack of support from the ones they serve.*

⇒ *Some face spiritual challenges, because of the cultural conflict created by our society.*

⇒ *Some face physical challenges, because they*

don't set boundaries for themselves, but rather follow their hearts to be available 24/7.

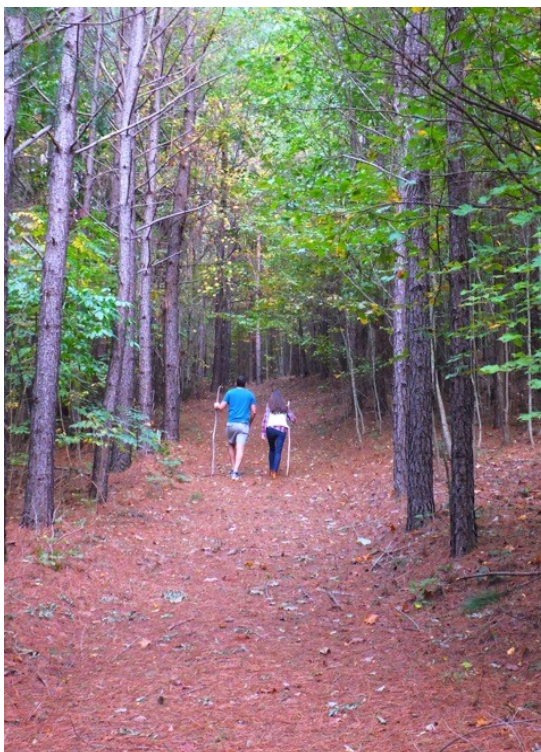
⇒ *Some face challenges from addictions, because when they are tired and discouraged, they become weak and susceptible to the enemy's attack.*

Preliminary results from a Barna research on the State of Spiritual Leadership Study published in the Fall 2015 issue of the Leadership Journal do not highlight the above mentioned issues. They show for

example that "three out of four pastors say they are very satisfied with their vocation. Nine out of ten say their tenure in ministry has deepened their own relationship with Christ, and more than eight in ten say their experience has increased their passion for ministry. ... Top frustrations include lack of commitment among lay people, low levels of spiritual maturity among churchgoers, and financial and/or administrative duties".

Those we serve are human beings like you and me. The cares of this world have the same impact on their lives and their families. They have their strengths and weaknesses, no special connection or hotline to the Lord. But their heart is to serve, and ours is to serve them.

Whatever the statistics may say, we have a proven record of making a difference in the lives our guests, and by extension, in the wellbeing of the church.



The basis for establishing ECFA and developing *Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™* is stated clearly by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:21 (NIV):
" For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."



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A non-profit ministry
recognized as a 501 (c)
3 organization.

The purpose of Shepherd's Refuge is:
To strengthen His church to fulfill its Great Commission
by caring for its leadership!

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always
abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in
vain in the Lord.

Work Day!

Thanks to the
Smoke Rise Mis-
sions Team we
have cleared
trails, and built a
retaining wall for
the next cabin
parking area!



**Thank You to all our
Volunteers and Partners!**



Progress!

Yes, the next cabin is taking shape.
The septic system is installed, the trees
have been cleared, the outline staked out,
and now we are waiting for the leader of
the framing crew to overcome some
physical ailment that is holding him back. Patience will pay off in the long run because of the great
experience and proven quality workmanship he brings as evident in the construction of the Lodge and
the Selah Cabin!

In the meantime, the road crew has finished the loop road making the sites for cabins 3, 4 and 5 ac-
cessible.

Next time a work day comes around we shall prepare a sitting area with a fire pit, overlooking the
new pond, and a decorative rustic fence along the driveway!

