

Sabbath Rest

The Gloomy Circumstances!

On the road to Emmaus, two sojourners were focused on the events of the last few days and weeks, the circumstances that lead them on their trek through the desert. They even stood still in amazement, and were sad, when the new travel companion that just joined them did not seem to be aware of what had transpired! They were so consumed by the circumstances and their desert experience that they did not recognize who it was that joined them on their journey.

Not much has changed, has it now, even with all the books and teachings we have been blessed by. Our knowledge tank has been filled, but in the application we are sorely lacking.



Circumstances most certainly have our constant attention, through all the digital ways we are immediately informed about events from the farthest corners of the globe, and beyond. And, the local news does not stop either, because we have all these push notifications available to us. Oh, and don't forget what your 'friends' are up to, what they just ate, where they shopped, or whom they met, not ignoring the gossip that is circulated!

The One who would love to travel with us through life's journey is relegated to an encounter on Sunday mornings, maybe even allowed to interrupt

our busyness for a quick popcorn prayer thrown up towards heaven. Remember, we are busy dealing with all the circumstances that surround us.

During a seven mile hike one has plenty of time to talk. When Jesus asked the two travelers "What things?" He made them reflect and relive the events leading up to their journey. What has brought us to this point in our own lives? Are we missing some things the Lord wants us to learn and apply? Has He been preparing us for the road ahead?

Only when we line up all the events and look at them through the perspective the Holy Spirit empowers us to use, then we can discover how Jesus has been by our side the whole time!

Circumstances try to get us down, send us out into the wilderness, but we don't have to stay there. As Wayne Cordeiro so aptly describes his burnout experience in "Leading on Empty" where he says: "It was a season that compelled me into a winter wilderness that gave birth to a springtime of new growth that would refill my tank and renew my passion".

What happened to the two sojourners after they realized who had been travelling with them? They arose that very hour and returned to Jerusalem (not the extra but the extra seven miles!) to bring the good news to those who had stood still, being confused and saddened by the gloomy circumstances.

Inside this issue:

- ◆ Gloomy !
- ◆ Where?
- ◆ Rights?



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."



P.O. Box 1221
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Phone: 404-474-0686
Fax: 706-865-6801

info@shepherdsrefuge.org

www.shepherdsrefuge.org

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



Bragging rights?

No, we don't want to brag on ourselves, but rather give God the praise for what He is accomplishing through Shepherd's Refuge! Over the past few months, He has made it possible to refresh and reenergize pastors and ministry leaders from Arizona to New York, from Oklahoma to Maryland, from Baptist to Assembly of God, from Presbyterian to various Bible Colleges. After they shed their weariness, left their burdens at the foot of the cross while meeting Him here in the quiet place, they returned to their place on the frontline with "refilled tanks and renewed passion", equipped to do battle with weapons of warfare that are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of strongholds. As hosts of Shepherd's Refuge we could never do this, nor can it be accomplished by the fellowship around the table or the solitude on the porch of the Selah Cabin, but the Lord can use these surroundings, our hands and feet and those of the volunteers to reach down into the lives and circumstances of our guests. As a pastor from Florida wrote: "Can't wait to come back, feel new vision, fresh fire, and well rested."

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

Rev 22:18-19 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Where do we go from here?

This year started out a bit slower than the previous one, but moving into summer it turned busier than ever, and reservations have even been made as far out as September and October 2016! The Selah Cabin has become a favorite for many, and an increasing number of guests have made it their annual or bi-annual get-away. We have also noticed a growing number of churches granting Sabbaticals to their pastors, praise the Lord! As one of our sister ministries so fittingly describes it in their vision statements: "Healthy Pastors, Healthy Churches"!

This brings us to the question where we stand with the next cabin. The funding is almost there, we are getting so close! The health department has issued the septic system permit, and we are waiting on some grading to be done before we can proceed.

From experience with the Selah Cabin we know, build it and they will come. We are pursuing this next facility so that the Lord can send more of his servants our way!

We certainly appreciate the financial and prayer partners who labor in the field together with us. [Won't you join them?](#)