

# Sabbath Rest

**Pray for Our Chaplains** (by Rob Jones, Board of Directors)

During the last six months, Shepherds Refuge has had the special privilege of serving active duty military Chaplains. We often share about the needs of pastors, church leaders and missionaries. But how often do we think about the unsung ministers of the gospel who pray, counsel and go to war alongside American troops.

Certainly, the role of a Chaplain can be challenging. A Chaplain faces many issues and burdens not seen in a traditional church setting. Chaplains sometimes face delicate issues of faith and politics and how to effectively minister to service members in a spirit of cooperation, yet avoid compromise. Yet beyond these issues lies the heart of their calling, a desire to minister to the needs of their fellow soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines. Their service is rendered in many places, ranging from stateside military bases to gritty foxholes on foreign soil, from counseling a combat fatigued soldier to delivering notification to next of kin of a fallen family member.

The following excerpts were taken from the website of the Army Chaplain Corps:

"I decided to become a Chaplain because of an intense love for God and Country. I joined the Army to serve my country, though I also knew I was called to minister. The Chaplaincy is awesome, because now I am a Soldier and minister each and every day to Soldiers where they live and work. My relationship with the Soldiers changed dramatically as we went into the field. The more time spent on a deployment and in combat, or even just time in garrison, the more rapport is built with them. They trust me and open themselves as I reach out to them and interact with them.

I remember a night in which the squadron was moving towards the Euphrates River to capture a bridge. There were five firefights that lasted a total of over eight hours. During those firefights we were involved with, I was the driver/radio operator/navigator while my Chaplain Assistant rode in the passenger seat scanning with his M-16 rifle providing security for the Unit Ministry Team (UMT). That night was a defining moment for me. It was there that I knew what it was to rely wholly on God and experience what the Chaplaincy was all about. "Ministry of Presence" means being with the front line troops in the midst of combat giving encouragement, prayer and support. Before we contacted the enemy, one of my Soldiers said to me, "Chappy, I'm glad you're in the vehicle right behind me. Now I know we will make it." I love the fact that every day I go to work looking forward to doing my job."

"Delivering school supplies to children at a local Iraqi school was a mission that was particularly near and dear to our hearts. By doing this, we were expressing goodwill to the local population there—showing them that they had nothing to fear from us, and that

we're here not as occupiers but to help them to rebuild their nation."

"The hardest aspect of deployment for my unit was with Soldiers having to deal with issues back home. Whether it was their spouse, a relationship, childcare, health issues or a financial dilemma, Soldiers are kind of helpless when they get information like this from home. It was an honor to be positioned to offer a little guidance and support."

Our nation will soon be observing Memorial Day, a day that we recognize and honor those who have lost their lives in the service of their country. It is fitting for us to also remember that on those battlefields, were Chaplains who were willing to show God's love to men and women in uniform, often sacrificing their very own lives to do so. They continue to do so today, on military bases around the world and in the fields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Keep them in your prayers as they endeavor to serve the spiritual needs of those who serve our country!

John 15:13 Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

## **Inside this issue:**

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## **Headlines**

***Spring has sprung, and that which was seemingly dead has come back to life!***



*U.S. Air Force courtesy photo*



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

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

*Caring for those who care.*

**Words of  
Wisdom**  
It is easier to  
preach ten  
sermons  
than it is to  
live one!  
(author un-  
known)

**Progress Report**

- ◇ The calendar and reservation form we had added to our web site have been a win-win situation, making it easier for the guests to find available dates, and submit their request. They have also reduced the workload on the administration side, allowing us to minister that much more to our guests!
- ◇ The Smoke Rise Mission Team (a group of dedicated men from FBC in Roswell with lots of hands-on experience from New Orleans to Virginia) will come help with out-door stuff in June!
- ◇ Expenses are being trimmed on the one side by switching from Constant Contact (yearly fee) to Mail Chimp (free!!), but at the same time we face increases due to additional guests.
- ◇ For online donations, we now have two buttons on our web site, one for PayPal (service fee based on which credit card is used) and Razoo (the entire donated amount is sent to our account).
- ◇ Please, don't forget that you can support Shepherd's Refuge with your donations either through our web site, by check, or simply using goodsearch.com or goodshop.com, with Shepherd's Refuge as designated charity, while doing your online searches or shopping.
- ◇ Some of the landscape work in front of the Lodge is starting to take shape. 3200 pounds of flagstones, a load of sand and another truck full of topsoil were delivered and are almost installed.
- ◇ Last year we recorded 268 guest-nights. In the first 4 months of this year, we have an increase of 10%, a trend that we see developing for the rest of 2010 when we look at the reservations already received.



"I think Shepherd's Refuge will really take off upon completion of the first cabin."  
Associate Pastor Victor Borchard, Calvary Church, Grants Pass, Oregon

**Dear Friends of Shepherd's Refuge**

There is so much more we would like to share with you, but we know your time is precious, and we are certainly not the only ministry that would like to have some of it! Like you, our desire is to be good stewards of the resources sent our way, be it time or money. So, if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, we will not feel hurt if you let us know, as a matter of fact, we would appreciate any feedback you can give us! With your creative mind you could fit in as partner in the mission of Shepherd's Refuge.

By providing a place of refuge from the daily stress and demands, we can help pastors, full time staff in church leadership and missionaries find rest and renewed strength. Shepherd's Refuge is not the only place offering this kind of ministry. Across the nation, even internationally, the Lord has put such a call on peoples' hearts, and indeed, a network has grown from this. The Parsonage, a ministry of Focus on the Family, is hosting a help center for pastors and their families, including a referral list of places (including Shepherd's Refuge) they have access to. Major denominations and missions organizations have their own resources for their people to draw from. Shepherd's Refuge is on the list of several of them. Most recently, a pastor and his wife all the way from Oregon spent a week here after finding us on such a listing. Partnerships like this are God ordained, and we see His blessings on them when a couple leaves from here refreshed, renewed and ready to go back into their community to serve.

As host couple, we observe the need for Clergy Care Giving first hand when our guests arrive tired, discouraged and even close to burn out. Then, we also see the benefits ministries like Shepherd's Refuge can provide, when our guests and new found friends leave from here encouraged, touched by the Lord, and strengthened by Him.

Can you read our excitement between the lines? We are indeed, because what better place to be than where the Lord has called you to! We are the hands and feet for Him, and for you, who support Shepherd's Refuge in prayer and with your financial resources. Be blessed and be a blessing.

*Ruedi and Sandy*

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