

Sabbath Rest

A rainy day in Georgia

Rainy days in Georgia do not happen often, but when they do, we need to take advantage of them! So here we are, reflecting on where Shepherd's Refuge has been, where the ministry is right now and the direction we sense from the Lord.

We realized in what kind of company we are during the recent CareGivers Conference. Wise and grey haired care-givers shared with us their experience, their enthusiasm, their love for those they serve and the confidence of their calling.

Now, at the verge of doubling our capacity by adding the first Shepherd's Refuge cabin, we have arrived at a sobering point in the ministry. It is no longer just a "crazy idea" that we are using our spare bedrooms for, but a fully operational ministry that meets the needs of those we serve.

Previously we had used the rooms without recognizing the call; it was a season of training and preparation. When the Lord made it clear in 2001 that it was time to turn this into our full time occupation, we completed the necessary bureaucratic paper shuffling to establish a non-profit organization. The next step in our walk of faith was to look for, and then buy a piece of property. That accomplished, we moved forward to occupy the land by building our new home, moving from Marietta to the beautiful (but sometimes wild) North Georgia Mountains. And here we are, having lived and ministered through Shepherd's Lodge, we are taking the next step once again.

While ministering through the Lodge this past year we quickly realized that we were facing some limitations. First, the de-



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Headlines

Ground

Breaking

imminent



mand was rapidly outgrowing the available time slots! Second, there are those potential guests that do not like the idea of "disturbing" someone in their private home. Since the vision for the ministry calls for the use of cabins as well as our home the solution became obvious. We needed to build the first Shepherd's Refuge cabin sooner than later! So here we are, with ground breaking just around the corner. We have an \$80,000 budget to work with which includes all the furnishings and appliances, a lease/purchase contract to secure the land for the ministry and planning on a completion date in Spring 2007. In our estimation, not early enough! But the Lord's timing is better than ours. So we follow His plans and His time table. This reminds me of the beautiful Mezuzahs that friends of the ministry had given us by faith several years ago, to be attached to the cabin doors! By the same faith we move forward with the construction of this one-bedroom cabin, located about 200 feet up the hill from the prayer-tree! We will not go into debt but rather build as the Lord provides. Enough funds have been received to get started. Join us as we believe the Lord to meet the need so that we can better serve and minister to those who serve in churches in this area and indeed across the nation.

All year-end donations will be directed towards this work!

www.parsonage.org

Check it out and let your pastor know about this valuable resource hosted by H.B. London Jr., a former pastor, now in charge of a team that is there to help church leadership and its families under the auspices of Focus on the Family. We had the privilege of interacting with many of his staff in break-out sessions during the recent CareGivers conference.



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

Caring for those who care.

Quote of the month:

"Sometime" is not a space on the calendar.

Marcia Ramsland, The Organizing Pro, Author "Simplify your Life" Get organized and stay that way, featured in Barnes and Nobel, Women's Day, Better Homes and Garden.



Starving bakers

Imagine finding a new bakery. You love going there because the baker creates new recipes, better than any you've ever tasted. Soon word gets out and crowds start coming. The baker doesn't have enough help and ends up trying to serve all the customers himself. Gradually you see a change. He's getting thin. Very thin! What's up? You decide to sit and observe. Suddenly the problem becomes obvious. He's busy serving everyone else but never stops long enough to feed himself. With food all around him, he's starving. Can you relate? A lot of us, particularly leaders, fail to take care of ourselves spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, and eventually we end up being unable to take care of others. And when we do read our Bible or listen to CDs, it's always for others. And what's the result? We end up busy but barren, going through the motions without taking time to feed our souls on the bread of life. And we keep promising ourselves to do better: "when the kids are raised ... when I go on vacation ... when things slow down ... when I retire." Solomon wrote: "They made me caretaker of the vineyards, but I have not taken care of my own" (SoS 1:6). The only way things are going to change - is if you change them! Otherwise you'll simply exchange one set of demands for another. Learn to walk away. Jesus did: "After He had dismissed the multitudes, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray" (Mt 14:23). Start doing what Jesus did, otherwise you'll end up like the starving baker! Reprinted by permission, From the Word for you Today, Bob Gass

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

John 6:35

"I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Progress Report

- During 26 out of 48 weeks (not counting December) ministry guests were hosted at the Lodge.
- The guests stayed between 1 and 6 days.
- They came from Texas, Florida, Indiana and Georgia.
- In September "Gift Certificates" were sent out to over 200 churches in the Atlanta area to support Clergy Appreciation Month.
- A marked increase in reservation requests were noted after Shepherd's Refuge was included in the referral list of The Parsonage in July.
- The ministry was recently featured in a one page article which appeared in the 400Edition, a magazine distributed in 14 North Georgia counties.
- Several reservation requests had to be turned down due to the limited facilities and no other suitable dates were found.
- All Year-End donations will greatly support the construction of the new cabin.

We are on the Web:
www.shepherdsrefuge.org



Of Pastors in America...

- 25% have been forced out of ministry or fired at least once during their ministry (*Leadership Journal*, July 2000)
- 90% feel inadequately trained to cope with ministry demands (*1991 Survey of Pastors*, Fuller Theological Seminary)
- 80% believe that pastoral ministry affects their families negatively (*1991 Survey of Pastors*, Fuller Theological Seminary)
- 40% have serious conflict with a church member at least once a month - the chief cause of exodus from ministry (*1991 Survey of Pastors*, Fuller Theological Seminary)
- 20% admit to having an affair while in the ministry (www.saveus.org, accessed October 2002)
- 37% admit that internet pornography is a current struggle (*Leadership Journal*, Winter 2001)
- 70% do not have someone they consider a close friend (www.saveus.org, accessed October 2002)

They could all benefit from a time of rest and restoration at Shepherd's Refuge!