

Sabbath Rest

Surrender!?

We closed our last newsletter's front page article with: "So we follow His plans and His time table". This commitment to do it His way still stands. His schedule is not supposed to line up with ours, but rather ours to His. We are breaking ground for the first cabin on July 2, 2007, instead of last November. Some might have thought we had given up, surrendered, and they are right. We did not stop the work, but we stopped working in our own strength and surrendered to His power. We are learning to submit to the Lord's plans more and more, in spite of ever increasing pressures from around us. The ministry of Shepherd's Refuge is His, not ours; we are called to be His hands and feet, His representatives, working according to His will. We are also learning that raising funds for the construction as well as the operation of the ministry is in His hands, not in ours. If we say we believe He is the God of all creation, the One with unlimited resources, the One who called us into His work, we also have to trust and completely surrender to Him. Since He is trustworthy indeed, we also rely on Him to lay it on His people's hearts to become partners with us in His work to provide a place of shelter for His servants through Shepherd's Refuge.



Inside this issue:

- **Surrender!?**
- **Learning to surrender**
- **Progress Report**
- **Quote of the month**
- **Did you know?**
- **Life Change Units**

Headlines

**Ground
Breaking
imminent**



Learning to surrender

This word 'surrender' is not very popular at any time, especially when we consider it to mean 'admitting defeat'. But the same word can also stand for 'yielding' or 'giving in'. Using that meaning we would want to make sure we can trust the one we surrender to. Can we have faith in the one who asks us to close our eyes and stretch out our open hand to receive something he wants to give us? Is it going to be something good, or bad, something we would never touch, or something we would joyfully receive?

On a daily basis we are bombarded with offers to put something into our hands (things), into our hearts (thoughts) and just trust that it is good for us. When we allow these things to occupy us they will also start to rule us. And pretty soon we have surrendered to them. But, what if they are the wrong things, not good for us or even doing harm to us? We have to put guards up, protecting our gates so only those things that are good can enter in. Paul instructs us in Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." From this we take that we need to stop dwelling on the things that are untrue, dishonorable, wrong, impure, ugly, of ill repute, poor quality, not worthy of praise and follow Paul's admonition. We need to make room for the good by discarding the bad. The Lord wants to pour the good stuff into our lives, so, lets surrender to Him, stretching out our open hands in faith, and trusting Him for whatever He desires to place into them.

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.



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

James 4:5

"He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"

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A non-profit ministry recognized
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Quote of the month:

"It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly continue in prayer, until we obtain an answer; and further, we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end, but we have also to believe that God does hear us and will answer our prayers".
George Muller, Man of Faith and Miracles, 1805-1898



Caring for those who care.

Progress Report

- Septic and building permit for the first cabin have been received.
- Based on estimates received from various contractors we can proceed with Phase 1 with the funds in the bank.
- Groundbreaking: 2. July 2007
- Shepherd's Refuge was asked to be included in two additional major ministry listings, 1 large denomination and 1 big missions organization.
- The IRS has reviewed our activities for the last 4 years and has moved the ministry from 'provisional' to 'approved' status!
- The guest/night numbers doubled to 32 for the first 3 months of 2007 over the same period last year.
- At the invitation of Fairhaven Ministries in NE Tennessee we were able to visit with the director, Cal Swanson, and staff, offering us great insight into their operation, learning from their experience.
- A memorial service was held in January for Pastor Salvador Blanco, dedicating a plaque in his memory under the Prayer Tree, in the presence of his widow and his friend and accountability partner pastor Joyner with his wife.



We are on the Web:
www.shepherdsrefuge.org



H.B. London's wish-list for his granddaughters:

- I want them to experience unconditional love, but with limits and parameters.
- I want them to grow under Christian influence. I want them to model their parents' values.
- I want their fathers to be their heroes, not some rock star or movie celebrity.
- I also want for them good guidance from their moms on what they wear, and how they look in public. Sometimes, parents must say "no" regardless of the reaction.
- I also want them to understand the value of a dollar.
- I don't want my granddaughters to think Britney, Lindsay, Nicole and Paris are "cool." I love them too much.

What do you want for your children?

Life Change Units

"In Quietness and in Confidence shall be your strength". Isaiah 30:15

When the stock market plunged an investor asked his broker if he was worried. "Nope, I sleep like a baby!" he replied. Amazed, the client said, "Really, even with all these fluctuations?" The broker said, "Yup, just like a baby! I sleep for an hour, then I wake up and cry all night!"

Our capacity for handling stress is limited. Researcher Dr. Thomas Holmes concludes that experiencing 200+ "life change units" in a year can put you over the edge. For example, losing a spouse equals 100 units, divorce 60, illness 45, unemployment 45; even Christmas gets 12! Maybe you're reading this and you've already exceeded your "200-unit limit." Emotionally and physically you're stretched to the breaking point and there's no relief in sight. Be careful; living in an emotional danger zone makes you a target for the devil who has you in his cross hairs! Under pressure you succumb to temptation much more easily than when you're rested. That's why preventing stress is always better than trying to deal with it when it's full blown.

Isaiah says: "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." And Paul adds: "Don't worry ... pray about everything ... If you do ... you will experience God's peace, which is ... more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep ... your hearts as you trust in ... Jesus" (Php. 4:6-7 TLV). Nobody understands your stress like Jesus. That's why He says, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and ... you will find rest for your souls" (Mt 11:28-29 NLT). So stop pushing so hard. Give your concerns to God. Then allow yourself the same kind of consideration you'd give to a friend who's on overload.

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