

- What difference?
- Progress Report
- Looking for partners

Sabbath Rest

What difference does it make?

December 14, 2007

Dear Shepherd's Refuge Supporter,

Hello, my name is Jimmy A. Ford. I live in a small South Georgia town called Glennville. I'd like to share with you the blessings I received while visiting Shepherd's Refuge. I'd also like to explain how this visit came about.

It has been almost 10 years since God instructed me to shutdown my computer company in Atlanta and move back home. My mission was to build communication and management for His soldiers, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in my community. A few months after returning back to Glennville I opened a community. We live in a very poverty stricken area. Even though we do not have a constant flow of income God has allowed Tedra, my wife, Cierra, my daughter, and I to sponsor Bible Camps, Camping Trips, Tutoring and Educational Programs, and many other programs that show anyone how to apply the Word of God to their life.

Earlier this year, I called upon a ministry to see if we could receive a donation of materials from them. I had a great conversation with the gentleman who helped me in more ways than one. In our conversation I mentioned that I felt that I was getting spiritually weary. Even though I had lots of physical energy my spirit tank seemed to be getting bone dry. Before we hung up he prayed with me and asked me to give Shepherd's Refuge a call. He'd told me Shepherd's Refuge was a place where pastors and missionaries went to spend quality time with God. This was new to me. I've never heard of such a place! Later that week I called the phone number and spoke with Sandy. She sounded very nice! Then I spoke with Ruedi. It felt like I'd known him for a while. We made the arrangements and before I knew what was going on, I was headed to 900 Hester Valley Road.

Needless to say I had very little money to spend, but God blessed me with a full tank of gas and funds for Tedra and Cierra for the week. When I got there I couldn't believe my eyes. The Refuge was beautiful,



CareGivers Forum, Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs



2007, An abbreviated year-end review in pictures

peaceful, and had God's spirit all around it. Ruedi and Sandy made sure I was comfortable at all times. They supplied everything that I needed. While there I was able to hear God plans for me more clearly. I was even able to relax a little. This was something that I rarely did. It was a big adjustment for me. I really did not realize how empty my spirit tank was until about the middle of that week. God began to refill joy back in my heart. He even reminded me to keep my eyes on the mountain tops (Him) for directions rather than focusing on scrubs and surrounding trees (life's daily problems).

By the end of the week I had enough ammunition to return back to the front line where each week I face teens who Satan has tricked into stealing, taking or selling drugs, fighting, being disobedient and rude to their parents, and using sex as their claim to fame. They have no goals and much worse most of their parents have never challenged them to get one. I also face little kids selling drugs, and joining gangs only to become a thug.

Years ago God asked me "What are we doing as the Body of Christ"? At that time I couldn't really answer Him because I was not engaged in the battle to win over lost souls. Now, I can truly say that the Body of Christ is functioning, and functioning well I might add!

I thank you so much for being a part of the Body of Christ (1. Corinthians 12:12-31). I just wanted to let you know that through your kind giving to Shepherd's Refuge you have helped nurture another wounded Soldier of Christ back to spiritual health so that He could return back to the front line of the battle field to share the Gospel of Christ and fight for lost souls.

May God continue to bless you,

Jimmy A. Ford
Community Outreach Project
Executive Director



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

1. Cor. 12:12

"For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ."

Progress Report

- Ground breaking for the Selah Cabin took place on July 2, 2007.
- Road improvement including drainage pipes to the cabin site was completed.
- Cabin site clearing and leveling for the foundation has been done.
- Septic system has been installed and inspected.
- Foundation, retaining wall and pad for water storage system have been completed.
- The guest/night numbers from January through September increased **from 58** in 2006 **to 123** in 2007!
- Phase I construction has depleted the bank account, except for operational expenses. Now we start setting aside funds for **Phase II**, which will require **\$50,000**. This will bring the cabin under roof, dried in.
- Windows and doors for the Selah cabin have been donated by a generous supporter of the ministry! Praise the Lord!
- A special year-end donation has brought us 1/4 closer to the needed funds for Phase II. Praise the Lord!

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

Caring for those who care.



Looking for Partners!

The need is ever present! We have almost reached the limit of what can be offered as accommodation through the Upper Room in our home. As we see the Selah Cabin emerging from the ground we are very excited and would love to see it completed, soon!

Here are some details to pray for and, if the Lord lays it on your heart, participate financially in this next phase.

Framing:	35,000		
Roof:	4,500		
Plumbing:	2,200	Estimated cost for Phase II	\$50,000
Windows	donated!	End of year donation	\$13,000
HVAC	5,000	Need for Phase II	\$37,000
Electric	3,300		

What if:

100 gave \$20, another 100 gave \$50, and 50 gave \$100, another 50 gave \$200, and 10 gave \$500 and 10 gave \$1000 we reach that goal!

Where do you fit in?

You can participate by sending a check or using the secure online donation service on our web site.

Did You Know?

- 350,000 pastors in the United States at any one time – 7% of them – are burned out (=24,500)
- One in eight (1 in 8) pastors are thinking about resigning
- 80% of pastors believing that pastoral ministry affect their families negatively
- 40% of all pastors having a serious conflict with a church member at least once a month, the chief cause of pastoral exodus
- Pastors have an attrition rate of 20 to 30 percent
- 52% of pastors are seriously unhappy with the opportunities they have to talk with others about their personal needs
- There are many pastors who are trained, innovative, personable, fearless, called – yet they are out of active service in the church as leaders
- The Church suffers from the awful reputation that it "shoots its wounded"
- Ministers who are out of active service feel depressingly lonely and frequently abandoned by their former colleagues

http://www.shepherd-care.org/shepherd-care/5a_helpful_links_crisis.html

Shepherd's Refuge - Selah Ministries, Inc., is a non-profit ministry recognized as a 501 (c) 3 organization.

We are on the Web:
www.shepherdsrefuge.org

Pass it on to those who can benefit or support!