

Sabbath Rest

Seat 10-C

Everyone had to walk past us! Seat 10-C was in the front row of economy class. With Sandy's leg in a brace we were allowed to board first to give her time to settle into her seat for the flight to Wisconsin, where we were to participate in the Clergy CareGivers Forum. The flight was full and so we had the chance to look at so many people walking past us. Some had too much hand luggage, others had none. Some were dressed like they were returning from the beach; others were definitely heading north, into colder climates. Those were the outward signs giving us some indication of what was going on in their lives, but what was going on inside? Were they coming from or going to a funeral, going to visit their first grandchild, honeymoon, or divorce, business or conference? We would not find out, but once again we realized that their Heavenly Father knows all the details and their life stories. The Great Shepherd knows His sheep, rebellious or obedient, staying close or running away, He cares for them and is concerned about them.

Sunday morning the pastor stands in front of his congregation, the flock he is responsible to shepherd. He looks into the faces of so many people, knows some of their aches and pains, their joys and sorrows and wants to minister to them all. How can he comfort those whose loved one's funeral he held the day before? Then he sees the mother-to-be, with her joy evidenced by a big smile on her face! What about the couple, although they sit next to each other, he knows they consider a divorce after 15 years of marriage? Of course he knows the ones that are out of work, the family that is on the verge of losing their home, the young couple already in debt and facing bank-

ruptcy. His calling is to be Jesus with skin for them, to help them find comfort and a firm foundation in Him in spite of circumstances.

The congregation is used to seeing their pastor once or twice a week, but wants him available whenever it needs him. As one pastor recently shared: "I get that Monday morning phone call almost weekly, saying 'Pastor I know it's your day off, but...'" Where do the pastors get their strength from? Many feel guilty when they spend time in quiet reflection and are not available in the office and "physically productive"!

The vocation of pastor is slowly morphing into that of a CEO, CFO, CIO, Manager of Personnel, Chairman of the Board, not to mention grounds keeper and janitor. And when they burn out, they are blamed for their own poor decisions and replaced by someone else.

Obviously not all churches treat their pastors the same way; many encourage them to take time off with their spouse, even to the extent of regular sabbaticals. The Clergy CareGivers Forum proved once again that the Lord is opening retreats for pastors all over the nation, now even in other countries. Places like Shepherd's Refuge are available for pastors to pause, recharge and refresh so that they can be the shepherds of the flock, the Jesus with skin, with renewed vision, strength and vitality.

Inside this issue:

- ◆ Seat 10-C
- ◆ Progress Report
- ◆ Question

Headlines

Great job,
Ben, Zak, Olivia
And Dad!



Ben, The one that came up with the idea to spend a day helping at Shepherd's Refuge together with his dad, big brother and lovely sister.





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

**SHEPHERD'S REFUGE - SELAH
MINISTRIES**

P.O. Box 1907
Cleveland, GA 30528

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

info@shepherdsrefuge.org

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

Caring for those who care.

Words of Wisdom

I have examined all,
as well as my
narrow sphere,
my straitened
means, and my busy
life would allow me;
and the result is,
that the Bible is the
best book in the
world.

John Adams
U.S. President



Psalm 27:8

When Thou didst say, "Seek My face", my heart said to The,
"Thy face, O Lord, I shall seek."



Progress Report

- ◇ There is no greater joy than reading the comments guests leave behind after their visit at Shepherd's Refuge. You can see some of the examples on our website under testimonies.
- ◇ In spite of Sandy's fall resulting in her right femur broken in two places, requiring total hip replacement surgery as well as conventional healing for the other place, the ministry continues to be open and receiving guests.
- ◇ With the help of volunteers who help cook, clean and work in the field we are able to keep our focus on serving the guests the Lord sends our way.
- ◇ Reservations for 2010 are coming in at a rapid pace. Join us in prayer for the cabin to be finished at a rapid pace, too!
- ◇ Thank you for using "GoodSearch" and "GoodShop" with Shepherd's Refuge as beneficiary. We are expecting the reward check to arrive in November! See how it works at www.goodsearch.com!
- ◇ We praise the Lord for His faithfulness in providing operational funds covering the expenses for the rest of the year.
- ◇ We have started to update our website more frequently with the latest news and thoughts for the week. Check it out at www.shepherdsrefuge.org and look for Latest News - Thought for the Week button.

Question:

As 2009 is rapidly coming to an end we look back over a very busy and eventful year. Many guests came to Shepherd's Refuge for their personal retreat, bringing with them the burdens of their work with people. They are not untouched by what is going on in our country and other nations. Those for whom we had space found an environment where they could safely "unload" a bit, retreat to a quiet place to pray and reflect. Many left from here with testimonies of restored vision, renewed vitality and new perspectives. Together with them we rejoice!

But there are those that could not be accommodated this year. That weighs heavily on our hearts. Yes, some were able to take advantage of similar ministries, albeit some distance away. What about the others?

The Lord knows the need for the continuation of the cabin construction, but He cannot rain money from heaven. He needs the willingness of His people to care for their earthly shepherds by becoming partners of Shepherd's Refuge. Are you already one of them, or would you consider joining in this worthwhile cause?

Greetings in the name of the One we love to serve most, our Lord Jesus Christ.