

START BY STOPPING

While it has been said that a journey of a 1,000 miles begins with a single step, my sabbatical journey has begun by going backward. Twelve years ago, not long before asking my sister and her daughters to come and live me, I bought a cottage about 90 miles from Brighton. It is a simple, double wide manufactured house set on 6 acres (3.5 of which are hilly woods and 2.5 run under the small lake). Several days off have been spent out here and even longer stints with my sister and nieces; but I have never spent more than four days in a row out here ever since I purchased it. The last 10 days have been spent catching up on my sleep and on some of the projects that needed to be done and a few others projects that I wanted to do. Each day has had regular times of prayer, physical work and time spent reading novels that I have bought and set aside for "another time". (One was a history book on the start of World War I and the others, medieval murder mysteries.) Over these first two weeks, Barney and my sister's dog, Tiffany, have made two trips back to Howell to visit with my sister. The major part of the visit is several games of Yatzhee. Usually she wins!

As the first two weeks come to an end, I am beginning to prepare for interviews. I am going to spend some time with a friend to discuss methods of interviewing and then start setting up interviews.