



I put Ol' Blue out to pasture a few weeks ago. Beverly and I rode her down to the truck stop on Saturday, then to Church on Sunday morning, and pulled into the driveway at home in the mid-afternoon. It wasn't a long weekend, miles-wise, but it was the most we had ridden all summer, and Blue was worn out. As we made the hard right turn off Main Street, I felt Blue give a little shudder. After unloading Beverly and our stuff, I decided to take Blue around the block to try and identify the aberrant vibration I we had picked up. I got halfway down the block, and there it was again, a definite shudder, but I couldn't tell where it came from. Back in the driveway, I checked the clutch, drive belt, shifter, and everything else that a layman could observe. I checked the air in the tires since I have had an air retention problem since getting a new tire last year. Nothing could account for the shudders of Ol' Blue, so I relegated her to the back forty.

A few days back, I was telling a long time biker friend - someone you might refer to as an "old-timer" like me, about Blue, and he asked how many miles that old blue machine had on her. A hundred and twenty thousand! That is a lot of miles, but we all know bikes with a lot more miles than that. Why, Ol' Dave Zien's bike had over a million! My friend told me that what I ought to do is go throw a loop over Ol' Blue out in that pasture, saddle her up, and ride her 'til she won't go no more. He said that with all those miles she had accumulated, she deserved a little shudder or two now and again. I am thinking of a neat little play on words right now, but I don't want to insult poor Ol' Blue. Anyway, as we all age, we develop aches and pains and other vibratory considerations from time to time, so why not our machines? Well, always one to consider and follow advice from experts, good or bad, (make up your own mind what that means) I decided to ride Ol' Blue to work today. Our commute is forty-five miles to the truck stop, and the day was perfect for riding. Ol' Blue performed flawlessly. She did not

shudder at all, in fact, she seemed to enjoy the ride as much as I did. I think she has acquired some of the characteristics of her principle rider, who has to take a break every so often and rest up a while. I sometimes need a couple of weeks to rest up, myself. I guess I can do that for a BFF named Ol' Blue.

Life can sometimes wear us down, no matter what our age or mileage. Circumstances and situations conspire to rob us of our peace of mind and happiness. If we are so consumed by the demands of a fast-paced world that we don't have time to slow down a bit and shudder a little, we will wind up in life's junk yard. We need a break from the break-neck pace of modern life, which will refresh us and restore our strength from the inside (spirit and soul) to the outside (body). Physical rest will not be effective unless amplified by spiritual rejuvenation. The Bible asks us, "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31) Nobody can just keep on going, with no relief. When Jesus Christ, God the Son, walked on this earth, He often went to the back forty to rest and recuperate from the demanding circumstances of life. We are invited to come to the Lord of Heaven for that same kind of R&R. Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Turn to Him now, in repentance and faith, for rest now, and Eternal Life.

Pastor Sam
White Creek Church
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608-547-8198 fbcaf@aol.com

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