



Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus

April, 2008

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Missed opportunity for witness

It had been an awesome but humbling experience to walk in the footsteps of Paul through Greece and Turkey- seeing the communities he touched, the places he visited, and, in actuality, recognizing the distances he covered to deliver the gospel of Jesus Christ. We were filled to overflowing with thankfulness for the experience but ready to be home. Then the unexpected happened. The flight from Heathrow left London 45 minutes late and got to JFK New York also 45 minutes late. It was another 20-25 minutes before the bags came into baggage claim, and another few minutes to go through customs and passport review. We went to put our cargo onto our new plane to get home and discovered we needed to exit the station, drag our luggage across the street, take the elevator to the third floor, catch the air train and ride it from station 7 (where we were) to station 3 and find the Delta counter there. No one told us to transfer trains at "C" station. When we did at "B" station and started back it was another 15 minutes lost in time. When we finally got to the Delta kiosk it told us we were too late to check our luggage. We went to the counter and they put a rush on the luggage and told us to hurry to gate 11.

There was a problem. Only one security station was open and there were 43 people ahead of us. Finally clearing security we ran to the gate, some 1/2 mile or more distance away, and got there as the connecting shuttle left the gate. They refused to wait for us. The only thing the airlines could do was issue us tickets for 6:15 am the next day as this had been the last flight of the day. It was 5:45 p.m. No! They would not give us meals, a hotel room, or any other accommodations and if we left the area we would not be allowed to return without going through clearance again. We had no alternative but to spend the night in the airport. We were out of cash (they would not accept our Turkish Lira), our residual money was in the bags we had checked (and hoped was in the plane's hold, which it was), had one orange and a little trail mix left and Darryl was overcoming an intestinal flu bug. By now we had been up for 26+ hours with only a little rest on the many planes.

Have you ever been the only ones in the terminal (except for the security guards and the cleaning crews)? Concrete covered with industrial carpeting and upright chairs were the only places to rest. Music came from the closed and locked stores and the CNN reports blared from all the large LCD T.V.'s. It was impossible to get comfortable, sleep, fill our stomachs, or really rest. We made copious trips to the restrooms (if they were not being cleaned) and the water fountain. I was discouraged, exhausted, angry, frustrated, and scared. It was an overwhelming experience. I prayed, I tried to sleep, I cried, I worried about everything I could not control (would somebody take my bag if I slept?), and then I made a mistake. I read my Bible! There it was in Acts, the story of Paul and Silas witnessing in Philippi, being brought before the judge, beaten and imprisoned in the stocks. I had just seen **that** jail just a few days ago. And their response? To

sing hymns of praise to the Lord for their safe deliverance! And to continue their mission after their deliverance! And here I was spending the night in a place any homeless person would have praised God to be. It was dry and warm, safe, restrooms and water were available and I was not thankful for my blessings!

I hope that you are a more appreciative disciple than I was. God allows us circumstances to show his power to help us overcome them. Arriving home some 37 1/2 hours later I see God's hand of protection and praise him for it. How are you doing? In Christ,

Linda

Contact Information for Fall Walks

Men's Walk #44 Wade Conklin 478-951-3468
October 30th -November 2nd, 2008

Women's Walk #45 Judi Rainey 678-416-9440 jamship@yahoo.com
November 6th-November 9th, 2008

Team meeting dates and location:
Lithia Springs UMC 8:00am - 3:00PM
September 6th, September 27th, October 4th, October 25th

NOTES FROM PAT

ARE YOU PLUGGED IN???

Do we at times find our spiritual battery running on low? How do we recharge? We recharge by PLUGGING into the power source.....JESUS. There are many ways to recharge our spiritual batteries: One way is church, don't just attend, and get involved by teaching a class, serving on committees, and participating in bible studies. Another way is to get involved with your Emmaus community, work on a team, attend gatherings, be in a reunion/accountability group, sponsor a pilgrim...humm-does this sound familiar? Let me see...I believe I remember something about a...three legged stool...OH MY GOSH!!! Piety, Study, Action!!!! We have ALL heard about these and many of us more than once...so is your spiritual battery running on low? If so, to be plugged into the power source is simple....just DO IT!!! Your spiritual light for JESUS will be shining brighter and HIS KINGDOM will prosper... isn't that what it is all about?

Pat Stevens, Emmaus Chair

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2008 Gathering Schedule

April 19 - Bowdon UMC

May 17 - Powder Springs

June 21 - Hiram UMC

July 19 - Lost Mountain Church of God

August 16 - Old Camp UMC - Carrollton

September 20 - Lithia Springs UMC

October 18 - Wesley Chapel - Villa Rica

November 15 - Host: Love EMC @ Kennesaw UMC

Contact Donna Grenier with any questions about Gatherings

Donna Grenier, 770-505-7481

gardongre@aol.com



As Chairperson for Communications, I have been asked to address an issue, and have since discovered that this is an ongoing situation with this community as well as others. The issue is the distribution of a printed newsletter, mailed to each community member (family) on a regular basis. It has been pointed out to me, on several occasions, that everyone does not have access to our website, so they cannot receive our monthly newsletter electronically. This causes us, as a community to lose contact with our members because they are not kept up to date with events such as gatherings, hoots, candlelights, or even walks, and could possibly cause us to even lose them for good. This is not your Board's desire. We not only want our Community to remain intact with all of members, but for that membership to constantly increase through Walks and other means.

Our dilemma is caused by a single factor, and that is funds. We have no budgeted funds for our newsletter, either for the cost of publishing or the ever increasing cost of mailing. That being the case, we must collectively put some serious thought into how this can be overcome to satisfy as many as we can, and still keep us in the black financially. One suggestion is for those who really want a copy of a newsletter mailed to pay (contribute) to the community for this specific expense. The question is how much, and that is being looked into. I do know that the more people that want the mailing, the lower the relative expense. But this will take a while to investigate and hopefully we can have an answer by next month.

If this is something that you have an opinion to express, please let me hear from you.

On the other hand, we have just had two great walks and we want to welcome all our new community members into our community.

De Colores,

Phil Cole pcole@carlblack.com



Chrysalis News

Mark Your Calendars

Girls Chrysalis Flight – June 26-29, 2008	Becky Davis, Lay Director Amanda Blackwell
Boys Chrysalis Flight - July 17-20, 2008	Larry Mahle, Lay Director Davis Logan

Becky Davis	becky@daviscore.com or 706-777-3364
Amanda Blackwell	ablackwell@berry.edu or 706-767-1343
Larry Mahle	ljmahle@bellsouth.net or 770-489-2998
Davis Logan	rdlogan2@comcast.net or 770-948-1743

Please be in prayer for Becky and Larry as they pray about the team that God would have for the summer. If you love youth and love to see amazing changes call Becky or Larry and let them know you would like to work the weekend. Be in prayer for the Caterpillars that God would have you sponsor. Team meetings are being set....time is drawing near. Pray about it....we need your help...pray some more....contact one of them today. Great, we'll see you at the team meeting!

There are also open Chrysalis Board positions. If you are interested in serving God in this way, please let me know. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

DeColores ~ Fly with Christ
 Judi Rainey, Chrysalis Community Lay Director
 P.O. Box 7046, Douglasville, GA 30154
jamship@yahoo.com
 678-416-9440



April 2008

The King's Corner

The Trustees need your help!!

In 2007, the King's Retreat was used a total of 33 weekends out of the year. In 2008, we will only have a total of 27 weekends at the Camp. Since the majority of the income we receive to pay all of the expenses of the King's Retreat comes from the rent the Trustees receive from the groups using the facility, this will be a very tight budget year for us. The English speaking Catholic Cursillo community has decided to use the Abbey in Conyers for their retreats and that takes away 4 weekends from us. NGWTE has also decided to reduce their Women's Walks by 2 weekends.

To offset these losses, **we would like to rent our facilities to any Church or Christian group who would like to have a meeting at the King's Retreat.** Rentals can be as short as a day and as long as a week. We have several weekends open this summer and a few in the fall. If you would like more information, please email billwaldrep@bellsouth.net.



Mark Your Calendar! ***King's Retreat Work Day Scheduled***

The King's Retreat Board of Trustees and the North Georgia WTE Co-Board will have a workday at King's Retreat on Saturday, July 12 from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided (can you say "Mike Vaughn barbeque?!") to all those willing servants who will be sweatin' in the Georgia summer. Because of the camp's schedule, this ended up being the best weekend to shape up the Holy Ground that we all hold so dear.

Right now, we are looking for monetary gifts to help purchase supplies and materials to have available that day. If you are a contractor or have access to building and maintenance items that you can donate, please email Margaret Neal at magmom7@bellsouth.net. As we finish determining the needs, we will post a list in the Loveletter. So, stay tuned!

***Donations for the King's Retreat may be made by sending your check to:
Mr. Bob Flood, Trustees' Treasurer, 5200 Dallas Hwy. Suite 200-223, Powder Springs,
GA. 30127. Contact Bob at bob.flood@att.com with any questions.***