

Near the Cross Emmaus



November 2012
Volume 7, Issue 11

Prepare for Spring Walks

Both the men's and women's walks are tentatively scheduled for April, 2013, subject to approval of the Mount Zion Camp board. Final approval is expected in January.

To prepare for the walks, please pray for God to lead us to Pilgrims he already has chosen. If you feel led to speak with a certain person or persons, begin by telling them about your spiritual experience at the walk you attended as a Pilgrim. If you wish to give them a brochure, Contact Dr. Jim Stilwell, jstilwel@astate.edu.
(Note his email address has only one "L".)

Workers Notice!

Those wishing to work for the Spring Walks need to send in their applications immediately. The Team Selection Committee will meet Dec. 1 to begin team formation. They will call on those who have filled out applications recently.

If you need a form, go to our website:

www.nearthecrossemmaus.org

Or contact: Bob Rogers 870-532-5066
bobgoeagle@att.net

Jesus said, "Come With Me" (Matthew 4:19) Join other Believers at Gathering Saturday, Nov. 3

Jim Markley, chairman of the Near the Cross board, will be the Fourth Day speaker Saturday at Jonesboro's First United Methodist Church. This will be an excellent opportunity to join with other Christians in worshipping our Lord through fellowship and Holy Communion.

The meeting will begin with potluck lunch at noon where believers from throughout the community will enjoy fellowship and worship. There will be a nursery provided.

There is construction underway, but the parking lot is available as usual across the street from the church at the corner of Matthews and Union. If you are using GPS, enter 801 S. Main, Jonesboro, AR 72401. The Gathering will be held in Fellowship Hall as usual (enter from the Union Street door).

Visitors are welcome to view newly constructed or re-modeled parts of the church: the Atrium and the Chapel. The Atrium, south of Fellowship Hall, is a central gathering place for all services, Fellowship Hall, the Chapel and, by using an elevator, the Sanctuary. The Atrium has a water fountain which is used for immersion baptism. It is a place of worship, and adults are asked to supervise children in the fountain area and the sanctuary.

5 New Board Members Elected

Four lay persons and one clergy were elected to 3-year terms on the Board of Directors:

Lay persons (listed alphabetically)—Jason Chandler

Marvin Day

Kathy Price

Pam Slaven

Clergy Rev. Shane West

The community expresses its appreciation to retiring members: (listed alphabetically) Rev. Ted DeWeese, Tom McDonald, Bob Rogers, Dr. Jim Stillwell and Betty Waser.

Called by the Holy Spirit

Called by the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:26

4th Day Talk
By Chuck Skelton
Blytheville

Approximately 10 years ago I made a decision that changed my life. I did not realize it then but looking back my direction in life was definitely changed. I retired in May 2002. My sister had been bugging me about a Walk To Emmaus for about three years. I promised her I would go when I retired. So on a cool, rainy October Thursday I drove 275 miles to Indiana to do this walk. She told me to relax and not to anticipate. I thought *I was a good Christian, attending worship, going to Sunday School, working in the church, praying and reading my Bible. I don't remember much about my time before the walk and really couldn't tell you much about the 72 hours. But I do know I was on a spiritual high after the walk. For me it was a mountain top experience.*

In Mark 3:13 Jesus calls the 12 to the mountain top to be with Him, that He might send them out to preach, and gave them authority to drive out demons. On Monday after Walk #26 I had read my devotion and in my quiet time Jesus or the Spirit took me back to that Monday morning 10 years ago. I was driving home, and I was excited about the only talk I could remember: Christian Action. That was the reason the Lord had me on Walk #35 at this time in my life. Jesus was going to lead me and the way was prepared.

On Tuesday morning I was at the local food pantry to volunteer. The person who ran the warehouse gave me one day of training and was gone for the next six weeks. I worked every day at this. We started out our mornings with scripture and prayed for the people we would serve. The Sunday after I returned home my pastor allowed me to give my testimony to the church. This was really out of my comfort zone. I then learned about a men's Bible study group, and I joined them.

In this Bible study, I met people who would affect my life. Bob Rogers was one of the early ones. Gary Thomas had sponsored around 20 persons to Emmaus. I continued to have opportunities to serve. One morning I was asked if I would like to go on a mission trip to Mexico. Of course, the answer was "yes" after I heard the question: will there be hot showers and flush toilets?

I committed myself, not really knowing what they would be doing or even knowing what I had to contribute. It was a wonderful experience and I got to know another great man of God, Chris Cooper. This experience taught me that God is not interested in our ability as much as he is in our availability and fits everything together for His glory.

I made two more mission trips to Mexico. On the third trip I met Bill Fish and Jeremy Bennett. Jeremy is a big guy with an even bigger heart. He had great compassion for the people we were serving. I learned from him. Bob Rogers was on all three trips.

As time went by I lost some of my zeal and some things became a burden. My mountain top experience was gone. I had a few experiences in church, but nothing that compared with the Walk. I was surrounded by Christian friends, attended Sunday School and Church, went to my Bible study group and had a great prayer warrior living in my own home, but life in the valley was wearing me down. I knew I needed to go to the mountain top again.

In August 2010, David Belk called me to serve as an assistant table leader on Walk #17. I had always said I didn't want to work a walk, but my spiritual counselor, Joy, said I needed to do it. I worked Walk #17 and it was just like going on the Walk for the first time. I was nervous about my duties, and a prior commitment prevented me from attending two training sessions. It was almost

like my first walk and I received a spiritual high but not like the first time so I assumed I had missed what the Lord had for me.

About this time, the Lord had spoken to me that a change was coming to Blytheville. I didn't understand what it was about until about two months later. I was putting gas in my car when from the other side of the pump a young black man introduced himself and told me that the Lord had prodded him to speak to me. He told me about his organization called Healing In The Hood which was inspired by a vision the Lord gave him to save youth from the streets. I knew this was the vision the Lord had revealed to me and I joined. I am still with them but sometimes I wonder what this old white man has to contribute.

A few months later, I got a call from Grant asking me to be a table leader on Walk #19. I was apprehensive at first, knowing that it was a great responsibility. God was placing me in a position where my words would affect lives. After much thought and prayer I accepted the responsibility. When I received the topic of my talk—Christian Action—I could see God at work.

On this walk God began to reveal to me the importance of team. Everything went well until I woke up the morning of my talk with a terrific headache and a blood-soaked pillow from a nose bleed. I was ready to surrender, but the Lord knew this was coming and had a solution in place. An old friend and trusted prayer warrior was present on the walk. Shirley prayed over me, and I was set free to make my talk as planned. I was reminded on the walk that we have an adversary, but we also have an advocate who gives us the power to overcome. Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.

I realized since my first walk in 2002 God was working His plan in me if I would allow Him. Unfortunately, He doesn't remove the clutter from the valleys we live and work in. So occasionally we need to return (Next page)

(continued from previous page)

To a mountain top where we can experience His love and let Him reveal His plans for us.

On Walk #21, I was able for the first time to begin to feel a relationship to the pilgrims. I felt this happened because of my experience for myself and the pilgrims at my table. God continued to impress on me the importance of team. My team leader was Andy Slaven.

After this walk God moved us from our place of worship to a new place with different opportunities.

Walk #25 was a new experience. God brought together at the Table of Luke a great group of men. During this walk for the first time I really heard each talk. Growth through study really sank home. The relationship experience was deeper and more profound than ever before. The Lord placed on me the responsibility to always pray for these men and their families. Louis, Chris, Scott, Daniel, Mark and Jim are my brothers in Christ now and eternally.

I have said all this to reveal that I believe God led me to Emmaus and has led me since. He has taught me the importance of team. Being a good team member requires loyalty to the team leader. I belong to teams led by David, Grant, Andy and Jim. I am also a member of Sherry's luggage team. But most importantly I am a member of Jesus' team.

I encourage you to be a part of an Emmaus team to learn about being a servant and allow God to work in your life. My fourth day has been Spirit led. The Lord willing, I will continue my mountain top experiences at Mount Zion. I may never be the encourager that Bob and Beth are, or the prayer warrior than Shirley and Joy are, or have the zeal that Shelly has, but I know one thing: I am a work in progress, and the potter that started work on this lump of clay will finish it to His glory!

DeColores!

Community Lay Leader

Jim Markley

Jmarkley_best@msn.com

Registrar

Bob Rogers

bobgoeagle@att.net

Treasurer

Sherri Slaven

sherrislaven@yahoo.com

Secretary

Sara Frazier

wsfrazier@live.com

Newsletter

Haley Mitchell

haley_jo_01@yahoo.com

Website

www.nearthecrossemmaus.org