



GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS

June 2015

What Do I Love about Emmaus?

I have heard the Walk to Emmaus described as “God’s Special Time”. Betsy and I went on our walk 21 years ago. We have the same story as many of you. It took five years, three kids, many excuses and lots of persistence from our wonderful sponsors before we actually went on the Walk. We had so many questions; “Why was it so secret? Were these religious fanatics? Where are we going? How far do you walk?” and the list goes on.

We are now in our second Emmaus Community and have served on many walks at five different locations. One thing that I love is that God shows up on every Walk to Emmaus. Both the workers and the pilgrims feel His presence, bringing to mind the song, “*we are standing on holy ground and I know that there are angels all around.*” Yes, I love feeling that God is with me, and I especially have that feeling while on an Emmaus Walk.

Another thing I love about the Walk is watching how God works through His willing servants. He uses you and me to help conference room speakers develop, practice and tell their story. He uses prayer, agape mail, music, table leaders, skits, poster parties and many other things to release people from heartache and bondage. Then, at Closing you get to hear many pilgrims express the impact the weekend has had on them. What an awesome opportunity to not only see God at work but to be His hands and feet. God takes us as willing servants and works through us. Wow! It’s hard to believe He uses us to show His love, grace and mercy to others.

The best thing of all about the Walk to Emmaus is the impact it has on our fourth days. You see, we have met and become friends with so many special people through the Walk to Emmaus. Whether we see them weekly or only once a year, it is a relationship with a special bond because we have shared “God’s special time” with them through the Walk to Emmaus.

Robbie Turner
South Georgia Coastal Walk to Emmaus #27
Table of Mark

It’s All About the Pilgrims

Many wonderful things happened during Men’s Walk #27 this past April 2015. This was so very evident during the closing testimonies of these thirty fine Gentlemen when just about all participated in answering the two questions before them. Lives were changed forever by God through the fine work of Gene and Steve’s team through their leadership. While we worker bees in the background toil and perform our various tasking, we have plenty of guidance. With training and our many published materials; manuals, three day schedules, minute by minute and more. But, our preparation can really put blinders on our vision. All of our tasks are indeed important, yet our focus should always include the big picture - the pilgrims.

My duties as Support coordinator were many; yet, less than twenty four hours into this week-end I was humbled by the very kind Dee James. While trying to herd cats (background critters) into the Chapel for Friday night communion services, she stopped me and said that the pilgrims come first... and she was right. I was literally running around the campground extolling the all -important need for all background workers to attend the Chapel Communion. Her statement stopped me dead in my tracks and made me realize while this was truly important, there could be some absentees. It really doesn’t matter; book table, snack table, dinner table, or communion table. It’s all about the pilgrims.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5-8

Fred DeZouche
GIWTE #27
Support Coordinator



How many of you have heard the song “Hero” sung by the Christian band Skillet? The chorus bridge is: “I need a Hero to save me now, I need a Hero to save my life, I need a Hero to save me just in time.” Pretty awesome when you think about how it feels when someone comes in at the last moment to save the day. Can you also remember how it feels when no one comes to save you? I got a reminder of how it feels last week.

Our oldest daughter attends Charleston Southern University in South Carolina. Last week she took her final exam and was ready to head home. I had to go up and meet her because she had everything packed in her little car—except the refrigerator. So, we get everything situated and get on the road. The trip from campus is about four hours long so when we hit Darien, we were making really good time.

We pulled off to do the normal potty and refreshment break. Then, back on the road...or so we think. I had pulled out of the station to get back on I-95 and noticed that she still hadn’t moved. She called to let me know that something was up with her car. So I turned around.

I had her turn the car on so I could hear the noise she had heard. We opened the hood to look around underneath. I immediately noticed that her serpentine belt had popped off the tension pulley. So I thought if I could get a ratchet handle or a long screwdriver, I could work it back on. We didn’t have anything like that. (Note to self: get a tool kit for our vehicles!!!) Based on the condition of the belt, I told my daughter that we would continue towards home, just at a much slower pace.

Now, mind you, we were at a gas station. People are walking by us, glancing over, but not offering any kind of assistance. I was getting a little irritated, but I thought we had our situation under control. So we get out of the station and head down the entrance ramp toward I-95, when her car starts smoking. You guessed it! The belt had completely shredded. Now we’re really stuck!

I couldn’t call my husband because he was already on his way to his work. My brother lives up close to Georgetown, so I couldn’t call him. Who can I call? I finally called some friends of ours from Kingsland. Of course, we worked out what we could do to get the situation taken care of. It would be about an hour before they could get up to where we were. In that hour or so of waiting, not one person that came down that entrance ramp stopped to offer a helping hand. Not even the three sheriff’s deputies that went by. This left such an empty feeling in my heart, that no one could be bothered to stop and help a motorist in need. That must be how it feels when you’re away from God’s presence—left out and cold.

Needless to say, our friends (Jim and Robbie) arrived and, in the end had my daughter’s car towed to Kingsland. Their arrival after the long wait was a great relief and joy, knowing that someone who loved us had dropped everything to come help us in our hour of need. Sound familiar? This is basically what God did for us. He saw how lonely and meaningless our lives had become and sent a Hero to save us just in time! Aren’t you glad He did?

DeColores,

Brenda Morris *

Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus #28

Table of Sarah

*I’m excited that Brenda Morris, Walk #28 has agreed to serve on the Newsletter Committee. I know her articles will be a special blessing to the community.

Fourth Day Reflection

Stress stalks me this time of year like a buzzard searching for a dead body to feast on. Each year I struggle to fight off spring stress. But the truth is, I'm a Martha. As much as I *think* I'm leaving my cares to the Lord, I find myself picking up the same burdens time and again.

The end of the school year should be a joyous occasion for children and adults alike, but in the midst of preparing for celebrations, vacations, and new beginnings, it's easy to get caught up in the minutiae of life. Like buzzards, we devour every detail around us and feast until we forget the purpose of our joy.

The other night God reminded me in a colorful way to keep my eyes on Him and leave my burdens at His feet. A double rainbow appeared in the evening sky over Brunswick that was sharper than any rainbow I could recall in a long time (see above picture). He got my attention. In fact, I've been holding on to the memory of that rainbow all week as I talk to disappointed families whose children have not been successful in my class.

John 14:27 reminds us of Jesus' promise to his followers: "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*"

When I lose focus of the peace I should have in the Lord, it's easy to just go through the motions of living. But Christ wants more than that from me, so He sends daily reminders that He is constantly with me and will not leave me without His peace. When I focus my eyes on Christ, then everything else around me falls into place.

As you face stress in your daily lives, I pray you will lay down those burdens at Jesus' feet and enjoy the peace He offers all who follow Him.

DeColores!

Lori Durham, Newsletter Committee



Reflections from a PIO

Hi, my name is Jessica Errico and I was privileged to attend the Golden Isles WALK #28, sitting at the table of the Resilient Ruths. Thank you to all who served the Pilgrims this year, your selfless acts of Agape glorified our LORD JESUS and ministered to our souls!

Though the weekend was physically challenging for me (I never do things the easy way), my experience of the Body of Christ was priceless. No doubt many will remember our candlelight ceremony ringed with thunder and lightning! I will never forget the luminous faces of the Emmaus Community who, with lifted umbrellas, glowing candles and rain-soaked smiles, shared their love for Christ and their love for me!

The WALK afforded me what is often missing in our rushed, sometimes over-extended lives of faith...the time and space to experience afresh the power of the Gospel...Jesus' redeeming love poured out through His people.

The following is a poem written by my Resilient Ruth sisters about Prevenient Grace. It tickled us to see the Holy Spirit directing our thoughts and words:

Grace, Grace, Prevenient Grace

The Grace that comes before -

Starts in the womb, carries to the tomb.

God's arms are Big and Wide...

Surrounding us from side to side.

He woos us,

Pursues us,

And draws us close to Him

His prevenient Grace frees us and empowers us

To be an arrow in His bow.

By the transforming power of His Love,

Our hearts are healed and our trials redeemed,

Through the care of the Body of Christ!

De Colores!



Hooray for Dads!

My earthly Dad has had an incredible impact on my life. He taught me to appreciate nature. He taught me that when I draw something, I should try to capture its “essence” and not try to make my drawing look like a photograph.

- He taught me the Prayer of Serenity. He taught me to treasure the happy moments in life, to acknowledge the sad, and to know that everything in this life is only ours on loan. He taught me to love people and hold things loosely. I am grateful that he is still an active part of my life. All earthly dads, my own included, are less than perfect. But it is my firm belief that each earthly dad expresses their love to their children in the best way they know how. God, our Heavenly Father, takes the earthly dad’s missteps in parenting and, when released to Him, remolds them and uses them to create something of beauty. God uses the Walk to Emmaus to remind men of their place in His plan as spiritual leaders at home, at church, at work, and in their communities. We need to pray for the men in our lives, and encourage and support them as they work to become all that God has called them to be. Most importantly, we need to respect their leadership. Men know when they fail, but they don’t always know when they’ve done something right. Let’s commit to lifting the men in our lives in prayer this month, and letting them know how we are praying for them.

Trisa Chancey

Newsletter Committee

Coming Down From the Mountain

You have gone on the Walk to Emmaus. As you learned to say in greeting and celebration with your fellow pilgrims: *De Colores*. You remember the decorations, the singing, the feast of fellowship at each meal, the talks and the worship of your Emmaus weekend.

If you are like me, you thought the Walk would be just another church program. You never guessed that the Walk to Emmaus would affect you deeply. If you are typical of people who have attended the Walk, you know that through the Walk to Emmaus, God has changed your life. You were an active church member before you went on the Walk to Emmaus; and you still are, but with “a new and right spirit” within you (Psalm 51:10). You were probably a disciple of Jesus Christ before you went on the Walk to Emmaus; you tried to live your life to please God and to honor your commitment to Christ and His church. But something happened during your Walk to Emmaus that brought the gospel home to you. Maybe you understood the gospel in a deeper way because of a particular talk, or you were moved by an act of agape. Maybe you found meaning in a worship service or in knowing that people were praying for you. Whatever brought the gospel home to you—a particular experience or the whole program – you probably came away from the Walk a different person, a disciple with a renewed commitment to your faith, family, and congregation.

For most of us, Emmaus is a mountaintop experience; and it is hard to come down to the valley. The mountaintop air is heady and exhilarating. The valley air is stuffy, lethargic, polluted. But we live in the valley; God leads us there to fulfill our calling as disciples.

Coming down from the mountaintop of Emmaus is a necessity, a certainty, and a blessing—yes, a blessing. In the scripture, Peter, John and James came down the mountain and joined the other disciples as they continued their journey of discipleship. The mountaintop experience was over, but it wasn’t complete. There was more to learn and more to accomplish. The same is true for the Walk to Emmaus. Hundreds of thousands of Emmaus pilgrims have returned to their congregations to help God renew the church and convert the world.

(Excerpt from Upper Room booklet “*Coming Down from the Mountain: Returning to Your Congregation*” by Lawrence Martin, available on the book table at monthly Emmaus Gatherings for \$4.00)



Did You Know.....

More than one million Christians in 39 countries have experienced a Walk to Emmaus or Chrysalis weekend.

Emmaus Ministries is funded by participant fees, resource sales, and “**The Gift**” fund. Emmaus Ministries does not receive any apportionment funds from The United Methodist Church or any church denomination.

Your Gift Funds at Work This Year . . .

Emmaus Growth in South America! In April 2014, fifteen pilgrims from Chile and Peru experienced a Walk to Emmaus weekend in Puebla, Mexico, with the hopes of launching communities in their home countries. Donations to “**The Gift**” provided scholarship funds and helped cover travel and lodging expenses. Additional funds are needed to support these emerging communities and tend the seeds that have been planted.

If you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to “**The Gift**” of grace that you received on your weekend, make your check payable to: “**Emmaus Ministries.**”

Send your offering of love to:

Emmaus Ministries Office of The Upper Room
1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

Or, you may donate online through
www.upperroom.org.



Missing Worship Tablecloths

We can't seem to locate the white Worship table cloths from last year. If you know where they are, please call Cheryl De-Zouche—

(912) 673-7239 Thanks so much!



Time for a Laugh

An inexperienced preacher was to hold a graveside burial service at a pauper's cemetery for an indigent man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived an hour late, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Feeling guilty for his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workman say to the other, “I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I ain't never seen anything like that.”

Southeast Emmaus Regional Leadership Training

We have the honor of hosting the upcoming Southeast Emmaus Regional Leadership Training. Often these events have been held in areas far away. What an opportunity for us as a community to have it in our own area. If you are currently in a leadership position or would be interested in learning more about Emmaus leadership please plan to attend the training which will be held at Kingsland United Methodist Church, November 7, 2015. Clergy training will be offered at the same time. The cost is \$10. There is a link on the Golden Isles Emmaus website for registration. All Board members are required to attend this training at least once during their three year term of service.

Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

- ◆ Gathering—June 5, at 7:00 p.m., Blackshear UMC, Blackshear, GA
- ◆ Gathering — July 10, at 7:00 p.m., Glynn Baptist, Thallman, GA.
- ◆ Gathering — August 7, at 7:00 p.m. Waynesville Missionary Baptist, Waynesville, GA.

If you would like to offer your church as a location for a Gathering please contact Gretchen Bell at gbell_31566@yahoo.com

GOLDEN ISLES WALK TO EMMAUS BOARD MEETING

GIE Board Meeting June 20, 9 a.m., Brunswick FUMC, Miller Building.

Emmaus community members are always welcome at Golden Isles Emmaus Board Meetings normally held the third Saturday of each month at the Miller Building behind Brunswick First UMC.



Chrysalis® is the youth and young adult version of The Walk to Emmaus®. This three-day spiritual renewal time provides an opportunity for youth and young adults to learn more about faith, to experience Christian love and support, and to make new faith commitments.

Chrysalis Flights #71 and #72 take off in June! All flights are held at Tattnall Campground. (Directions can be found by clicking **Location** tab on our GIWTE website: goldenislesemmaus.org.)

Girls' Chrysalis #71 June 11-14, 2015 Lay Director: Jessica Strickland

Boys' Chrysalis #72 June 18-24, 2015 Lay Director: Ritchie Swindell

If at all possible, come out and support the Flight events. It means so much to these young adults to see the support of the Emmaus Community.

Thursday June 11 & 18 - Send Off: 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 13 & 20—Candlelight: 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 14 & 21 - Closing: 4:00 p.m.

We are also in need of your commitment to pray! Please help us cover these weekends, servants and caterpillars in prayer as they embark on Flights #71 and #72. Prayer Vigil link can be found on the GIWTE website: goldenislesemmaus.org.