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THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

Emmaus of The Midlands

November 2005

YOU ARE INVITED TO PRAY FOR CAMP AGAPE

By: Laxton Hinson

Greetings Emmaus Family.... Thanks to you and your support, we have successfully completed two more Walks at Camp Agape. They were Walk #27 for the Men and the Women. Closing is always special to all of us and it was abundantly obvious that God touched many lives during the 72 hours of each Walk.

God has been very good to our Emmaus Community in so many ways it is difficult to list them all. But, one of those ways has been through the efforts of Ken Baker and The Church of God of Prophecy, who have made it possible for us to call Camp Agape home for our Emmaus Walks. You may not know him, but Ken Baker is the State Overseer for the Church of God. He is a man of vision inspired by God. Earlier this year Ken shared his vision for Camp Agape with me and now the time has come to share it with you.

Plans were being made last year to make some substantial renovations and improvements to Camp Agape. However, those plans were put on hold when an anonymous contributor announced a gift to The Church of God of a large tract of land in the mountains of SC. The donor stated the purpose of the land was to build a new camp for the youth of The Church of God of Prophecy and others. The same person also gave the Church an acre or more of extremely valuable waterfront land on Lake Keowee near Clemson. The land is to be sold to help finance the new camp. What does all this mean to us and how will we be affected? We have an opportunity. In meetings with Ken and members of the leadership of his Church, they told us that Camp Agape would be sold to raise the additional monies they would need to build a new camp. Because of our long affiliation with Camp Agape and our "partnership" with them, they wanted us to know firsthand about the sale long before they made it public. They asked us if we had an interest in buying the property.

This is a question we can't answer on our own. A growing number of us have already been in prayer on this question and now you're invited to become a prayer partner with us to see what God has in mind for our Emmaus Ministry and Camp Agape. Will you please pray about Camp Agape? Will you ask God for discernment on this question of what we must do about Camp Agape? When God gives you your answer, will you please let one of your Board members know what God has put on your heart? Will you please let them know what we should do?

DeColores

Prayers

Bill Albright, Todd Horn, Jerius Stork, Margaret Boyer, Dora Way, Rehoboth UMC, Wesley UMC, Relief Workers around the world, missing loved ones, Stern and Sherry Bolte, Jennifer O'Donnell, Leo Dryer, John Martin, Madonna Graham, Margaret Carter, Jerry Gossett, Jonathan and Amy Norvice, Laverne Irving, Hollon Gower, Tam Belding, Wayne and Laura Weathersbee, Kent Yaun, Mary Lou Reed, Earl Morrow, Chappelle McClary, Wesley UMC, Coley Mitchell, Kay Scott, Phyllis Plemmons, Margaret Boyne, Stephanie and Harold Gordon, Lou Ella and Percy Donaldson, Gary Bell, Miranna Davis, Mary Jo and John, Laticia Petty, Ivy Walters, Laxton Hinson, Amy Killens, Leon Montgomery, Harrison family, James Family, Pat Davis, Christine Webb, Rehoboth Youth Group, Ernest Carlisle, Jennifer Sander, Tasha and Kris Keith, Ellen Scoville, Justin Blinn, April Moore, Eva Jones, Carolyn McLean, Gladys Cruise, Martha Gantt, Roberta Gardner, Rev. Kenneth Waymer, Faye Stephens, Epiphany, West Kershaw Co. change, Cloningers, Mike Adamick family, Martha Rose Shealy, Janie Rikard family, Sue Valder, Chantel Derrick, Tony Rowell, Suzy Busby's family, Jerry Armstrong, Howard Ogden

Praises

Michael Bingham back from New Orleans, Jeff Snow's dad out of coma, Matt Rankin (Pam's son) graduates from police academy, Brandon Hicks, Bob Brenter recovered, Melanie and Richard Henry and Griff Baird survived Wilma



Emmaus Education Corner

Secretary/Send off/closing

By: Joey Mendiola

It is hard to believe it has been almost two years since I was voted on the board for secretary. I want to encourage anyone who is thinking about or wanting to serve on the board to contact any of your board members. The contact information is located on the Emmaus of the Midlands website <http://www.midlandsemmaus.com> where you will find the link for the board of directors.

As secretary I am responsible for the following:

1. Take and report minutes of each board meeting held every month and keep the history of all meetings.
2. Conduct meeting in the absence of the chair and vice chair.
3. Set up and chair committee (Send off, Closing, Sponsors' Hour)

Send off

1. Ask board members or community for food items.
2. If possible coordinate with kitchen coordinator to make coffee and prepare table for food and punch.
3. Before hand have chairs set up and place tablecloth on centered table. (This is used for communion service), Have communion elements, wooden cross, neck crosses ready and copies of order of service ready for sponsors' hour.
4. Have a crew prepare luminaries between 40 to 50 white bags ready and waiting for when service begins.
5. Have volunteers sit in back so not to disturb service. Then go out rear doors to place luminaries in a curved path toward the conference room. Then crew will light them.
6. Take up all food and drink about 7:20pm to prepare for service.
7. Once the community starts leaving the dining hall hand them the DeColores song sheet and have them line up along both sides where the luminaries are. Once the Pilgrims start coming toward the door start singing the DeColores song. Collect song sheets after community has finished singing.

Sponsors' Hour

1. Place communion elements, wooden cross, and neck crosses on the table in front of chairs.

2. Make sure the minister who is doing the service has a copy of order of worship and the list of team members and pilgrims.
3. Have a couple of volunteers hand out the order of worship (sponsors' hour handout)
4. After the service take up sponsors' hour handout.
5. Dispose of communion elements outside the back of the dining hall.
6. Rinse and dry communion service and place back in send off boxes.

Closing

1. Set up chairs facing the front where the microphone is located.
2. Place communion table with cloth, element, and cross to the right center against the wall.
3. Bring out communion elements and cover them for service.
4. Dispose of communion elements outside the back of the dining hall.
5. Rinse and dry communion service and place back in send off boxes.

This is the abbreviated version of what the secretary does throughout the year. I want to stress that none of this is possible without the help of the community and my wife. I want to thank each and everyone who has helped.

Your Brother in Christ

Fourth Day Talk

By: Laura Campbell

My name's Laura Campbell, I was on walk #25 and sat at the table of Elizabeth. I praise God for this opportunity He has given me to give my testimony tonight.

I'm the oldest of five children and one of my greatest blessings is my family. I have a beautiful daughter, Amy, who is the light of my life, and I have a wonderful new son-in-law, Eddie.

Up until the time I was 32 years old I had done pretty good. I went to Carolina at night for five years while working full time and raising Amy. I moved up in my jobs and I built a house. When I was 32 I married my second husband who was an alcoholic. Eight years later the marriage had ended, I had sold my house, my credit was shot and I was in debt. Even though I've always had a strong faith, God was not really at the center of my life. I made a lot of bad choices. I became very good at robbing Peter to pay Paul. You know how sometimes you can do something wrong for so long that it seems right. You start accepting things as normal when they are not.

In 1996 I was working two jobs. I was a loan closer with a mortgage

company and worked insane hours and I managed an apartment complex in Camden where I lived. So when I was at home I was at work. I always thought the answer to my problems was to work harder. I was in a financial bind and was staying one step ahead of the game. I was on a merry-go-round and I didn't know how to get off. In June of 1998 that merry-go-round was speeding out of control and it crashed. I had nobody to blame but me. I was so desperate that I was trying to figure out how to get a new social security number and was going on the Internet to do research on Canada. I wanted to run away, but I didn't have the guts and couldn't do that to my family. Deep down inside I knew that wasn't the answer but I didn't know what to do. I decided to talk to a really special friend of mine. I knew I could trust him and I told him everything. He just listened and let me cry. He didn't tell me what to do but he said, "Laura, while you're trying to figure it out, God's working it out. You can run but you can't hide." I knew then what I had to do.

I went home and got down on my knees. I told God how tired and scared I was and admitted to Him what a mess I had made of my life. I begged him to forgive me and told him I was willing to go to any length to make things right. I asked Him to show me the way and I would do whatever it was He would have me to do.

I talked to my family about what was going on and instead of lecturing me or judging me, they loved me through it. Within two months God had opened a door for me to transfer with the mortgage company I was working for to the corporate headquarters in Dallas, TX. I did the exact same job there that I was

Continued on page 3 see **Fourth Day**

DOLLAR\$ & CENTS

Financial Record

September 2005

Beginning Balance: 9/1/05	\$8,476
Income: Gathering - August	669
Walk/Team Fees	4,473
Total Income	\$5,142
Expenses: Walk Supplies	693
Walk Food	2,500
Walk Books	53
Postage	24
Team Training Food	106
Bank Fees	3
Total Expenses	\$3,379
Ending Balance: 9/30/05	\$10,239

Chrysalis Steering Committee

By: Doris Crocker

A steering committee has been formed to be about the business of starting up Chrysalis again in our community. Chrysalis is similar to the Walk to Emmaus but is aimed at young people in high school who have completed ninth grade or beyond.

Please keep the members of the committee in your prayers as they go about their task and ask God to guide them in everything they do. Also pray that members of the community will be willing to work on the Chrysalis flights when they take place.

If you are interested in knowing more or being involved, or have already attended a Chrysalis flight please contact one of the following people.

Joye Brotherton	648-6246	joyebroth@aol.com
Nelda Canada	798-9294	ncanada@earthlink.net
Emily Caskey	864-980-2894	caskey@mccormick.k12.sc.us
Susan Caskey	699-9894	susan.caskey@palmettohealth.org
John Chitty	732-7021	jchitty@iso.com
Doris Crocker	932-0366	doriscrocker@bellsouth.net
Chuck Davis	407-2943	charles.davis@ge.com
Alice Douglas	364-4275	adouglas@ag.state.sc.us
Chris Goodman	471-2305	chrisgoodman@mindspring.com
Rev. Dickie Knight	359-6838	rhk4HIm@lexumcsc.com
Jeff McClendon	469-6074	jeffreymac@sc.rr.com
Victoria McClendon	464-0004	jesuschick@sc.rr.com
Frances Osteen	648-2548	fosteen@ddmine.net

New Members of the Community

By: Doris Crocker

The following people attended the most recent Walk to Emmaus. If they attend your church, please make a point of greeting them. If you are part of a reunion group why not consider inviting them to join with you, or if you are not in a reunion group, invite them to form one with you. You could also travel to gatherings together and find another "new best friend."

Bethel UMC - Jackson	Mary Beth Berry
Chapin UMC	Linda Kerchusky
Concord Presbyterian	Sandy Newman, Gregg Richardson
Cumberland AME	Angela McGhee
Epting Memorial	Susie Berry, Eric Moore
Lexington UMC	Mike & Sarah Burkett, Jay Martin
New Hope UMC	Marilyn Rawls
Mount Sinai	John Tilley
Palmyra Methodist	Delona Shockey, Colleen Teet
Pentecost UMC	Sue Macuch, Carlton & Delores Weathersbee
Platt Springs UMC	Susan Busby
Rehoboth UMC	John Albright, Dan & Marge O'Donnell
Roberson Memorial Holiness	Amy Killens
St. James Baptist Church	David Mitchell, Sr.
St. John's UMC - Aiken	Pam McCollum, Sue Payne
St. John's UMC - Batesburg	Joe E. & Mary Brown, Karin & Mike Culp
Suber Marshall	Quincy Anderson
Trinity Aiken	Linda Gulick, Carol Smith
Trinity UMC - W Columbia	Donna Easterling, Jim Kirby, Marilyn Lloyd
Union UMC	John Caudie II
Wesley Memorial UMC	John Smith
Wightman UMC	Betty Jo & John Walker, Bebe Way
Windsor UMC	Fred Leonard

Fourth Day - Continued from page 2

doing here and made \$5,000 more. One of my sisters lived in Dallas at the time and she said I could live with her. I would get so homesick but somehow it worked out that I was able to come home often.

While I was in Dallas I totally changed careers and became an instructor for a computer learning center which is something I had been wanting to do for a long time. I won't even go into the classes I was able to take and the certifications I was able to get that I didn't have to pay for. But, I was on a mission. I couldn't wait to come back home. During the time I was in Dallas my father's health was steadily declining. He had Alzheimer's and the burden was on my two sisters and their families. Every day I prayed that God would let my father and my dog, Beau, live until I got back - and He did. The difference this time was I prayed for God's guidance and waited until I felt like it was in His time - not mine. I was there for three years. I came home in July of 2001. My old English sheepdog, Beau, who I had for 15 years, died the next April and my father died in October. In 2003 the center where I was working began having problems and I started looking for another job. It was a rough time because my pay was cut and I even drew unemployment for two weeks because the center closed during the Christmas holidays. I was at peace though. I knew God was in control. I had become involved in church and our Sunday School class was studying the Purpose Driven Life. As it turned out, I now have my dream job. People would ask what kind of job are you looking for and I'd describe it. God blessed me with the exact job I described and I love the company I work for. And I actually work normal hours.

Even though I was more involved in church than I've ever been and I knew in my head that God had forgiven me for all the mistakes I've made and the sins I've committed, I had a hard time accepting His forgiveness. And my sister, Jan Smith, knew that. She sponsored me on the Walk to Emmaus. When she asked if I wanted to go, I said yes but I didn't feel worthy.

On the walk I truly began to understand God's grace and was able to lay down the burdens of guilt and shame. I know you all know the feeling, but when I left the walk my heart was on fire and I wanted to keep that fire burning. In my fourth days I met with a reunion group at least once a week for months. I got involved in 3 different ones actually. Jan and Nelda teased me about how I should volunteer to go around and help start reunion groups. For those of you who have just come off a walk, I encourage you to join or form a reunion group and use this little card as your guide. It held me accountable and I cherish the relationships I've built with my Christian friends.

Since my walk a year ago I've done things I never dreamed I could do. I've put on a gospel concert with Walt Proctor's gospel group and designed a web site for Rehoboth. It's amazing how when you are in tune with God you can hear Him speak to you.

I used to wonder what my purpose in life was. I thought it was probably to bring my daughter into this world because she is such an angel. I don't question that any more though because I know that my purpose in life is to serve God.

The song, "He touched me", which I am going to play tells you exactly how I feel. — DeColores

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If you received this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please consider using the Emmaus Web Site to read the monthly newsletter and help reduce the cost of printing and mailing. If you are willing to help in this way, e-mail me at: furset@bellsouth.net.

Future Events

December 10, 2005	Xmas Party—Camp Agape
January 27, 2006	Gathering—Green Hill Baptist
February 23-26, 2006	Men's Walk # 28
February 25, 2006	Men's Walk # 28 Candlelight
March 9-12, 2006	Women's Walk # 28
March 11, 2006	Women's Walk # 28 Candlelight
March 24, 2006	Gathering—TBA
April , 2006	Gathering—TBA

Next Gathering

November 18, 2005
Pot Luck Supper 6:45 pm
Worship 8:00 pm
at
Dalzell UMC
4180 Black River Road
Dalzell, SC

Directions: Take **I-20** east towards **Florence**. Exit at marker # **98** (this will be **US-521**). Go south toward **Sumter**. Exit onto **SC-441** towards **Bishopville**. Turn left and proceed to **Black River Road**. Turn right and church is located at 3330 Black River Road .

Visit our web site at
www.midlandsemmaus.com