

Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

August 2008

Why Pray?

The Reverend Wade Everett

Luke 18:1 *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

For those who do not feel comfortable praying in front of others, who do not pray much at all, or perhaps have not thought much about it, let me lift the practice of prayer up to you. The late Sam Shoemaker was an Episcopal minister in New York City during the first half of this century. When he encountered someone who did not believe in God he would suggest they enter a Thirty-Day Prayer Experiment. He would instruct them, "Don't pay any attention to whether you believe or not. Just pray every day for thirty days that God will meet you at the point of your greatest need, and see what happens to you." From Reverend Shoemaker's little experiment, literally hundreds of people were transformed from staunch skeptics to committed Christians. Give God a chance, and he will turn a sinner in to a saint!

Why should I pray? We are commanded to pray at all times and not to loose heart in Luke 18:1 by the Lord, Jesus Christ. Prayer should define our lives, because it is the communication part of the most important love relationship we should have, the one with God. Through prayer we meet with God and experience a love relationship with Him. What an unspeakable honor, joy, privilege, and delight it is to come boldly into the presence of the creator of all things, and find out that because of the blood of Jesus Christ shed upon the cross in our behalf, we can call God, Abba, Father! One thing we should do here is to praise God, for it is by our praise we enter into his presence. Psalm 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. As you praise God, you are ushered into the presence of God by faith, and by the presence of God with you. There you will experience ecstatic joy in his loving presence! Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. In prayer we have the opportunity to confess and repent of our sins to God and have a clean conscience. In 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. God has chosen the means of prayer to supply our needs. Prayer will lighten your load. We read in Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

That is why you should pray. "Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer."

Meet the New Members of the EOM Board of Directors

Edna Bowers – (*Cayce UMC, EOM Walk #25, Table of Mary*). I have been married to Randy E. Bowers for 24 years and he is the Associate Pastor of Cayce UMC. No children but we are blessed to have a "daughter" in Michelle Wilson. Love animals and ONE day will be blessed to have another dog (especially when I can talk Randy into it). My last 2 dogs, Bandit & Candy, have gone to wait for me at Christ's feet. I am employed by Harvest Hope Food Bank as Director of Volunteers since October, 2007 (I love my job). My hobbies are spending time with my family and friends, reading, walking, animals, swimming, diving, music, movies, and praising God! (and constantly trying to lose weight).

A little more about me (probably more than you wanted to know) - I had no clue what lay in store for me when I went on my walk. Randy had been appointed to Dalzell UMC and I kept hearing all of this talk of Emmaus. Nub & Betty Shofner literally put a paper in front of me telling me to sign it. And when the Colonel & General tell you to do something, you do it! (Love you guys) When I read the application I had no fear. I knew that there was a reason I needed to attend. Randy went before me and came back saying NOTHING about his weekend. As I was taken to the camp by a fill in sponsor, Terry Booth, I became good friends with another wonderful person (God still knew what He was doing). I was surprised at Shealey's by all of these wonderful people that I thought came just to see me! Then they were at the camp! Wow! These people were committed (or should be). Then some of them were on the walk. Are they stalking me or what? Little did I know what God had in plan for me during the next 3 days. I realized that the weekend REALLY was about me (and of course all of the other Pilgrims in attendance). I met some wonderful people and came to realize so much more about myself that I had no idea I was

capable of. Because of my involvement with Emmaus I have become more active in other ministries (Epiphany and Chrysalis-if you do not know what these are, I will be happy to tell you all about them). I hope and pray that my enthusiasm for Emmaus is contagious and others can see Christ in me and realize that they too can experience the love of Jesus Christ in all aspects of their life. They just have to be willing to let Him in. Thank you for your confidence in me by electing me to the Emmaus board. God bless you all! DeColores!

The bio for John Denny will appear in the August Newsletter.

Daily Bible Readings for August

This schedule of daily bible readings will take you through the entire bible in the course of a year. The January through July schedules are in the January, February, March, April, May, and June newsletters. However, remember that you may start at any time.

- 1 Is. 65-66; Ps. 62; Jn 3
- 2 2 Ki. 21; 2 Chr. 33; Jn. 4
- 3 Nah. 1-3; Jn. 5
- 4 2 Ki. 22; 2 Chr. 34; Jn. 6
- 5 2 Ki. 23; 2 Chr. 35; Jn. 7.
- 6 Hab. 1-3; Jn. 8
- 7 Zeph. 1-3; Jn. 9
- 8 Jer. 1-2; Jn. 10
- 9 Jer. 3-4; Jn. 11
- 10 Jer. 5-6; Jn. 12
- 11 Jer. 7-9; Jn. 13
- 12 Jer. 10-12; Jn. 14
- 13 Jer. 13-15; Jn. 15
- 14 Jer. 16-17; Ps 96; Jn. 16
- 15 Jer. 18-20; Ps. 93; Jn. 17
- 16 2 Ki.24; Jer. 22; Ps. 112; Jn. 18
- 17 Jer. 23, 25; Jn. 19
- 18 Jer. 26, 35, 36; Jn. 20
- 19 Jer. 45-47; Ps. 105; Jn. 21
- 20 Jer 48-49; Ps 67; 1 Jn. 1
- 21 Jer. 21, 24, 27; Ps. 118; 1 Jn. 2
- 22 Jer. 28-30; 1 Jn. 3
- 23 Jer. 31-32; 1 Jn. 4
- 24 Jer. 33-34; Ps. 74; 1 Jn. 5
- 25 Jer. 37-39; Ps. 79; 2 Jn.
- 26 Jer. 50-51; 3 Jn.
- 27 Jer. 52; Rev. 1; Ps. 143, 144
- 28 Ezek. 1-3; Rev. 2
- 29 Ezek. 4-7; Rev. 3

30 Ezek. 8-11; Rev. 4
31 Ezek. 12-14; Rev. 5

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July Prayer Requests

To the Emmaus Community,

Debbie Carter's father passed away a short time ago in the hospital in Myrtle Beach, where her family had been vacationing together. Although no firm plans have been set at this time, the services will be held near her family home in Virginia. The funeral home handling the services would be running an obituary in The State.

I know all of you who know and love Debbie join me in offering her our sympathy and prayers during this sad time for her family.

Tom Furse

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If you receive this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please consider using the Emmaus Web site to read the monthly newsletter. This will reduce the cost of printing and mailing. If you are willing to help in this way, e-mail tomfurse@sc.rr.com

Upcoming Events

August 15 - 16: EOM Team Training Walk 32

August 22 - Gather at Red Bank UMC

Men's Walk 32 Sep 18-21, 2008

(Candlelight Saturday Sep 20, 8 pm)

Women's Walk 32 Oct 2-5, 2008

(Candlelight Saturday Oct 4, 8 pm)

September - no gather

Next Gathering

July 25, 2008

7:00 pm Meal--8:00 pm Worship

Rehoboth UMC

6911 Two Notch Road

Columbia, SC 29223

Directions: Take I-20 to Columbia, take exit 74 onto US 1 South. This is Two Notch Road. Rehoboth is located at 6911 Two Notch Road, two blocks from exit 74.