

Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

September 2008



August Gathering at Red Bank UMC

The August Gathering was held at Red Bank UMC and we had a good crowd. There were 92 community members present and 6 guests. It rained rather heavily at times but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd.

It was nice to see Red Bank's new sanctuary as well as other renovations. They did a very nice job of retaining some of the elements of the old sanctuary in the new one.

The pastor at Red Bank UMC, Tommy Wilkes, is active in the Midlands community.

Thank you Red Bank!

Thank You Mexico!

How often do we stop to say thank you for what we have? And if we do, I would venture to say that we are thankful our living standard, our Family, our jobs, our friends. In the United States, a country so abundant in resources we seldom go without, we have become a wasteful and ungrateful nation.

I recently had the privilege of traveling to Juarez, Mexico on a mission trip with 21 other members of my church. We meet in El Paso, Texas on Saturday with our Casa Por Cristo (Houses for Christ) representative. After gathering supplies and coming together as a team we headed across the border to a whole different world. In Mexico, many of the people lived in such poverty my eyes were truly opened to the many blessings that we take for granted. How often in your lifetime have you ever said Thank God for our sewer systems or our septic tank? In Juarez the sewer runs open down the streets and the young children play in the water in the streets just as our children would after a rain. Water is heated by solar power only as it sits in big black tanks on the roof of the houses. And speaking of water, water is a very precious commodity. Big water trucks drive through the communities honking their horns to let the people know they are coming. When the water is purchased it is

placed in big barrels on the property. These barrels stay outside of their shack homes and are used for cleaning, cooking, bathing and drinking. Their homes are made of any materials they can get their hands on, pallets, old spools used for wire, plastic soft drink crates. You would truly be surprised at how resourceful they are. Most of the floors are dirt. There are absolutely no trees to provide shade and in some yards you would see the roofs of old busses cut off and suspended in the air by poles. This would be a shaded area of protection from the weather.

Whereas these conditions were saddening to all of us, the people in Mexico were beautiful people. We were treated as royalty. As we rode down the streets the children would come running out of their homes waving as if we were celebrities. The people we meet along the way were friendly, polite and very glad to see us. The family for which we built the house was on site everyday with us. They stayed right by our side and helped in any way they could (this was not a requirement). Although very few of us spoke Spanish and had some trouble communicating with the family, the one thing that was easily communicated was love. We grew to love our family and they loved us. It was a sad day when we left. We all grew so much over the course of the week we spent together. The Mexicans

taught us so much about love, grati-tude, and making the best of every situation. You see we looked at them when we arrived and thought how awful they have to live in these conditions. We did not acknowledge the great wealth they have in their love for one another. Their family is very close. The two adult boys are still living with their mother and brothers and sisters. They help care for the family. The family unit stays together and continues to look after one another long after they are able to move on and be on their own. They have a deep commitment to one another, some-thing it seems many Americans have lost.

I left the United States thinking that I was going to help a family in need and in turn I learned that I was the one in need. I take so much for granted and have so much. I learned I do not do enough for my brothers and sisters in need and I learned that I have a lot of maturing to do to become less wasteful and more grateful for all the many things I take for granted.

If you ever have an opportunity to travel and do mission work, TAKE IT. You will be blessed well beyond the blessings you expect to provide someone. You do not have to travel to another country we have plenty of mission work to do right here in our backyards. Look around the corner and you may see many in need. You see mission work is not about the money or the material things it is about love and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. We all have the ability to do that, not in our words but in our actions!!!

DeColores!

Carson Chitty

Daily Bible Readings for October

This schedule of daily bible readings will take you through the entire bible in the course of a year. The reading schedules began in January; however, remember that you may start at any time as any consecutive 12 month's readings will take you through the entire Bible

- 1 Zech. 10-12; Ps. 126; Lk. 14
- 2 Zech. 13-14; Ps. 147; Lk. 15
- 3 Ezra 5-6; Ps. 138; Lk. 16
- 4 Est. 1-2; Ps. 150; Lk. 17
- 5 Est. 3-8; Lk. 18

- 6 Est. 9-10; Lk. 19
- 7 Ezra 7- 8; Lk. 20
- 8 Ezra 9-10; Ps. 131; Lk.21
- 9 Neh. 1-2; Ps. 133; Lk. 22
- 10 Neh. 3-4; Lk. 23
- 11 Neh. 5-6; Ps. 146; Lk. 24
- 12 Neh. 7-8; Acts 1
- 13 Neh. 9-10; Acts 2
- 14 Neh. 11-12; Ps. 1; Acts 3
- 15 Neh. 13; Mal. 1, 2; Acts 4
- 16 Mal. 3-4; Ps. 148; Acts 5
- 17 Job 1-2; Acts 6-7
- 18 Job 3-4; Acts 8-9
- 19 Job 5; Ps. 108; Acts 10-11
- 20 Job 6-8; Acts 12
- 21 Job 9-10; Acts 13-14
- 22 Job 11-12; Acts 15-16
- 23 Job 13-14; Acts 17-18
- 24 Job 15; Acts 19-20
- 25 Job 16; Acts 21-23
- 26 Job 17; Acts 24-26
- 27 Job 18; Ps. 114; Acts 27-28
- 28 Job 19; Mk. 1-2
- 29 Job 20; Mk. 3-4
- 30 Job 21; Mk. 5-6
- 31 Job 22; Mk. 7-8

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October 2008 Prayer Concerns, Praises, & Announcements Prayer Requests:

Emanuel Irving (brother of Laurel Irving)

Danny McHargue (experimental cancer treatment)

Libby Taylor

Stephanie Adams

Sandra Cantwell

Charles Way (family)

Heather McCoy

Savannah Ard

Doug Meade's father Ken passed away after a long battle with cancer. Ken and his wife Catherine were active in an Emmaus community in Ohio. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Gayle Whisonant (Walk 17B), Ruth Hinson's has passed away

Chris & Christina Galvin, who lost an unborn child. Chris' mother is Jackie Morris

Dave Dillon (surgery)

Betty Huggins & Family

Gene Corley (one kidney was removed due to tumor, the other has cancer)

Charlie & Carolyn McLean (Carolyn is waiting on approval of a new drug)

Announcements & Requests:

Looking for a place to recycle those plastic bags – Edna Bowers will gladly take them for use at Harvest Hope Food Bank. You may 1) drop them off at 2220 Shop Road, 2) bring them to a gather, or 3) give them to Randy or Edna.

Emmaus of the Midlands
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Upcoming Events

September – No Gathering

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)

Boy's Epiphany Oct. 9-12, 2008

(Closing Sunday, 4 pm Oct 12)

Girl's Flight 4 Jan 17-19, 2009

(Candlelight Sunday, 7 pm Jan 18)

Boy's Flight 4 Feb 14-16, 2009

(Candlelight Sunday, 7 pm Feb 15)

Next Gathering

October 24, 2008

Location to be announced