

Emmaus of the Midlands Messenger

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April 2009

In the April Newsletter ...

In this issue we start a new series entitled “*All the Colors of Emmaus*” which will contain articles about the other forms of the Emmaus Walk, such as Kairos, Chrysalis, etc. The first article is by Dave Kelly and it both describes Kairos and gives some of Dave’s experiences. This is a rather long article and it will run in two parts with the conclusion in the May Newsletter. We hope to have one or two more articles of this type during the rest of the year. We will also have an article on Project W.A.R.M. at Wightman UMC in Prosperity.



Wightman UMC W.A.R.M. Project

On Friday and Saturday January 2-3, 2009, Wightman United Methodist Church in Prosperity, completed its second successful W.A.R.M. project. W.A.R.M. stands for Weatherization and Repair Ministry and was brought to Wightman by newly-appointed pastor Michael Turner.

While getting to know the congregation he quickly discovered that many had interests in doing missions along with carpentry skills. A steering committee was put together and chaired by a member of our church with extensive experience in mission rebuilding trips. As word got out, requests for help poured in. It was startling to learn of the need just in Newberry County.

At the same time the steering committee was trying to make a decision on the homes that would be worked on, Pastor Michael challenged our congregation to match the money they spent on Christmas presents with a gift to Project W.A.R.M. We were .

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All the Colors of Emmaus — Kairos

By Dave Kelly

My name is Dave Kelly, I worship at St. John’s United Methodist Church in Aiken SC, I attended Emmaus of the Midlands Walk #17 and sat at the Table of Peter.

My Journey to Kairos

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’” “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ (MT 25:37—40).

When I was first asked to serve on a Kairos team at a maximum security prison my response was a very loud “NO WAY”. My attitude was simple, “If you did the crime, then do the time” and in the meantime if you died Oh Well. It took roughly 14 months before God had his way with me and since then going into prison is kind of like eating potato chips, you just can’t go once! I have met and count as brothers in Christ some of the most devout, sincere Christians inside the prison walls; some of whom in all likelihood will never see the light of day as a free man again but are content and filled with joy.

Please don’t take me wrong, I have not turned into a bleeding heart wanting to turn them all loose, far from it but I have come to terms with myself about sin and my relationship with Christ. Christ has forgiven my sin of greed, envy, lust, etc., just as He has forgiven their sin of murder, rape, armed robbery, etc.. I think you get the picture, Christ doesn’t grade our sin’s the way we do, to Christ sin is sin and when asked He will forgive our sin.

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(Continuation of the WARM Article)

asked to give these gifts at our Christmas Eve service and more than \$38,000 in donations were given. The money allowed church members and other volunteers to repair 16 homes last Christmas with some left to do homes this year

This year over 200 people participated in the program which did repairs on 22 homes in Prosperity, Chapin and Newberry. Also this year Zion Methodist Church invested \$15,000 in W.A.R.M. as it partnered with Wightman. There was also a handful of volunteers from other churches including one of our Emmaus brothers from Eastover. Wightman cannot take credit for starting this project because I believe it was first started in Camden but hopefully with the wonderful results we have had the word will spread and more and more churches will want to get involved. This is already actually happening.

This project has brought our church together more than anything we had ever done before. Can you imagine over 200 people from youth to senior citizens working together on 22 homes in two days? The project is also not just about the people that work on the homes but the people that work behind the scenes to provide meals and childcare. Games and activities were even arranged for the children each day. Does this remind anyone of our Walks?

You notice that we mention homes not houses because the goal of the W.A.R.M. Project is to reach out with God's love to neighbors who are unable to make the repairs and necessary improvements on their homes letting them know these services are being done because of God's love.

These 22 homes varied in terms of needs from some projects almost completely rebuilding the home to other projects less extensive such as replacing a roof or painting.

On Sunday night after the project has been completed we have a Celebration Service and invite the homeowners. Some come and get up and give their testimonies and thanks. I swear I have to pinch myself to realize I am not at the closing service of a Walk.

Wightman invites anyone who would like to participate in this ministry to come be a part of the team.

DeColores

April Prayer Requests

Libby Taylor – Heart condition

Family of Maude Jeffcoat

William (Billy) Adams – Surgery (disk)

Marcia Bowers – Hand surgery

Tom & Brenda Conway – Cancer (Tom), Brenda as care giver

For our schools, that our teachers will set Godly examples

Storm & Weather victims in southeast

Kay & Al Nooft – Health concerns

Ida & Terry Corl – death of baby grandson

Tony Rowell's father

Laney & Amp Watkins

Kathy Robinson – Health concerns

Shirley Ivy – Cancer

Matt Wizoik – Pancreatitis

Ray Speed – Cancer

Rev Jerry Watson

Caroline Funderburk – Broken ankle

Leon Baker (Lugoff, SC) – Cancer

Gloria Harmon, West Columbia, SC

Peggy Ogburn (Walk 33) – Husband lost job

Jeanette Williams (Foot Hills #14) – Knee replace surgery

Ida Margaret Deming – Recent lost of husband

Mary Kliebert – Health issues

Captain Greg Smith (Rehoboth UMC) – Serving in Iraq

Madison Clarke (Ken & Linda Clarke's grand-daughter) – Surgery

Bill Fuller – Unspoken request & pray for my children

Sherry Fulmer, Brandon Wicker, Keely Wicker (all of Newberry) – Prayer concerns

Strength & continued faith during my pregnancy – Stacey

Baby Maggie Cafferty

“Please God, make us into a Godly nation and a free nation again” – Moe

Ken & Mary Lynn Medlin who missed Candle Light due to an accident enroute

(Continuation of Kairos Article)

What is KAIROS

Kairos is an interdenominational Christian ministry designed to be presented in state and federal medium and maximum security correctional institutions for both men and women in the U.S. It has been adapted for other countries and languages as well. The ministry is governed by the international board of Kairos Prison Ministry, Inc. with its headquarters in Winter Park, Florida.

Kairos grew out of efforts to launch movements in prisons similar to the 3 day Catholic, Episcopal, and Presbyterian Cursillo, the Methodist Walk to Emmaus, the Lutheran Via de Cristo, and the ecumenical Tres Dias. The Kairos strategy is to identify leaders (through the prison chaplain) from key environments of the institution who have the potential to impact their environments with the message of Christ's love. These leaders are then invited to attend a Kairos weekend.

A Kairos weekend, while different from an Emmaus weekend, is very similar. The story of God's unconditional love and forgiveness through a series of meditations and talks and to demonstrate this love and forgiveness through community involvement in prayer for the weekend and sacrifice of time to make posters, bake cookies and to write letters. The environment created by these activities allows the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who were invited.

Statistics

In 2006, the yearly cost of incarceration in South Carolina was \$15,156 per inmate for an average 23,686 inmates totaling \$358,985,016. At sometime in the future, most of the inmates will be released, and 1/3+ of those released will return to prison within 3 years. A study in South Carolina shows that Kairos reduces the number returning to prison by as much as 36%.

A Typical KAIROS year

The Walk

Full Walk = 42 residents and ≈ 50 + street volunteers

Feed them lunch/supper (street food vs. prison gruel)

Go to dorms and pass out cookies to each resident in the facility including lock-up (solitary confinement) each night at "count time"

Start @ 4 p.m. Thursday – Close 3 p.m. Sunday

After the Walk (What we strive to achieve)

Prayer and Share Groupings – teach them how to form and maintain

Form deeper fellowship with other Christians

Become involved with "inside" prison ministry

LIVES ARE CHANGED!

Monthly reunions – Every 3rd Saturday except during the Spring and Fall Kairos Walk

A Volunteer's Annual Time Commitment

Spring/Fall Walk; Instructional Reunion; 2 day mini-retreat reunion; monthly reunions

10 training dates totaling ≈ 100 hours

9 days (4 ½ per walk) ≈ 216 hours

6 days for monthly reunions $\approx 24 - 30$ hours

5 days for mini-retreat ≈ 120 hours

2 days (instructional reunion) ≈ 16 hours

Not counting driving time which for most averages 1 – 1 ½ hours approximate time each way you can expect to spend 480 hours or more per year if you make all the functions. This increases substantially if you go into leadership or become an active member on the Advisory Council.

Fiscal Responsibility

A complete Leadership report is submitted to the state chapter after each walk. Team members are not asked to pay any of the cost of the weekend only to help raise the funds through civic groups, their church, etc.

(This article will continue in the May Newsletter)

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Upcoming Events

April 24, 2009 - Gathering at St. John's UMC, Aiken
May 22, 2009 - Gathering, TBA
June 11-14, 2009 - Boy's Epiphany
June 26, 2009 - Gathering, McLeod UMC
July 24, 2009 - Gathering, TBA
August 14-15, 2009 - Walk #34 Team Training
August 28, 2009 - Gathering, TBA
Sept 3-6, 2009 - Girl's Epiphany
Oct 8-11, 2009 - Boy's Epiphany

Next Gathering

April 24, 2009

Fellowship 7:00 pm—Worship 8:00 pm

St Johns UMC, Aiken
104 Newberry Street Northwest
Aiken, SC 29801 (648-6891)

Directions from Columbia/Sumter

Take I-20 towards Aiken and exit on US 1 (exit 18).
Continue towards Aiken. US 1 becomes York St.
Take York St to Richland Ave. Go two blocks. St
Johns is on the second block, on the corner of
Richland and Chesterfield. Turn right on Chesterfield
and find a place to park