



April 2005
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De Colores

The Athens Area Walk to Emmaus & Chrysalis Newsletter

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COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR APRIL

Athens Area Spring Walks

AAWE Men's Walk #25
Hartwell Mennonite Camp, Hartwell, Georgia
Thursday, April 14, 2004 - Sunday, April 17, 2004

Send-off - Thursday, April 14, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Candlelight - Saturday, April 16, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.
Closing - Sunday, April 17, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

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**AAWE Women's Walk #26**  
**Hartwell Mennonite Camp, Hartwell, Georgia**  
**Thursday, April 21, 2004 - Sunday, April 24, 2004**

**Send-off - Thursday, April 21, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Candlelight - Saturday, April 23, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Closing - Sunday, April 24, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.**

### ALL WALK EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE HARTWELL MENNONITE CAMP!

**DIRECTIONS:** Hartwell Mennonite Campground is about 8.5 miles north of Royston on US 29. After the water tower on the right, the campground is on the left on the curve.

**NOTE FOR SEND-OFF:** Please remember that the Pilgrims have not been on the Walk and could be put off by too much exuberance in greeting. Please hold off on the great demonstration of love and be more reserved.

**Wear name tags, but not crosses! Reunion groups, we need agape!**

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Can you help with set-up and take-down for the Spring Walks?
Set-up for the Walks will be Thursday, April 14, 2005 at 8:30 am. All able-bodied persons who can help are welcome. The larger number of persons helping means the quicker all is ready to go and not just a few are overly tired. It is planned to start take-down at 2:00 pm before Closing of the Women's weekend on Sunday, April 24, 2005. Again, the more to help, the less tired any one person gets and the quicker everyone gets to go home. The camp must be left on April 24 the same way we find it on April 14. This is true agape ... please consider helping if at all possible.

Visit us on-line at www.fourthdays.org for all of your team applications,
Pilgrim and Caterpillar applications, and back-issues of De Colores

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Yet, He Showed Up!

I just left the team training for Chrysalis Boys Flight #15, where I heard the Lay Director, Joe Sykora, talk a little bit about the encumbrances his son Dakota faces daily and how difficult it has been lately for him and Vickie. Joe said that he felt somewhat out of sync in many ways and that he felt inadequate to the leadership demands in which he had been called to, on this flight. Yet, he showed up!

"People who are God's without reservation have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. His will becomes their will, and they desire to do for Him whatever He desires them to do. They strip themselves of everything, and in their nakedness find everything restored a hundredfold."

L.B. Cowman

I have a full plate of worldly encumbrances, and you, also, have a full plate. Satan reminds us of our encumbered circumstances when the world doesn't. Just to sort of keep us busy, struggling. So, what are we to do about God's work? Each of us has to answer that for ourselves. Today, Chrysalis needs ten more spiritual warriors, some old and some young David's, to do the jobs that need to be done to expand the Kingdom. Is it you that the King is calling? I hope so. Because I know you and you will show up, too!

Joe Sykoras' home number: 769-9580

Laity and clergy are needed.

On another note, the Emmaus Teams are really coming together and training has been excellent. We still have spaces available for some pilgrims, so please pray about sponsorship. Pray that it is God's will that you sponsor the pilgrim that will be blessed in going.

Your brother,
Steve Ebbert

Sign up for Email Communications

Are you interested in getting email communications from the Athens Area Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis communities? Follow these steps to get on the lists.

1. Go to the following web site(s) (You can also go to <http://www.fourthdays.org> and click on the "Community Links" button.)
2. You will then need to type in your email address and then click on the "Send" button.
3. This will take you to a page that will say "Invitation Sent."
4. You will need to check your email to verify your email address.
5. Once you receive an email from Groups@AOL, click on the link at the top of the email that says "Click here to confirm your e-mail address."
6. This will take you to a web page that will confirm your subscription and give you membership options. You may choose either option.

Athens Area Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis Prayer Chain

<http://groups.aol.com/aaweprayer>

Be Still - 5 Minute Devotionals for Daily Living

<http://groups.aol.com/bestilldevotions>

Brothers and Sisters in Christ

A year and a half ago, God's plan for me to be sitting in a room listening to 15 different speakers over a course of 3 days began. Not exactly what I wanted to be doing the day after Christmas, but then again it is not what I or anyone else has planned it is what God has in store. Through a weekend in which I did nothing but listen while people served me with unconditional love, God opened my eyes to reveal a new reality. Any want or need I had that could be physically met; God had loving people there willing to be servants meeting the needs of myself and twenty-five other guys. Just to leave the room and return and have a candy bar with a message talking about God's love was unbelievable. Throughout the weekend I not only experienced God's abundant love through others, but also what it meant to truly take communion. Before the weekend started communion really had no meaning, it was just something that we did. While sitting and watching two of God's loving servants show through a skit what Christ went through and what each element of communion meant, God again showed me the sacrifice that Christ went through and the amazing grace that we are given everyday in this world. The breaking of the bread and the drinking of the wine or juice is something that I look forward to every time I have the chance to experience it. Throughout the weekend, God's unending love and the faith of the workers never ceased, but it had really started the year before. God revealed to an amazingly wonderful person that he had a plan for me to be there that weekend. Through her prayer and faith in God, I experienced one of the single most important times in my life. God had a plan for my life and He has one for many other young men and women. Many of us know someone that they would like to send on this amazing weekend. I challenge you to prayerfully ask God if sponsorship of that person is what He wants of you. God may reveal that he wants you to send that person, then again He may not. But don't quit praying, God may have another plan in mind.

Walk to Emmaus - a Pastor's Testimony

Two weeks before the Athens Area Walk to Emmaus Number 12, Dick Hoard called Hazel and I. He insisted that we both get on the phone and explained that at the last minute, a couple who was to go on the upcoming walks had dropped out and that he had been able to hold these openings for us. We had to let him know by Monday if we could attend the weekends. After thoughtful discussion, Hazel and I agreed to attend even though we knew nothing about this weekend "retreat".

I must admit that on the Thursday evening that I left for the Emmaus weekend, I was a little apprehensive. And sure enough, by the time we were sent to bed that night, I was sure that this was a cult of which I wanted no part. But I reminded myself that the Dick was my pastor and he would not be a part of anything that wasn't truly based on God so I decided to "go along" with things the next day.

The first three talks were good and the table discussion was exactly what I expected - a bunch of guys trying to sound like they had all the answers. Then Dick came into the room and presented his talk on Justifying Grace. It was at that moment that God began to break down the hardness of my heart. I remember just crying and wanting to know why God had called me to be one of His children when I was so unworthy. By the end of the weekend, the acts of agape, the servanthood of the team members, and the discussions with my brothers in Christ had all been used by God to change my life and renew a calling that He had placed on my heart so long ago. A little over a year after my walk, Dick Hoard conducted the service that ordained me as a servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as the Associate Pastor of Ashford Memorial Methodist Church. So much time has passed since my walk and the ministry to which God has called me has faced many challenges. But He has been faithful and true - walking with me constantly. When I worry about the future and where He desires my service, I remind myself that He required me to walk 40 years "in the desert" so I would realize that His timing is always perfect. I know with all my heart, God will never forsake me - not because I answered His call to ministry - but because He graced me with a realization during my Walk. I am a child of the Most High God.

Sponsoring your pastor on a walk is a wonderful form of agape. You won't be sending him/her to make them a better pastor. You will be sending him/her so that they can experience the full power of God's love that can be a part of every Church when all of God's children - laity and clergy - work together to serve our awesome God. De Colores my Brother and Sisters in Christ.

Len Bernat
Spiritual Director
Athens Area Walk to Emmaus

Child Care Ministry

If you are interested in being a part of the childcare ministry for the upcoming walks, please contact Amy Smock at Amys228@aol.com or call 706/546-4871 and leave a message.

Chrysalis News

Chrysalis Board Meeting

The Chrysalis Board Meeting will be Sunday, April 10, 2005 at 2:00pm at Athens First Methodist in Hancock Hall (the Fellowship Hall).



Chrysalis Boy's Flight #15 REGISTRATION UPDATE

We currently have 4 applications for the upcoming Boy's Flight June 9 - 12. If you are planning to sponsor someone, please get your completed applications in as soon as possible. I encourage others to prayerfully consider sponsoring a young person in your church or youth group.

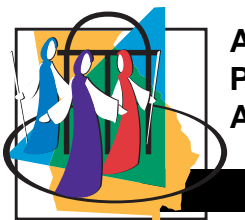
Please pray about those persons you would like to sponsor and others whom God would lead you to sponsor. Applications can be downloaded from the community website at www.fourthdays.org or you can contact Laura Ebbert at (706) 543-5399 and she will mail you one.

Chrysalis Reunion Groups

If you
need



help
finding a
Chrysalis
reunion group,
please contact Claire
Prince at Clairebear1081@hotmail.com.
Claire will be happy to assist you in
finding a group that will help you stay
accountable to God, each other, and
yourself.



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He had been made known
 to them in the breaking of
 the bread. (Luke 24:35)

Would your church like to host a gathering in 2005?

If you're interested, please contact Jim Wood at 706-549-5234 (leave message) or email: **Woody_1946@hotmail.com**.

Gatherings are held monthly except April and October when the Walks are held. Following is the schedule to date. Please mark these on your calendar and prayerfully consider having your home church host one of the open slots.

- May: follow-up gathering at Athens FUMC
- June: open
- July: open
- August: open
- September: open
- October: no gathering, work walks!
- November: follow-up gathering at Athens FUMC
- December: open

Upcoming Emmaus Walk and Chrysalis Flight Dates

Following are the dates for the Walks and Flights for the next two years. Plan now to work one of these weekends or to attend Send-off, Candlelight and Closing!

- Spring 2005 - Emmaus**
 Men's #25 Apr 14-17
 Women's #26 Apr 21-24
- Summer 2005 - Chrysalis**
 Boys - June 9-12
- Fall 2005 - Emmaus**
 Men's #26 Oct 13-16
 Women's #27 Oct 20-23
- Winter 2005 - Chrysalis**
 Girls - November 25-27

