

WORK AREA REPORTS

2007 HOC Board

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The Harvest Crusade

June 22-24, RBC Center, Raleigh

Free concerts by top artists! Thousands getting saved! This will be one of the biggest Evangelical Events ever to come to the Triangle area! And you are invited to be part of it.

Can you pray, listen to someone, share the gospel, or assist the handicapped? Do you know sign language? People are needed to do all this and more! If you love the Lord, we can use you. Brian Rietvelt is the Garner area regional coordinator. Please call him at (919) 779-3539 to sign up.

For more information visit:
<http://www.harvest.org/crusade/2007/raleigh>.

Registration

Happy spring fellow community members! We have been so blessed to be part of the Heart of Carolina Board of Directors, serving this great community this year. And we need YOUR help. It will be so helpful if you could be sure that you, your church and your reunion groups all have the new registration/application forms, which not only have our name and address, but also a few additional questions on them, which are important for our area of responsibility.

If you are unable to obtain the new forms, which are available to be printed from the HOC web site (<http://rtpnet.org/~emmaus/>) AND available at Gatherings, Apostolic Hours, Send-offs and Closings, please let us know and we will be glad to send you one. We can be reached by e-mail (listed at the left) or by calling (919) 575-4158.

Remember that no matter how many persons you may have sponsored in the past, the HOC Board of Directors requires sponsorship training for each sponsor before we are able to process the application.

Financial Aid Fund

Since our Financial Aid Fund is almost completely depleted, please consider donating to this fund. Contributions can be made at our Gatherings, Apostolic Hours, Send-offs and Closings, or by contacting our treasurer Faye Cress at (919) 552-0713. We will also gladly accept donations mailed with applications. Be sure to designate on your check or envelope that the funds are for the Financial Aid Fund.

If you are sponsoring a candidate, please ask for financial assistance ONLY if a financial need exists. While some sponsors pay the entire

cost of their pilgrim, many pay at least the application fee. If you, as a sponsor, are unable to do this, please check with your reunion group or your church, since many have funds available for this purpose, before requesting assistance.

May God bless all of you as you continue to serve Him in so many wonderful ways.

Praying the Peace and Joy of the Risen Christ for each of you,
DeColores!

Roy and Paula Pittard

Snack Room and Kitchen

We have been asked to share a little of who we are and what we are about in serving this community.



Fred and
Debbie
Gossert

Debbie and I both Walked eight years ago in South Florida — I was on Oceanside Emmaus #1 and Debbie on Oceanside Emmaus #2. We moved to Raleigh six years ago from Boca Raton, FL. We both grew up in Carlisle, PA and we will be celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary in 2007. I work with IBM and Debbie for a Podiatry office as a medical receptionist. We worship at Millbrook UMC in Raleigh.

After moving to North Carolina, we became active in working behind the scenes in different areas of HOC and especially felt comfortable helping in the kitchen area. We are now on the HOC Board of Directors serving as the snack room and kitchen representatives. We feel very blessed

Finding My Mission

As a USMC helicopter pilot during Vietnam, several times I was shot down and faced near certain death during crashes, yet I never received so much as a scratch. As I left Vietnam, I left with a sure certainty that God had preserved my life for some special purpose known only to Him.

Although I was not walking in daily fellowship with Him, I knew that I was saved. Eight years earlier, I had sincerely asked Jesus to save me. I knew someday I would learn my life purpose. Still lacking a daily relationship with Jesus, my life spiraled downward towards thoughts of suicide. When I became desperate enough to hear God speak, he again met my need. Although I was saved from my sin, I had not been saved from myself. I decided that my choices and my efforts were incapable of making me happy. I knew that Jesus had to be both Lord and Savior of my life. Still my mysterious life purpose eluded me.

I learned that my spiritual gift was teaching the Bible to others. The Bible became a formidable weapon in my hand, and I used it to both bless and beat up on other people. For 20 plus years, my life had become a complacent merry-go-round. I went to church. I talked a good game of Christianity and I did the best that I could to be a good person. In the practice of "being a good person," a coldness slowly came over my life. The lordship of my life was some-

MY FOURTH DAY

where in the routine of doing correct-ish things. There was no great life purpose to be found in my cold hearted, self-centered correct behavior.

After my Walk to Emmaus, I completely stopped trying to do anything. From then on it was only a matter of being — being His love object — being His friend — being His servant. After hearing about the three legged stool of piety, study and Christian action, God revealed to me how to live that balanced life.

GRATITUDE: is the parent virtue of all other virtues. Gratitude is the foundation of a correct relationship with the Lord. Without an "attitude of gratitude," any practice of piety will only be a false piety like that practiced by the Pharisees.

OBEDIENCE: God won't tell you what you are unwilling to hear. The "Word" must be the judge over our lives, therefore we can't be a judge over the Bible. A prevailing attitude like a small child or a dumb sheep is like a clean sheet of paper, upon which God will write. Bible study is first and primarily a hunger of the heart, and only secondarily is it a discipline of the mind. When the heart is like a sponge, revelation from the Holy Spirit naturally fills it.

with all the support we receive from the Emmaus Community and we welcome each of you to be God's hands and feet and volunteer to sign-up to help in the kitchen and/or snack room. You may sign-up at one of the community Gatherings, Follow-ups, by e-mail (debfredg@aol.com) or by phone (919-844-4701).

2007 Snack Assignments

Members of the Emmaus Community are asked to supply snacks for each Walk. We are asking the following churches to supply the following items as needed:

- Low Fat and Sugar Free Snacks: Hollands UMC, Westover UMC, Horne Memorial UMC
- Fruit, Vegetables, Cheese and Dips: Edenton Street UMC, Hayes Barton UMC, St. Francis UMC, Glendale Heights UMC, Mt. Sylvan UMC
- Salty Snacks, Salsa, Trail Mix and Crackers: Garner UMC, St. Luke UMC (Sanford), First UMC Cary
- Candy and Nuts: Fuquary-Varina UMC, Nashville UMC, White Memorial Presbyterian
- Fruit Drinks and Soft Drinks: Gateway Community, Fremont UMC, St. Andrews UMC, Benson UMC, Elevation UMC
- Baked Goods: Millbrook UMC, Apex UMC, Wake Forest UMC, White Plains UMC, All Other Churches

Sponsors

Please bring a snack and a drink. We are especially in need of more fruit, vegetables and homemade baked goods. Cash donations are welcomed if you don't have time to shop or bake. We can use the funds to purchase items as needed.

DeColores!
Fred and Debbie Gossert

AVAILABILITY: is the only requirement of Christian service. If my unavailability for service becomes a personal veto power over His will for my life, then He is not Lord of my life. As I serve Him, I have no plan of my own, nor any ego of my own. I seek only the sunshine of His smile. Since becoming absolutely available, I have been flooded with wonderful opportunities of service.

About 30 years ago, I met a person who was a lot like me. They were cold-hearted, aggressively competitive and full of self determination. I was sure they needed to be beaten severely with my Bible skills. After my Walk to Emmaus, I met that person again and they were warm, caring, friendly and transparent in their motives. In short, they had been transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. It was at that moment I found my elusive, mysterious life purpose. It has nothing to do with what I can do for Him. It is all about allowing Him to do for me! I once wrote: "I can not generate self-love or love for others, but when I let God's love flow through me it feels like it is my love." Likewise, when God's holiness flows through me, it feels like my holiness, etc. All that Jesus is, is mine, if I am His. It's not about my mission. It's not about me — it's all about Him.

Steve Cook
HOC Walk to Emmaus #80
Table of Mark
Benson UMC