



Heart of Florida

Heart of Florida is a Ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Bartow
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POST WALK Gathering

Saturday, July 10, 2010 at Trinity Church, 33425 SR 54 W, Wesley Chapel, 813-788-2898, 5 - 7 PM;
Bring a covered dish; Wear your nametag! Child Care Provided.
Trinity Church is located on SR 54 W; 6 miles east of I-75, Exit 279

Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendars

Next Gathering: September, FUMC, Bartow Team Training: September 2 through October 14, 2010
Men's Walk #22: October 28-31, 2010 Women's Walk #22: November 4-7, 2010

Ramblings from Your Community Lay Director

Have you ever really thought of "connecting the dots" from a weekend? Sitting back and really taking the time to see some of the miracles God provided during those seventy two hours? Have you ever asked a team member or pilgrim if they saw God working during the weekend and, what, if any results occurred? After attending Closing and witnessing the testimonies, have you ever felt a connection to one of the new members of our Heart of Florida Emmaus Community? Did you make contact with them as a simple act of agape? What was the result of that connection? If not, think about the blessing you may have missed and remember that there is always time to connect, but do not wait!

On a recent walk one of these connections occurred to me. I had volunteered to serve on the team only if needed. I was not supposed to be on the weekend. However I was called when there was a cancellation. God placed me at a table and I was surrounded with an incredible group of wonderful women, each very different, yet very much alike. One of the sisters at my table discovered I liked to read and told me of a Christian author by the name of Karen Kingsbury who has written a series of books dealing with issues within a Christian family. She raved about the books. I immediately wrote down the information and filed it away. A few months later, this sister told me when she heard we were going to be spending some time in the mountains; she would lend me some books. To my surprise, she brought me a box of fifteen books! When she gave them to me, she said, "I brought them all to you because once you start, you won't be able to stop!" I began to read the books, and found myself captured. Just as when I do my devotions. I have felt the Lord speaking to me, and on more than one occasion have been able to use some of the messages in the books to reach out to others as a disciple of Christ with the ability to say the right thing at the right time. Why? Through reading I have drawn closer to the Lord. I have prayed as never before. I have been studying my Bible in a totally different way, and truly taken the time to "Be Still and Know That He Is God."

I mention this incident for a number of reasons. First, to me, this is proof that **God is in control** of these weekends. Second, not all of **His miracles** occur in the 72 hour period during the weekend. Third, if God had not spoken to someone about **sponsorship** this sister would not have attended Emmaus. Fourth, if I had not been **willing to serve** this blessing never would have occurred. Begin to think about connecting the dots. Pray about your part of the weekends; don't hesitate to ask God what He would have you do. I warn you be prepared for His answer!

Many of you began long ago to pray for the Fall Weekends. You have lifted up the Lay Directors, **Tom Selander** and **Dawn Eller**. You have lifted up the Leadership Teams, the Spiritual Directors, the Team Members, who have yet to be named, and the Pilgrims who God only knows whom will attend. Thank you for your prayers. We all know that only through prayer will our weekends continue to be successful. If you have not been praying, I humbly request that you do so. You all know the awesome power of prayer. God makes the impossible, possible. Please take time throughout your day to lift the weekends, the teams, the pilgrims and especially our Heart of Florida community in prayer. I remain His faithful servant, Karolyn

From your HOF Emmaus Board members . . .

For the past few months your Board of Directors has been trying to locate many of our Emmaus Alumni who at one time were active in the community. They have been making phone calls to update our records and invite those who have lost contact back into the community. You can also help by e-mailing someone you met on your walk and haven't seen lately. If that doesn't work try calling them. A friendly telephone call can mean much to someone who you haven't spoken to for some time and it may just be the catalyst needed to bring them back to the community.

Some questions you may ask are: "How are you doing"? It's been some time since we last spoke. Is your address still the same? Is your email address still the same? And be sure to ask if it is case sensitive. Have they ever been or are they still active in a reunion group and where? Does the one they are with accept new members? What church are you currently attending? Does it have a local Emmaus Chapter? Is it active? Have you been receiving the newsletter and

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Share with this person how much you miss them and hope that you will be able to make our next Gathering on July 10th at Trinity Church in Wesley Chapel. Let them know they can find information in the newsletter and by going on line at www.hof-emmaus.org. The Board will really appreciate your help. When you have made contact please let the Board know. You may email the information to Toni Griffith gahbabe@aol.com Have you been taking an active part in the community? When was the last time you attended a Gathering, worked on team or sponsored someone on the walk? Our community is only as powerful as its members, and it is in need of your power. The Heart of Florida is vital to spread the love of Christ and it can only be as strong as you make it. If you have not been involved, then plan on attending the next Gathering (July 10th, Trinity Church Wesley Chapel).

WALK #22 COMING UP . . .

WE are looking for great prayer warriors as plans are being made for Walk #22. It is never too early to ask God whom shall he send? At church, call a friend, a regular attending member of your church and ask if they would like to attend "The Walk to Emmaus". Then pray that God will open their thoughts to this idea. Give them information and an application. Ask if they have any additional questions. Remember there are no secrets in Emmaus – only blessed surprises. Answer all their questions, and then ask if you could sponsor them on the "walk". After that, pray that this walk will do the work God has ordained for it, to revive those who have not been walking "the Way" and need to spend some time with the Lord, away from the world.

Remember that "the Walk to Emmaus" is not a retreat meant to bring the un-churched to Christ. It is a walk that has been set in place to revitalize those who have been with the Lord, walked away, been burned out or lacking in faith and need to spend some quiet time with the Lord.

Did you know that there are over 379 Chapters of "The Walk to Emmaus" around the world? Still there are only 4 paid staff.... All the rest are volunteers, (or you could call them, mighty warriors in God's army). These people have offered their lives to Christ to be used by Him to reach others. Isn't it awesome to be part of such a mighty and powerful force for God bringing people to meet Him all over again?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the next Gathering. Invite someone to join you on Saturday July 10, 2010 at Trinity Church Wesley Chapel, 5 PM Pot Luck Dinner followed by Praise and Worship. Look forward to seeing a great crowd there. Remember there is always room for one more at the table.... No reservations needed!!

Team Selection takes place July 17, so if you have not sent in your application to be part of the Fall Weekend Walk #22, do it now. It can be printed off from the HOF website. Set aside this time to be a Disciple for Christ and at the same time let God infuse you with a new Spirit.

Here are a few things that are on the website: www.hof-emmaus.org

Directions to Masterpiece Gardens and churches where gatherings are held

Forms – Reservation for Pilgrims, Sponsor's form, Team Application. There is also a **Heart of Florida email group** – sign up for this group and receive e-mail communications about upcoming events. **The newsletters are also posted there.** We are hoping some of you might prefer to read your newsletter online instead of receiving it by mail. If you would like to receive it via the website instead of snail mail – please email Sharon Harris at