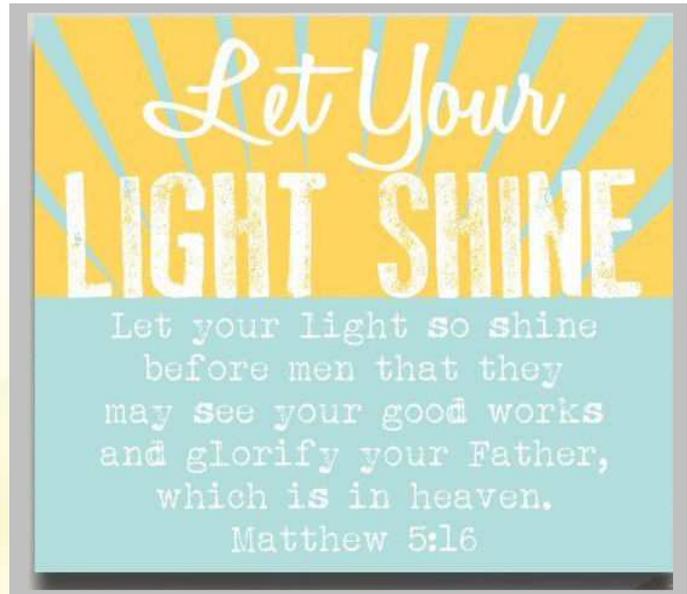


# Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus

## Monthly Newsletter

When I was much younger, I used to be one of those kids who rarely backed down from a dare. Riding a skateboard down a steep hill, I'm in. Jumping a homemade ramp with my bike, I'm in. And one day I got dared to crawl from one end of a storm drain pipe to the other. At the time we lived in a big condominium complex and there was a big pond and to help with storm overflow there was a huge, must have been about 2-3 feet in diameter, corrugated drain pipe that ran from the pond underneath a street and through a vast expanse of overgrown area into a drainage area. The drain pipe probably ran about one hundred and fifty yards. So of course when I got dared to crawl through the drain pipe, you already know my response, I'm in. And you know for the most part, other than the ickiness of the bottom of the drain pipe, it was no big deal. Except for the middle section. For you see when I entered the drain pipe, I could see just fine and the farther I went, my pupils expanded picking up the remnants of light so I could still make out shapes. But at some point, all the light was gone and I was in complete darkness. And it was not a great feeling. All of sudden the space of that pipe got a little tighter and I began to imagine all the things that would love to make their home in a drain pipe and none of them were very pleasant things. Well I picked up my pace and thankfully in just a short amount of time, I saw a glimpse of light coming from the other end of the drain pipe. Sure my friends thought I was cool for taking the dare, but I was just glad to be standing in the light again. For we were meant to be in the light. God created us to live in the light. As you enter into 2014 where are you? Are you confident in your direction and feel that you can see clearly the path ahead of you....



Are you stuck in a place that feels as if someone has robbed you of all the light and you are unsure which way to go..... Are you inching forward towards the light that looks really small but is definitely guiding you..... Always remember that Jesus is our light and that his life, death and resurrection are here to guide us no matter where we might find ourselves. His light is able to shine in all the seasons of our lives, we just have to choose to walk towards it.... Blessings and praying for you all this year.

Leonard  
Co-Community Spiritual Leader

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of the people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:3b-5.*



Greetings NWGWTE Community Members ( Gods Children )

This will be the last article or writing I can contribute as your Community Lay Director/Board Chair so I thought I would leave you with some wise and inspirational phrases taken from Pastor/Author Joel Osteen. Refer to them often to help you conquer each day and never forget that I love each of you, our Community, and our

- \* Your own wrong thinking can keep you from God's best
- \* What you receive is directly connected to what you "Believe"
- \* Ask God to put some "fire" in your Spirit
- \* If you'll persevere....God will open doors for you
- \* Learn to speak Gods favor over every area of your Life.
- \* Live with an attitude of faith
- \* Don't focus on your weaknesses, focus on your God
- \* Learn to be happy with who God made you to be
- \* What YOU believe has a much greater impact on your life than what anybody else believes
- \* Are you being the person God made you to be?
- \* Focus on the Positive
- \* If you'll transform your mind, God will transform your life
- \* God works where there's an attitude of faith
- \* BOLDLY confess Gods WORD
- \* Our "Words" affect our children's future, for either good or evil
- \* Take what God has given you and make the most out of it
- \* Forgive to be free and turn it over to God
- \* Keep on standing firm
- \* God wants you to be a winner not a whiner
- \* Learn to be happy in spite of your circumstances
- \* It's in the tough times of life that we find out what we're really made of
- \* The "Trial" is a test of your faith, character, and endurance
- \* We were created to Give
- \* Take the time to Listen
- \* Keep your heart of compassion open
- \* Happiness is a choice

Hi, all my brothers and sisters in the Northwest GA Emmaus Community. I attended NWGWtE men's walk #23, where I sat at the Table of Matthew. My wife Jean and I attend Jasper UMC. I have no idea why the board chose me to be your Community Layer Leader and Board Chair but it is my Honor and Privilege to serve our Community in those capacities.

I guess you could call me a BapPresMethodist. Over the years living in 7 different states we have attend about every Protestant denomination. As an Ordained Presbyterian Elder I have served on several Sessions. I have been on the PPR committee in both the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. I had the privilege to go through 4 building programs and a Charter member of one church.

I am retired from HP, where I was a Technical Support Manager for over 25 years. My wife Jean and I were married 50 years in August of 2013. We have 3 children, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great granddaughter. I volunteer at the local Community Thrift Store as floor manager on Tuesdays. I also try to play golf twice a week. We moved to TN in 2004 to take care of my parents. My dad passed away in 2008 and we decided to move back to GA. We had lived in Ball Ground, GA and worshiped at Jasper United Methodist for over 12 years before we moved to TN. That was the longest we had lived in any one location our entire married life. We still had many friends in North Georgia. My mom is still alive in Assisted Living in Nashville, Tn. We try to visit her at least once per month.

I believe the most important part



Kitchen or Dorm as any of the other work. It also allows me to work a walk and sponsor pilgrims. I encourage each and every one of you who have not sponsored someone to give it a try. I know God will richly bless you.

As we start this New Year. I have a few priorities that I will discuss with the board. We will keep you updated on these as the year progresses. The following are things that I believe to be our priority.

1. Sponsorship
2. Our Fall Walks will have a Wait List (Allowing for two walks in 2015)
3. Get our Community List of members as up to date as possible. (Our records have not been updated in several years.)
4. Continue to have Vibrant and Joyous Gatherings. (We will try to have more of the Gatherings in a Central Locations.)
5. Reengage the Rome Community
6. Remain Financially Stable. (If we fill our walks we have no problems with Finances)

We look forward to any Input from the community. Please pray for me and our board in 2014.

DeColores  
Gordon Norman  
gnorman@tds.net

Please remember if you ever have anything to share with the community, contact the communications chair. All of the board member jobs will be listed in the February Newsletter & on the website, once those positions have been decided on. Please keep the Board in your prayers, as we make decisions to serve our Community with God's vision in mind and not our own. You all are so amazing and I am thankful for each and everyone of you!

God's Blessings on You!

Heather Halbrooks



### January Gathering

The Gathering is this Saturday, January 18, 2014, @ Midway UMC in Douglasville, Ga.

It is off of I-20 Exit 37

1930 Midway Road Douglasville, Ga 30135.

The Board will meet at 4:00.

The community will gather to fellowship & share pot luck yummies at 6:00.

Praise & Worship at 7:00.

We look forward to seeing everyone there to celebrate a New Year!