

My Walk to Emmaus Experience **Steven Scott, Lay Director**

From 1985 – 1988 I was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and was Chairman of the Christian Education Committee. I was still the Sunday School Superintendent in 1991 when a friend of mine asked me to go on the Walk to Emmaus in Houston. He told me that it would help me in my faith and I agreed to go because I trusted him. I did not ask many questions. I attended the Houston Emmaus Community Walk to Emmaus #47 on Feb. 13 – 16, 1991 at the Houston Cursillo Center. I left there on Saturday, because it was a Pastor walk that ran Wednesday through Saturday, and I was sleepy and tired, but changed by God's Love. Sunday, I took stock of the Walk to Emmaus weekend and realized 4 things. First, I realized that I needed to learn more about God through his Word. I had sat at a table family that was made up of mostly pastors of Churches and I did not know much about what they were talking about. I started attending Bible studies to learn about what the Bible said. I attended Kerygma and Bethel Bible studies for the next three years and then started attending my regular Adult Bible school class. Through that, I discovered more about God and his will for us.

Second, I learned that God did Love me. I had heard and read some about God's Love for us, but I had never felt it before. On the Emmaus weekend, I really felt God's Love in my heart. I then knew that he really did love me, the real me as I was, without any requirements. With that, I started to Love our brothers and sisters in Christ and to serve people.

Third, I learned that God really did provide forgiveness for us and for us to forgive others. I sat in the pew after communion one day and cried for forgiveness and release of anger with my Dad for the hurts he had caused on me. Every tear that fell took away the anger and hurt at my Dad until none was left. I resolved and did go visit him with my family after a couple of years with no contact between us at all.

Fourth, I learned that I had the wrong idea about how to spread God's Word. I had always thought that by going to Church and treating people kindly that people would ask me about God. I was wrong. I took off my UT ring and started wearing a Christian ring that my wife gave me on Easter. It was more important for me to be known in the world as a Christian than a graduate of UT. I openly talked about my belief in God and how he loved us. I realized that if I believed in God and God is real, then I have nothing to worry about saying Grace over my meals in public restaurants. I started saying Grace over our food at home and at restaurants even when I was with coworkers. I found many people were excited to see me and my family say Grace out loud and told me so. Some even stopped me and joined me in Grace. Through all four of these things and many more lessons I learned, I became a better Christian and disciple of Christ by attending the Walk to Emmaus.

Remember Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Share your TESTIMONIES with each other to make disciples and to encourage each other. You have the opportunity to put your TESTIMONY of how the Walk to Emmaus has changed your life on the new website page by sending a written or video TESTIMONY to communications@austinemmaus.org. Start sharing now and make a difference in the GAEC community on the new website.

