



SONrise

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EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

... Strengthening the Local Church

God Loves You

As I write this article, the Chrysalis Flight for the guys has already occurred and now the Community is preparing for the gals, and then in two weeks the Journeys! I hope each of you will take some time and come to support these young people and the teams who have worked so hard all spring to prepare. It is always amazing to see God working in and through the team and community and how He affects the lives of the caterpillars/pilgrims, team and community.

Several days prior to the Chrysalis Flight, Mike and I went to Atlanta to move our oldest daughter, Jenny, from there to Athens, GA. It was to be one of those quick and very busy trips as we each only had two days off. We were going to have an "adventure in moving" with the U-haul truck we rented. It turned out to be a very frustrating adventure as we loaded Jenny's boyfriend's things from a storage unit first and then were going back to Jenny's apartment to load her things. We got all of Mark's things in the truck, tied down, and headed back to Jenny's only to have the transmission on the truck go out! I won't bore you with all the details, but SIX hours later we finally got another truck and were able to continue with the move. Around 9p.m., when we should have been finishing with the unloading, we were still in the midst of getting Jenny's things on the truck. She and I were putting some breakable things in our car when we looked down at the ground and Jenny said, "look at this cross mom, is it yours?" I said no as we picked it up. It was one of those pocket crosses with the words "GOD LOVES YOU" on it. Jenny decided she would keep the cross and put it in her pocket. We both stopped to thank God for His presence even in the midst of our frustrations and impatience. All went well with the second truck and though it took us longer than we had planned, we were able to get both Mark and Jenny into their places and the truck back the next day within the 24-hour time frame. Just a few days ago I told Mike the story of finding the cross – he had been busy tying things down in the truck and missed us finding it – he laughed and said it was his cross that must have fallen out of his pocket when he was putting something in the trunk. Again we were reminded of how God works in our lives and of His constant presence. At the time Jenny needed that cross for reassurance more than Mike!

We arrived home from our adventure in time to participate in most activities of the Chrysalis Flight. The theme "God's unconditional love" was what ran through most of the young men's thoughts as they shared at closing with the community. Many said they were overwhelmed with His love and they wanted to go out and tell others and show others what that love was all about. Pam Johnson thanked the young men for their willingness to share from their hearts what the weekend meant to them. She read them a poem to help them remember again God's grace in our lives. One of the lines from the poem was based on Isaiah 49:16 "See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." First John 4:19 reminds us "We love because he first love us." In the words of one young man, "What an awesome God we have!" He loves us all the time.

Sandy Winsor , Community Lay Director