

# Near the Cross Emmaus



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## Mission to Help Women Addicts Planned

*(Used by permission of Revis Blaylock,  
Manila Town Crier)*

Addiction touches lives and too many times it destroys individuals and families.

Danna Scott Deaton of Manila and Laura Imler-Oldham of Leachville are on a mission to reach out and help women overcome the bondage of addiction. They are establishing Butterfly House, Inc., a nonprofit, faith-based recovery center for women.

*(Deaton is active in Emmaus, working the recent spring walk.)*

Deaton pointed out Mississippi County does not have a recovery center. They have visited the Agape House in Paragould and the John 3:16 Ministries in Independence County.

"Founder of the Agape House, Sunny Curtis, has been very helpful," Deaton said. "We have also received support from government officials, and a drug court has been established in Mississippi County. We have had good response from area judges, our county sheriff, drug task force, local police departments and local mayors."

Statistics show 90 percent of arrests in Mississippi County are drug related.

"Addiction is killing our society," Deaton said. "Everyone is not fortunate enough to have money to go to a rehab center. Many insurance companies do not cover drug rehabilitation, so women have no where to turn."

The Butterfly House will be free to women who enter the recovery program. "Recovery takes time," Oldham said. "It will be a 6-to-12 month program. Our priority is for women to know and experience the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."



Manila Town Crier Photo/Revis Blaylock

The women will be required to complete coursework, including daily Bible study, which will equip them to overcome life's challenges. If there is a need, they will be taught to read and write. The GED will be available and a family restoration program will be set in place. All will be required to complete an employment program, involving Job-searching skills, interview and basic work skills.

This program will allow women to become productive law-abiding citizens. Butterfly House will provide a safe and secure sanctuary where the women will learn of the unconditional love of Jesus and how to live a productive life.

Once women get jobs during their stay at Butterfly House, they will pay one-third of their weekly earnings for rent, save one-third and keep one-third.

A location for Butterfly House is the major need right now. The two are looking for a house to rent.

They are looking at grants available, but the need of support from churches, foundations, individuals and organizations is necessary.

An account has been set up at Southern Bankcorp in Manila.

Donations can be sent to Butterfly House, PO Box 1122, Leachville AR 72438. Deaton's email address is: [thebutterflyhouse@gmail.com](mailto:thebutterflyhouse@gmail.com)

# 4th Day Talk

## 4th Day Talk

### David Malone speaks at May Gathering

*(Editors note: David Malone of Cherokee Village was a Pilgrim in Fall, 2010. His talk is printed with his permission. Contact: davidmalone@centurytel.net)*

As I continue my 4th day walk with Christ, I must share how I got to this moment. Let me share some of my life with you. Some of my earliest childhood memories are of my grandfather, a Methodist minister. I would sit in the front row of the church and listen, not as a student of Christ, but as a grandson listening to his grandfather. I remember thinking that my “granddaddy” must have been a good speaker because everyone would put money in a plate that was passed around. People seemed to listen intently to what he said.

He was a grandfather that seemed to move from town to town every few years and be in a new church. I didn’t understand why they moved. Later I found out why he moved to a new church and wished I could replay those sermons and listen to his words of wisdom.

I attended Sunday school, church camp, MYF, and various activities as a participant, not as a young Christian. I went through confirmation classes and “thought” I knew why Christ was important, but I really didn’t.

We moved to Cherokee Village my senior year of high school. I came from a senior class of 400 to a class of 35. I left all my school friends, band members, church friends behind. I thought my world had ended. Boy I was wrong.

This fresh start in a new place gave me the opportunity to start over and make new friends who attended a brand new church being formed in Cherokee Village. It was during this new start that I met, and yes, fell in love with my future wife...but something was still missing.

Several years later on a break from college, I asked this lovely young lady to be my wife and she said YES! Later we were married in that new church and headed out to Louisville, Kentucky, where I was enrolled in electronics school. Talk about a leap of faith. No job, new wife (she had a new car with payments), but we had each other and

our love.

I soon had a job working as a stock clerk at an A&P grocery during the evenings and attended school during the day. Thank goodness my store manager gave away the bread, pastries and items that expired on Saturday night. That formed the basis of our meals during the week along with bologna sandwiches at the store.

That store manager also had a passion for catching shoplifters. He trained all of us to respond to a call over the PA system that we were being robbed. All the stock clerks would drop what we were doing and run together into the parking lot where 5-10 of us would catch the person. Many times we would find this person to be homeless and hungry. The manager would give food and other items to the person and send them on their way, but sometimes we would catch a criminal. They were turned over to the police.

One evening, I was working close to the front of the store and I heard the chief cashier shout over the PA that we had been robbed. I dropped my stocking items and ran out the front door. Since I was close to the door, I didn’t hear the words the cashier shouted next, “AND HE HAS A GUN.” Unexpectedly, I was in the parking lot alone facing a man with a gun pointed directly at me. I instantly knew I was in trouble. I stopped and put up my hands but I told him to stop and put down the gun. He told me to leave him alone.

He pointed the gun at me and then a miracle happened. I felt two GENTLE BUT FIRM arms turning me to the left. I can remember the gentle pressure on my shoulders just as the robber fired the gun. I felt no pain as I fell to the ground. I looked up and the robber got into his car and drove away. For some reason, I noticed the license plate number and could remember it. The police later caught him and I testified at the trial.

As I got up and walked into the store, I was met by the other 12 stock boys who looked at me strangely. We all wore short sleeved white shirts with black bow ties. As I looked down, my white shirt was red. An ambulance took me to the hospital where I was met by the chaplain and doctors. After an examination and x-rays, the chief surgeon informed me that had I not “turned” just as I did, I would have received a bullet through the heart and would have died.

It was at that moment that I realized I had not

turned; something or someone had guided me and turned me, but who? No one else was there. Through prayer, I realized the answer. I knew the Holy Spirit had helped me and physically caused me to turn at exactly the right moment. But why? Why was I saved from death?

I struggled with an answer to that for some time and finally realized after many hours of prayer that God had given me a great gift and had a plan for me. I did not know what it was, but I certainly had a reason to live and work for his glory.

We started attending church on a more regular basis, but only participated. We were not committed or deeply involved. I was still looking for the answer.

After our children were born, Susanne and I took a more active part in church and tried to guide them as they learned about Christ. We were starting to understand our faith and slowly we were beginning to understand our need to “work”— not just fill a pew on Sunday.

We worked as youth leaders, mentors, Girl Scout leaders (yes, I was an official Girl Scout) and guided the youth in our church. We continued to help in any way we could around the church even after our children had grown up.

After several years, I was given the opportunity to open a new plant for Alcoa, moving back to Louisville. We eagerly searched for a new church home and found a wonderful congregation where we were welcomed and expected to participate. We found our calling to be leading a Marriage Care group of several couples. This was good, but I continued to feel God wanted me for something else.

After retirement, we returned to Cherokee Village and got to work in our home church. We were welcomed and put to work almost immediately. I had heard of Emmaus, but didn’t understand why or what caused the changes I saw in people who went on the walks. Two wonderful friends asked me if I was interested in a walk. I agreed and Susanne signed up for the walk following mine.

The Emmaus experience was overwhelming for me. I met brothers in Christ and guys I didn’t know on Thursday were the people I was crying and hugging as we went through the weekend. The candlelight service was the most emotional for me. As we walked into church, I saw candles, and angels were singing. It was as I feel it will be when I get to heaven. During that walk up the aisle I once again felt the same feeling of being wrapped in the wonderful arms of the Holy Spirit. I also knew this was another signal.

I was overwhelmed by the generosity of

# 4th Day Talk

## David Malone (continued)

numerous people who gave of their time and talents so that my Emmaus experience would be meaningful.

To sum up the weekend, it was like I had been given the gift of participating in a heavenly fireworks show! I knew I had to take that glorious weekend experience and get to work for the Lord. When I returned home, I seemed to glide a foot off the ground like a balloon being pulled by a child. It was all I could do to control myself.

Susanne wanted to kill me I know because I would start to say something about the weekend and then say: "well you'll just have to wait and see next weekend." That was the longest week of my life waiting for her to complete her walk. When she returned, we cried, prayed, and talked about our fourth day journey. We knew our lives would be much different and much better.

Just starting our fourth day journey, we have found each day not to be a challenge, but a gift from God. It's like we are viewing the world as Dorothy does when the movie "The Wizard of Oz" switches to color. It's beautiful and a gift from God. It is now up to us to do God's work and we do it gladly.

Susanne and I are both deeply involved with our church in many activities. We joke about our schedules being fuller than when we were working. The difference is we are now working for God's glory, and we love each minute of it. We don't dread getting up and heading out for some task. When friends look at us and say, "but you are retired. You are supposed to take it easy," we just smile.

We love to travel and camp. Even those trips are different. Meeting new friends gives us the opportunity to share our love of Christ. We enjoy meeting with people and find it is much easier to talk about the wonders of the world God has provided for us.

There is something about being outside that helps everyone experience the Glory of God. Sitting around a campfire seems to put everyone at rest. The warm glow and crackle of the fire just opens the mind to the wonders we are given. We both belong to local

Reunion groups and look forward to our meetings. We are actively praying for God to lead us to future pilgrims.

To those of you who have just completed a walk, I say "welcome to the community." It was just over six months ago that I was sitting where you are. I had just completed my walk, still floating on air.

I know how you feel at this time. Enjoy every minute of it. Your fourth day will be an individual experience. Please take advantage of the reunion groups and this monthly gathering time. It's a recharging time for your "Emmaus battery."

You have been given a great gift. I know you will use it wisely. Don't just let this gift sit on the shelf of your life. Get up. Get out in this world and use it. You will find more benefits than I can list. You now have a growing support who loves you and will do anything to help you. I ask you: "Can't you feel the love of these people?"

As I continue my fourth day journey, I thank God for his blessings and the chance to help lead others to him and to help the spiritual glow become brighter in everyone. I look forward to working on some walks in the future, being one of those who gives back to make the walk of others just as wonderful as my own.

Remember the words found in Ephesians 2:

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works; which God prepared for us to do."*

Thank you and De Colores.

**Next Gathering:  
Noon, Saturday  
1st UMC Jonesboro**

### Fall Walk Dates

#### Men's Walk #21

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2011

LD: Andy Slaven

#### Women's Walk #22

Oct. 6-9, 2011

LD: Wendy Jones

#### 2011 Gatherings

June 4

July—no meeting

August 6

Sept. 10

October—no meeting

Nov. 5

Dec. 3

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