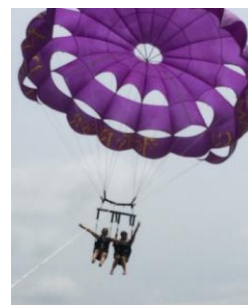


NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2015

GAIN is a ministry of Faith Walkers Missions, Inc. a 501(c)(3) Christian non-profit established in 2011.

We are so happy to have the privilege to report some of the things we have witnessed the Lord do in 2015. This year has been filled with healing, renewal, prayer, growth and change. God has used you to support (through prayer, time, words of encouragement, finances, gifts, services, and ideas) FIVE retreats this year for people in ministry. This includes over 30 massages, 39 horseback rides, 5 sunset cruises, 20 parasail rides, 22 jet ski rides, 8 sea kayak excursions, 4 plane rides, 1 charter fishing trip, 3 boat excursions, 12 bike rentals, 3 golf cart rentals, 22 gift bags, 650 breakfast plates, 5 “Created to Create” art classes, 160 banquet plates, 85 letters of encouragement, 700 additional lunches and suppers eaten in area restaurants, innumerable snacks and drinks, and countless crafts and games with children for 22 families in ministry. This is just a physical way that we have been able to show God’s love and grace to these families. The spiritual blessings that flowed out from the throne room of God during 20 break-out sessions, 15 nights of worship and devotion, time around the meal table and hours of prayer by the prayer team cannot be measured in minutes, numbers, or dollars. However, we would like to share several testimonies from this year’s participants in hopes that you will get a taste of what Christ is doing through your giving.



June – GAIN 10

August – GAIN 11



“I saw God working in the lives of pastors and their families at GAIN 11. Difficult issues and experiences were shared in an atmosphere of love and affirmation. We enjoyed the fellowship with others, and appreciated the rest and relaxation of the retreat.”
- wife of a Christian counselor

One pastor’s wife explained, “If someone would have asked me about how I felt in ministry on the way to the retreat, I would have said, ‘frustrated, burned-out, tired.’ This week I’ve received God’s love and there’s no way for me to pay anyone back or to say, ‘Thank you.’ What I’ve realized is I actually felt unloved in ministry.” She later told us, “The Lord gave me a picture this morning of what He has done this week. I saw a dried up sea sponge lying on the beach. I realized that was me when I came here. It had happened over time...being squeezed by the pressures and stresses of ministry. I have been reminded how much God loves me this week and I am fully saturated—dripping with God’s love. He has reminded me this week that I must abide in Him. He will keep me filled up, so that I may give of His love freely to others.”

September – GAIN 12



An evangelist responded, “During the GAIN 12 week, my wife and I started reading the Bible together in the mornings, and that has been the case ever since we left the island and returned home! Thank you to all who make these vital retreats possible as they have certainly impacted us and the ministry work we are called by the Lord to do!”



A pastor shared the following about his time at GAIN: “During the retreat I tried to leave my phone in the room as much as possible and the Lord laid it on my heart to just get rid of the smartphone all together so it wasn’t as much of a time killer and distraction. So as soon as we left the island, I purchased a flip phone and ditched the busyness of the smartphone. My kids tell me I look like an old man with a flip phone; but it has been a simple, yet, great spiritual decision!”



October – GAIN 13



“When we came across GAIN we were at a point of exhaustion and confusion of where we needed to be in the ministry. Should we stay where we were, or was I being called to another pastorate? This retreat gave confirmation of where God wanted us. When I was conquering a fear of heights by parasailing, I could hear nothing but a peaceful silence and felt confirmation that God was moving us...the very place I was pushing back from is where God called us—to a church in need of revitalization, just like we received at GAIN,” commented another pastor.

November – GAIN 14 hosted in Topsail Beach, NC in partnership with Emma Anderson Memorial Chapel



Another pastor stated, “GAIN has changed our lives forever. We have just returned from this much needed spiritual retreat which was only the sixth weekend away from our pastoral pulpit in the past twelve years. We will begin in 2016 taking one weekend away per quarter. Each breakout session was filled with God’s Holy Spirit as He ministered unto each of us and allowed us to minister unto each other. Pastor-to-pastor relationships have been birthed in Jesus’ name.”

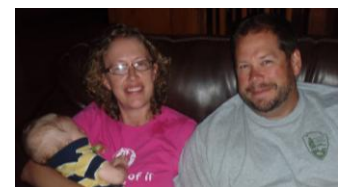


In addition to the retreats, God has allowed us to host 4 families in 2015 at the upstairs “Lighthouse Apartment.” This is a separate apartment

(above the house where the Emblers live) that the ministry offers free of charge on a first-come, first-serve basis to people who serve full-time in ministry. It’s a cozy space to get away for a few days for a personal retreat, time alone with the Lord, or some family time. This two bedroom, one bath, upstairs apartment sleeps up to five with two queen beds and one twin bed and a fully-equipped kitchen. Many of you helped outfit the apartment with prayer, furniture, kitchen items, and linens.

Lord willing, in 2016, we hope to...

- host five GAIN retreats.
- sponsor a marriage conference.
- meet for a GAIN reunion.
- complete the ministry website.
- facilitate a community Bible study this winter in Ocracoke.
- travel to speak on behalf of the ministry.
- host families in the “Lighthouse Apartment.”
- hold a fundraiser for the ministry.



With great sadness for the ministry, but great joy for the Carters, we share that the Carters are moving to Raleigh for a new job opportunity for Brian with N.C. State University. This move will also allow Brian to pursue ministry credentials at a much quicker pace than is possible on Ocracoke. Please pray for their family as they transition into this next chapter.

If you are interested in volunteering or would just like more information, please contact Chris at (919) 634-5657 or mblur3@hotmail.com. There are many opportunities for you to serve! If you feel led to invest in this much needed ministry in the body of Christ, please make your checks payable to: Faith Walkers Missions (in the memo line please indicate GAIN retreats). Your contribution is tax deductible. Mail to: Faith Walkers Missions, c/o Chris Embler, P.O. Box 73, Ocracoke, NC 27960.