



# GAIN 2016 Newsletter

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

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



## GAIN Retreats—Ocracoke and Topsail Beach

This year as we prayed about what the retreats would look like, God impressed on us to set aside a room for prayer on each of the three GAIN retreats that we hosted in 2016. Each retreat was so very different, but the resurrected Christ emerged through distinct themes (planned only by the Holy Spirit) developed over the course of the week: Vision (GAIN 15), God's Grace Poured Out (GAIN 16), and Sweet Fellowship (GAIN 17). We are so thankful for the more than 150 volunteers and donors who gave of their time, talents, and resources to help make all of this possible. Here are some testimonies from the participants because "they [believers] overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."—Revelation 11:12a

*A pastor explained, "So often when people watch our kids it's with this sense of taking care of someone less important so that someone else can take care of something/someone more important. We haven't felt like that this week, you have poured into my family."*

*"I can't believe that people can care so much. God's hands are touching me through the acts of love I've been shown this week."*

*A worship leader added, "I grew up without a dad. Seeing the men here this week be fathers to their children has encouraged me."*

*"When you receive this much love, you can't hold it in. Our congregations will see love because it will ooze from us."*

*"I came here and met brothers I didn't know yet."*

*A pastor's wife stated, "This week, I received the gift of time. It was wonderful just to have time and not to feel rushed by anything. I hadn't realized that I had missed it until now."*



*A pastor shared "There were more people here to give (volunteer) than to receive (participate) this week. At the beginning of the day (Saturday) I felt blessed, but as I continued to watch the events and acts of service unfold throughout today, I was overwhelmed. I asked the Lord, "How have I deserved this?" He spoke to me and said, "It was Me who served you in this way today. This is how I love you all of the time. I'm just showing you in a different way right now—a way that is tangible." I will always be different because of what happened today."*

*The men in GAIN 15 nicknamed the room they met in for their breakout session the "Wart Room" playing off the title of the popular movie War Room. They explained that they found a place there where they were able to show their "warts" and receive God's grace from their brothers in Christ through prayer and sharing.*

*The women in the breakout session (GAIN 17) authentically shared each others' burdens. As we brought our burdens to the Lord together, God began to give everyone ideas for ways to resolve some of the issues that had been raised. It was beautiful to see the older women instructing the younger women—just like God's word says in Titus.*

*A pastor's son testified, "through the circumstances of this week, I've come to fully realize the power of God's grace, forgiveness, and love for whatever mistakes that I make—not to be taken advantage of—but it's always there for me."*

*"The love of God multiplies. You send out this seed of His love in us and it will multiply in the hearts of many."*

*A church planter testified, "The last three years have been filled with really hard work in planting a church with very little thanks. I often think of that story of the 10 lepers...how only one said thank you. I hadn't realized until this week that I was hurt by "the nine" who never said thank you or just gave the perfunctory "thank you." This GAIN retreat has been a "thank you" and God is beginning to heal those wounds. This retreat has been like the Balm of Gilead for those hurts."*

*"I was able to put my pastor's hat aside and be with my family this week."*

## Other Areas of Ministry



Speaking at a Pastor Appreciation Dinner



Date Night Gift Card Recipients



Family Staying at Lighthouse Apartment

In addition to facilitating retreats, we also tried to focus on several other areas this year. Since not everyone can come on a retreat because of space and schedules, we began to host families in the upstairs **Lighthouse Apartment**. It was a cozy space to get away for a few days for a personal retreat, time alone with the Lord, or some family time. We were able to serve about 10 families in ministry through June of 2016. God allowed us to partner with another ministry **Bethany's Blessing Ministries** to host an additional 3 couples in ministry in Southern Shores for a similar get away. Second, we **shared about the ministry** in numerous settings including the annual Baptist State Convention for the Directors of Missions, churches, the United Methodist Women, and monthly pastor's meetings. Another goal for the year—**following-up with participants**—allowed Chris to focus on visiting with former participants each month to continue to encourage them in their journey. According to a study quoted in the NY Times in August 2010, 1 in 2 pastors say that being in ministry is hazardous to their family's well-being and health. This and other startling statistics lead us to another aspect of ministry—**Date Nights**. GAIN gave more than \$1700 (about 35 date nights) in gift cards to couples in ministry to promote taking time with their spouse to enjoy one another's company and allowing the Holy Spirit to keep them unified in their marriage as they serve Christ. Finally, in October, we began the monthly **AGAPE table** in Clinton. We invite pastors and their wives to dinner in an area restaurant for a time of interdenominational fellowship. The meals have been well attended and the ministers are forming relationships with others serving Christ in their local community. In 2017, we hope to begin rotating the AGAPE table to 3 or 4 areas where there are high concentrations of GAIN participants.

## From Ocracoke to Clinton

God orchestrated countless circumstances to allow the Emblers the opportunity to move back to Clinton in July. This move gave their family a strong support system which has allowed both Chris & Rachel to minister with GAIN and in the local church. The ministry will continue to host retreats in Ocracoke during the summer. Chris now has the ability to travel during the week—meeting with former participants, encouraging them in the journey, and sharing with new individuals who are interested in supporting the ministry without causing a strain on the rest of the Emble family while he travels.



AGAPE Table in Clinton



There's a place for you at the table!

## Upcoming Opportunities:

- Volunteer Meeting – Clinton, NC → January 28, 2017
- Fundraising Banquet – Clinton, NC → March 4, 2017
- Monthly AGAPE Table – Clinton, NC
- Monthly rotating AGAPE Tables for former GAIN participants
- GAIN 18 – Berkley Manor, Ocracoke, NC → July 24-30, 2017
- GAIN 19 – Berkley Manor, Ocracoke, NC → August 7-13, 2017
- GAIN 20 – Location TBA → Fall 2017

*If you are interested in volunteering or would just like more information, please contact Chris Emble at (919) 634-5657 or [mblur3@hotmail.com](mailto: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)**. Your contribution is tax deductible. Mail to: **Faith Walkers Missions, c/o Chris Emble, 208 Sampson St., Clinton, NC 28328.***