

THEN JESUS SAID, "COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST." – MATTHEW 11:28

2020 - What a year!

In spite of a global pandemic, God was still on the move through GAIN – encouraging families in ministry to continue in the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We hosted a June GAIN retreat in Ocracoke and an October GAIN retreat in Corolla (a new location) and invited 10 *new* families in ministry to join the GAIN family. All that God did during these two weeks would have been enough to say that 2020 was a great year, but He did more! Read on...



June – GAIN 24 – Ocracoke, NC



October – GAIN 25 – Corolla, NC

In the fall of 2019, our board decided to consider ways to serve past GAIN participants by offering “reunion” events. So 2020 included lots of connecting with old friends and establishing new relationships as well. We joined together for two Nights of Worship (NOW) in Clinton, NC with 16 different GAIN families in February and in November. We added Paul Tripp’s Parenting Conference to our normal offering of the Weekend to Remember marriage getaway, and five GAIN families benefited from these marriage and parenting enrichment opportunities. Leading up to Easter, we reached out to GAIN families to see how we could support them in prayer. 40 GAIN families responded, and the prayer team covered them in prayer for the entire week. We also drew winners daily to receive a gift that they could enjoy as a family (a gift card, a puzzle, or a game) during the nationwide quarantine. In October, a donor sponsored a GAIN foursome for a Golf Tournament benefiting Tim’s Gift.



Parenting Conference



Prayer
and a
Giveaway



Weekend to
Remember



GAIN Golfers at Tim's Gift Tournament



One pastor's wife said that she had a huge heart of gratitude because she'd needed to be filled up – that happened for her during NOW.

Nights of Worship (NOW)

Food ~ Fellowship ~ God's Word ~ Praise ~ Prayer



Family Day at Hubb's Farm

We wrapped up a year of GAIN events at the beginning of November at Hubb's Farm, where five families in ministry joined us for a day of fun and enjoying one another. We saw pastors who knew of each other (but had never had the opportunity to meet) make a real connection.



Eight GAIN families experienced **Family Camp** at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center in August. Here's what they had to say about their time: "We really enjoyed getting to meet other families in ministry." ~ "Worship times were refreshing and Brother Ricky blessed us with an on-time Word and lesson from the Lord." ~ "The best part of Family Camp was spending time together as a family and just being able to enjoy it without being in charge of the activities."



Respite in Corolla

In August, we provided three different families in ministry with a week of respite in Corolla, NC. We also learned of a missionary family and their team who were returning to the states for a home assignment. This mission team had to quarantine for 14 days after arriving in the U.S. In November, we were able to give them an offering to help offset some of these unexpected costs.



GAIN 24 ~ Ocracoke, NC ~ Testimonies



"I can clearly see God has superintended this team, and every retreat, for His glory. The one word that sticks out, through the whole weekend, is the word 'grace.' It is important to remember His unending grace. Even Paul writes of this grace when he states, 'It is by grace you have been saved and not of works (Ephesian 2:8).' I am thankful for the whole GAIN team exhibiting God's grace and love through the week we were with you all."

– Pastor

"I've had time to talk, journal, and think. The food was an amazing blessing. It has been a time to open up and share and receive counsel. It's been so timely with the passing of my mom." – Pastor's Wife

"You could call this ministry (GAIN) God's Anointed in Newness or GAIR- God's Anointed Is Refilled or Renewed or Reconnected or Reconstructed or Refreshed." – Missionary

"GAIN would be our Elim. You've been instruments to breathe on dry bones." – Pastor

"It has been a blessing to have someone to talk with who understands and admits that it's hard but that you're still in it and still want to do it."

– Pastor's Wife



Lord willing, we are planning the following events for 2021:

- 2 GAIN retreats (summer and fall)
- Family Camp (summer)
- 2-3 Nights of Worship (NOW) in Clinton (winter, spring, fall)
- 2-3 Agape Tables (possibly western NC, SC, FL) (summer)



GAIN 25 ~ Corolla, NC ~ Testimonies

"This retreat is iron sharpening iron, and I'm encouraged to continue in the work of the Lord." – Pastor's Wife

"I've experienced grace not from this world this week." - Pastor

"I've never experienced anything like this before. You are so intentional with the kids. Kids are not 'tolerated,' they are celebrated. You didn't require anything of us." - Pastor

"This is needed in the Church. Our world is so chaotic and full of division, hatred, & tension. I was at the point of weighing ministry in the balance. It's not that I don't love the Lord, but things are so crazy right now...You've reminded me to show grace even in the midst of people's 'behaviors.' Thank you for what you do and how you do it." - Pastor



Celebrating 25 years of marriage on GAIN 25



Sharing the Gospel through Hospitality:

Aubrey's Story

Corolla Chapel started sowing the seeds of the Gospel in Aubrey's heart four years ago when he attended their international dinners while he was in Corolla on a work exchange visa. He noticed something different. Then he stayed with the Emblers for several extended stays in Clinton and began to meet more of the Body of Christ. Since Aubrey is living in Clinton right now, we asked if he'd like to serve on GAIN 25 in Corolla, and he agreed. We hoped he would experience more of the love of Christ and that more seeds would be sown in his heart – that ONE DAY he might follow Christ if we all just continued to be the hands and feet of Jesus. What he saw was more hearts pouring out the love of Jesus again in service to strangers...with no expectation of something in return. He described the house where the participants were staying as "warm" and that he could feel a burning in his heart when he was with us all. (The love of Jesus! He could feel it!) Several people sat down throughout the week and answered his questions and concerns and others just welcomed him as a new friend. He saw passionate worship. On Saturday morning, someone sat down with Aubrey to ask him pointed questions about his relationship with God and to share the Gospel with him. Aubrey prayed to follow Jesus and was baptized after the Sunday service at Corolla Chapel. And now, my dear brothers and sisters, we all have a new brother in Christ!!!



Pictured above is part of the special team at Corolla Chapel who served GAIN 25 in their new fellowship hall...just like they will serve the international students during the summer.



Pastor Jim from Corolla Chapel & Chris baptizing Aubrey

The Grace Place Apartment

The Grace Place apartment continues to be available to the GAIN family if any are in need of some time away to seek the Lord for vision and direction for 2021, to spend some uninterrupted time of writing, studying, or just to have a few moments with their spouse. We also welcome any area churches that would like to use it to host out-of-town guest speakers.



THANK YOU!



God moved in the hearts of over 100 donors to support the ministry so far in 2020, and He brought 78 different people to serve with GAIN, from praying to cooking to counseling to stuffing envelopes. You name an act of service, and we have had the Body of Christ come around us in that way to help minister to 70 different families in ministry during 2020! That means we were able to interact in one way or another with at least 60% of the 120 families who have attended a GAIN retreat since 2013. What a year! Thank you, Jesus!

GET INVOLVED IN 2021

- Partner with GAIN by donating monthly to the ministry to help fund activities and the part-time Ministry Coordinator's salary.
- Volunteer on the Servant Team or Prayer Team.
- Sponsor a family fun day or a NOW.
- Donate event tickets OR a week at your vacation home.
- Recommend someone for the Grace Place Apartment.
- Invite a GAIN speaker to share at your church or with your group.
- Share information about properties or an architect to help with the building of the Grace Place Retreat Center.

For more information about any of our activities,
contact us at: gainretreats@gmail.com
(919) 634-5658

To support the ministry:

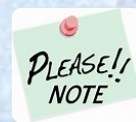
Please make your checks payable to:
Faith Walkers Missions
(in the memo line, please, indicate GAIN).
Your contribution is tax deductible.

Mail to:

Faith Walkers Missions
P. O. Box 2234
Clinton, NC 28329

Give online:

www.gainretreats.org



GIVING TUESDAY



Give on Facebook

or via Paypal.

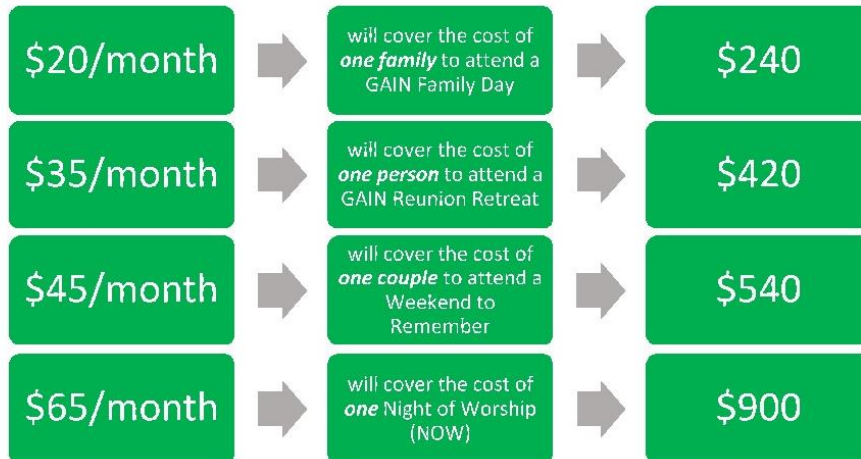


<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-1441173>

A Monthly Pledge

A One-Time Gift

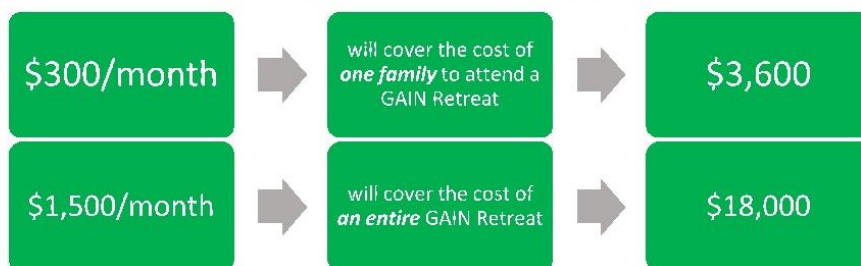
We serve PAST GAIN participants.



Administrative expenses to serve the ENTIRE GAIN family



We serve NEW GAIN participants.



For more information about any of our activities or how to get involved, contact us at: gainretreats@gmail.com (919) 634-5658

To support the ministry:
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
P. O. Box 2234
Clinton, NC 28329

Give online:
www.gainretreats.org