

# FAIRBANKS RESCUE MISSION

*Making a Difference One Life at a Time*

SERVING GOD AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1974

APRIL 2010

## The Road to Emmaus - By Rodney Gaskins

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As I write to you, I hope my enthusiasm comes through in my writing. I'm by no means a writer but what I lack in writing ability, I hope I make up for in transparency and passion. I sat down at my computer to write an article for the newsletter, but I got so much more and I want to share that "so much more" with you.

Easter is the celebration of Jesus being alive, but right now I feel like I'm suffering from a version of survivor's remorse. It's hard for me to celebrate when there are still those who don't know they're invited to the party or who feel they have no reason to celebrate.

I can relate to the story in the Book of Luke about two of Jesus' followers walking on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. It

was Easter; three days after Jesus had been crucified. They were heartbroken, distraught, confused, in doubt. While they were talking about everything that had happened, Jesus himself came up and started walking with them, but the Bible tells us they were prevented from recognizing Him.

Jesus asked them what they had been talking about. With sadness on his face one of the two men said they had been sure Jesus was God's prophet, powerful in word and deed. They had hoped He was sent to redeem Israel, but He had been sentenced to death and crucified. Amazingly, when some women went to the tomb that morning his body wasn't there and the women had seen angels that said Jesus was alive.

Then Jesus began to explain that all through the Old Testament writings of Moses and the Prophets these things

were written about Him before they ever happened. Imagine, the very author of the Bible was explaining the scriptures to them. But remember - they didn't realize it was Jesus walking with them.

As they reached Emmaus the stranger acted as if he had to continue his journey, but they pleaded with him to stay the night so He went home with them. They sat down to supper together and Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave to it them. Suddenly their eyes



were opened and they recognized Him and then He disappeared. As they talked to each other they spoke of how their hearts had burned within them as Jesus had opened up the Scripture to them.

Continued on Page 2

# Because You Gave

8,371 MEALS

were served

4192 BED NIGHTS

were provided

2973 for MEN

847 for WOMEN

372 for CHILDREN

60 BIBLE STUDIES

were held

102 CHAPEL

SERVICES

were held

Thanks to our

VOLUNTEERS

for 596

volunteer hours!

## - Road to Emmaus continued -

I can recall a time in my life when, like the men on the road to Emmaus, I was faced with hardships and was disappointed when God didn't handle my situation the way I thought He should. I became doubtful, discouraged, disappointed, disheartened, and disillusioned. I wondered what I had done to make God decide not to answer me (or in the way I expected). So, like those two disciples, I was going back to the life I once knew...I was walking back.

I knew the Bible stories and I'd heard sermons on how I needed to faithfully trust God without doubt. (I'd also once read a book on how to swim and I don't need to tell you how that turned out.) During this challenging period in my life, I felt that my problems were mine to solve, because God was tending to other more faithful, deserving people.

I have always loved God, and my heart has also burned within me when I read or heard His words. I wanted to believe, have faith, and trust Him, but my misunderstanding or lack of understanding prohibited it. I walked away. God didn't send me, but He let me go (on my own Emmaus Road) back to my old life (before God). I had an understanding of God, but not a relationship. Like these two disciples, I too didn't recognize God. It wasn't until I invited Jesus into my life (I pleaded with him to stay the night so He went home with me) and gave him control (He broke, blessed, and gave me bread) did I truly see Jesus for who He is.

Doubt is not always bad. There is a difference between doubt and unbelief. Doubt or uncertainty should make us search for answers and truth. Doubt is one foot lifted, poised to step forward or backward. Standing on one leg should not be a lifestyle, nor should doubt

Like these two disciples, once I recognized that Jesus was with me and had not left me, I wanted to run and tell everyone, especially those on their own Road to Emmaus.

Many people have trouble with the whole idea of the resurrection. They say to me, "Hey Rodney, you've lost me on that raised from the dead thing." Some will sit in church this Easter Sunday, silently doubting or questioning the minister's sermon. Others have already rejected the whole idea of the miraculous and explain the resurrection away as an allegory or a spiritual metaphor. They may think the music is great, enjoy the sermon, and get a warm, fuzzy feeling, but not really believe the resurrection story.

*"Doubt is  
one foot  
lifted, poised  
to step  
forward or  
backward."*

The resurrection is a living theological reality, a long ago event in time with continuing spiritual, human, and social consequences. The evidence for the resurrection is all around us. It's not in some prehistoric manuscript, Jesus' burial cloth, or a DNA sample. The historical evidence for the resurrection is Jesus living in His believers; it is the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, bringing back to life that which was once dead. We are the evidence.

This Easter Sunday, consider all the resurrections you have had the privilege of witnessing. Stories of your own life, stories of death and rebirth, and of the times you thought God had deserted you only to discover that God was remaking you...anew.

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- Road to Emmaus continued -

I know that Jesus is alive. We at the Mission see restoration of that which was lost and bringing to life that which was dead - the power of the Risen Christ, daily. So, if you still have questions or doubts about the resurrection, come by the Mission to hear about and to see God at work.

Have a wonderful and joyous Easter...everyday!

**The Fairbanks Rescue Mission  
Board of Directors**

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Vice-President
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**SHELTER NEEDS THIS MONTH**

**Kitchen**

- Chicken Base
- Beef Base
- Onions
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Buttermilk Powder
- Butter or Margarine
- Sour Cream
- Milk
- Yogurt
- Eggs
- Cheeses
- Pancake syrup

**Shelter Needs**

- Diapers, all but newborn
- Baby wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Disposable Razors

# FRM Recycling

## RECYCLING INSTRUCTIONS

723 27th Ave (off S. Cushman)  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Material	Hours	How to Prepare	Do Not Include
<b>Aluminum</b> (Soda cans, pie pans, containers)	Saturdays 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Empty & rinse	Plastic lids Food residue
<b>Corrugated Cardboard</b>	Saturdays 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Flatten	Metal wiring Food residue
<b>Mixed Paper</b> (Shiny cardboard, cereal boxes, office paper, phone books, junk mail, magazines, etc)	Saturdays 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Keep clean & dry Put loose in container	Plastic bags Metal wiring Food residue
<b>Newspaper</b> (Inserts OK)	Saturdays 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Keep clean & dry Put loose in container	Plastic bags

## Road to the Mission



Each of the employees here has their own story of what brought them to the Mission, and every one of them is a tale of serendipity and coincidence that can only be God. We feel called and appointed and that we are here as family to do what God has for us to do. We also feel deeply fortunate to be here.

My own story starts with leaving my last job. I wasn't in a hurry to go back to work and I had a feeling that God had something for me. I was familiar with the work of the Mission and had heard about a possible position as a community transportation coordinator. I dropped off a resume and let Rodney know that if the position materialized I would be interested.

A few weeks later I checked back in with him, and asked if any progress had been made in the job

development. There was a curious silence at the other end of the phone, and then Rodney said, "My office manager just handed me her resignation." And I said, "Oh, well, I'd rather do that." And *that* was my job offer *and* interview. The other job never got funded.

I brought experience and know-how and also a sure knowledge of my own fallen but redeemed heart. I know how easy it is to be ensnared and how broken people make broken relationships that echo down through a lifetime. I, like many people here at the Mission, am a life brought out of death by the power of the living Christ. I am daily encouraged by the bravery, tenacity, and yes, joy of the people I work with and for.

And we do need your prayers: Rodney, Austin, Becky, Jeff, Lawrence, Michael, Manuela, Don, Rev. Phillips, Glenda, Randy and Neil.

Thank you.

~ Michelle Harpole

**Please remember to keep those who share their journey with us in prayer.**

*"You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it." -Matthew 21:22 (NLT)*

REQUESTED

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