

One Nation Under God - Walk Across America

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Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

By faith, I began the One Nation Under God – Walk Across America in October of 2002 at Cape Henlopen, Delaware. By faith, my wife, Nadine, and I drove to Waverly, Ohio on May 3 to continue the walk. By faith, Nadine and I prayed at the Serpent Mound near the village of Loudon, Ohio, knowing that our prayers would be heard by the one who sits on the right side of our Father in heaven.

The week commenced with Nadine and I checking into a suite at the AmeriStay Inn in Waverly graciously provided by a member of the River Valley Community Church. With Nadine following close by me in our car, the week ended with me walking very slowly along a gravel road that parallels the American Discovery Trail, since I was too exhausted to walk the trail through a wooded hilly area. During the five days of the walk, Nadine and I experienced some of the best that America has to offer and we saw some of the worst that America has to offer.

After walking only short periods of time on Sunday and Monday afternoons, Nadine and I attended the discussion group at River Valley Community Church on Monday evening. The discussion was led by Pastor Steve Good. With the topic, 'Follow Jesus – Faith', using the story of Abraham as an example, both Nadine and I knew that we were destined to be at that church at that moment in time. By answering questions such as; are you going, where has God told you to go, and how is the journey, Nadine and I knew that we encouraged those who attended the small group discussion, including the pastor.

After the discussion, the pastor presented me with a book written by Mike Yankoski, 'Under the Overpass – A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America.' It is a true story of two Christian men who for five months lived as homeless people in five different cities across America. Last September, a couple from Portland, Oregon, Jim and Carla Smith, contacted me by email about my prayer walk. They were actively involved in a street ministry to the homeless and soon to go on their own prayer walk across our nation. To my astonishment, one of the cities that Mike Yankoski visited was Portland, Oregon and he described the very place at which Jim and Carla minister, the Burnside Bridge.

After the pastor and I finished talking, I began looking for Nadine. She was in the next room hugging a woman with our American flag on the white blouse. Tears were streaming down the woman's cheeks. She was a panic-stricken homeless mother without a car or employment begging for help. The church provided her with some cash and a gift card for food; Nadine provided the love. This was not Portland, Oregon, or Washington, D.C., or New Orleans. This was Waverly, Ohio, small town America. Estimates state that there are 3,500,000 homeless in America. They need our love and our prayers.

On Wednesday, Nadine and I prayer walked around the Great Serpent Mound, which was built by the Adena culture (800 B.C. to 100 A.D.). Nearly a quarter of a mile long, it is the finest serpent effigy in the United States. It apparently represents an uncoiling serpent. Since the head of the serpent is aligned to the summer solstice, the New Age movement believes that this area is sacred and gathers there on the first day of summer. After doing



some research, I realized that the New Age movement permeates many movies and television shows, including the History Channel. With an individual approach to spirituality and a general rejection of many religious beliefs, it combines aspects of spirituality, philosophy and religious practices from many cultures around the world. I call it, ‘the have it your way religion.’ You can pick and choose in what you believe such as astrology, crystal skulls, reincarnation, angels, ghosts, fairies, extraterrestrials, energy pyramids and numerology. They believe in “one truth, but many paths,” but not the way through Jesus to have eternal life in heaven. The New Age crowd gathers at places such as Stonehenge, the Great Pyramid and the Great Serpent Mount. These archaeological sites were created by civilizations that are no longer in existence. Those ancient civilizations prayed to gods that never were and never will be, instead of praying to the living God who reigns in heaven.

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me.

John 14:6

Wednesday evening, we were invited for a meal by the benefactor of our free room for six nights at the AmeriStay Inn. Actually this happened to be the first time that I met this person. Last October Nadine met her at the Women’s Group Meeting at River Valley Community Church. She was very humble and I know that God will bless her abundantly.

During the week, my strength and endurance declined. Each mile was a struggle. By Thursday, I decided to prayer walk along roads roughly paralleling the American Discovery Trail. Just carrying my camera and a water bottle, I turned onto a gravel road. Soon the road traveled into a valley in which seem to be voided from all presence of God. What I saw made me rush back to Nadine following me in our car. We quickly drove over the slight rise to avoid the area. I would later contact law enforcement authorities stating what I saw. This was some of the worst that America has to offer.

After arriving home, I made an appointment with a doctor. He scheduled a battery of tests and told me to stop hiking until we received the results. By faith, I know that I will continue the One Nation Under God – Walk Across America. By faith, I know that my God has not forsaken me and by faith, I know that I will hear the words, well done, my good and faithful servant and I will walk those streets of gold in heaven.

But they who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings of eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

News along the American Discovery Trail

As we were driving along Route 50 just west of Clarksburg, West Virginia, Nadine spotted two hikers walking along the shoulder of the highway. They were Lory Mitchell and John Wingate, who are also hiking the ADT. Lory is hiking for American Ecological Awareness. You can follow their progress at www.trailjournals.com.



Also at Pike Lake State in Ohio, we met John Hayes, the Ohio state coordinator for the ADT. In addition, he is the president of the Buckeye Trail Association and was with team of workers maintaining the trail near Pike Lake State Park.

To learn more about the One Nation Under God –Walk Across America, go to our web site, www.walkacrossamerica.info.

God bless,
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Total miles walked of the American Discovery Trail - 852 miles
Number of prayer walkers - 66 prayer walkers
Number of people praying for America - 55,828 prayer warriors