

# POWER for LIVING

A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

January - March 2007

## SPEAKING SCHEDULE

January 5-7, 2007

Miami Springs SDA Church  
Miami Springs, FL  
Call (305) 888-3783

January 19-21, 2007

Wisconsin Men's Conference  
E. Oxford, WI  
Call (608) 241-5235

February 9-11, 2007

Brazilian Temple SDA Church  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Call (954) 565-8880

March 9-11, 2007

Florida Men's Conference  
High Springs, FL  
Call (407) 644-5000 x108  
Or (386) 454-1351

March 9-11, 2007

Ebenezer SDA Church  
Augusta, GA  
Call (706) 733-7984

March 29-April 1, 2007

Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Athens, TX  
Call (706) 398-7218

April 6-9, 2007

Amazing Discoveries France  
Call (011) 33-5-65-59-8534  
marc.fury@laposte.net

April 26-29, 2007

Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Grizzley Flats, CA  
Call (707) 225-2265

May 17-20, 2007

Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
E. Oxford, WI  
Call (715) 343-1751

Dear friends,

Have you ever been to an occasion that was so enjoyable, so sweet, so special—that you just didn't want it to end? That's how many of our friends feel about the Empowered Living Camp Meetings.

There is something for everyone at Camp Meeting! We've known ten year olds who are used to playing video games to sit on the edges of their seats in the meetings. We've known grandparents who attended church all their lives to find the missing ingredient in their experience. We've known couples on the brink of devastating divorce to grasp simple keys that restored love to their relationship.

Our article this month "**Do I Have to Leave?**" features Camp Meetings—what it did for one family and what it can do for you. The map on the back of this newsletter details the locations and dates of the 2007 Empowered Living Camp Meetings. We're delighted to announce **three new locations**: Lone Star Camp in Athens, **Texas**; Camp Wakonda in **Wisconsin**; and Camp Cedar Falls in Angelus Oaks, **California**.

As you consider this new year, why not prayerfully plan now to attend the Camp Meeting nearest you? If you can, plan to attend two of the meetings. And invite anyone God places on your heart to invite. Why? Because Empowered Living Camp Meetings are designed specifically to nurture the spark of God's life within you. Satan has engineered most of our culture and society to crowd God out. Camp Meetings are held for the sole purpose of bringing God back into focus.

By now, you may have noticed that our **website** has a new look! We're very thankful to Don Blaylock and Randy Meyer who worked long and hard to make it operational. Please enjoy browsing it, and let us know what you think.

A new feature on our website is a **Camp Meeting Slide Show** that captures some of the memorable moments of recent Camp Meetings! Go to the link on the Special Features page, pull up a chair with a friend or your family and enjoy!

See you at Camp Meeting,

*Jim & Sally*



*It's About Walking With God!*



# Do I *Have* to Leave?

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.”*

*Hebrews 10:25*

**It's** better than Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Fourth of July all wrapped up in one!” piped an eleven-year old boy. “It’s a little piece of heaven!” sighed a middle-aged woman. “It’s like nothing else I’ve ever been to!” exclaimed a gray-haired man. “Do I have to leave?” lamented many.

Empowered Living Camp Meeting is for everyone: young and old; wealthy and not-so-wealthy; married and single; sedate church members and babes in Christ. It is for those learning to walk with Him and for those who don’t know Him. It’s for all who sense something is missing.

Empowered Living Camp Meeting! Such a special time! A quiet get-away from the usual pace of life. A time to renew old friendships and begin new ones. The fun of family freeze tag. Rousing song services led by choirs of children and youth. Heartfelt musical presentations. Practical, deeply spiritual messages that speak right to your heart. An opportunity to take personal inventory of your own spiritual condition and the deeper needs of your loved ones. Time to hear God calling you to take the next step forward.

Yet, there is a deeper reason that camp meeting is so special. Empowered Living Camp Meetings are designed to target the core need that all humanity holds in common: the need for relationship—not the superficial relationship that hides reality with a mask of professed Christianity, but genuine relationship that works from the inside out.

If you’ve been to Camp Meeting, you know what I am talking about. If you haven’t been, plan to attend. By the time the final meeting rolls around on Sunday morning, you may be one of the ones who is lamenting, “Do I have to leave?”

The answer is “yes”... and “no”. Let me share a story and I think you will see what I mean.

Lebron and Karen and their ten-year old daughter, Samantha, had lived on

Lookout Mountain in Georgia for a number of years when they noticed a new family moving in next door to the home formerly owned by their pastor. Being very gracious and hospitable, they welcomed them. Realizing that these people had moved quite a distance from their home church, the pastor and his wife invited them to attend their church. The new people began to occasionally attend the Wednesday night prayer meeting and the church family welcomed them with open arms, making them feel right at home.

As time went by, Lebron and Karen became a little more acquainted with these

people. The new neighbors eventually asked Lebron to assist them in constructing a small barn. He graciously accepted. As they worked together, they talked. When the building project came to an end not only was a barn built, but a friendship was built as well.

As the two families began to spend time together, Karen and LeBron noticed something different about this new family. This family had a focus in their lives and it revolved around God. It was made very tangible by the schedule that they kept. They got up at a regular time and had their devotions—both individually and as a family. They shared meals as a family, worked on projects as a family, home schooled their two boys, and relaxed and played together every evening. Karen and LeBron saw that what their neighbors did each day made a difference. They could see God working in their lives.

Something stirred within LeBron and Karen. “This is a family like we want our family to be,” they both thought. “They have focus, direction, a daily routine that works for them. But how do you go about it? Where do you start?”

As they visited with their neighbors, their new friends told them about the Empowered Living Camp Meeting at Cohutta Springs, Georgia and invited them to come. As they prayed about the invitation, they decided to attend.

The evening before camp meeting began, I had the privilege of speaking at their





Community Church. I was so blessed by the warmth, the sincerity, and the genuine response of that little country church. I met Karen and LeBron and our hearts knit together very quickly.

They were some of the very first to arrive at Camp Meeting the next day and pitched in to help set up for the meetings. They entered wholeheartedly into each event. Family freeze tag sparked new ideas for family fun and togetherness. The vegetarian meals were a bit of a challenge, but they found them surprisingly good and enjoyed sharing their meals as a family. Most of all, the messages touched the core of the need they sensed—how to know God practically.

LeBron had been raised in a variety of churches, but hadn't known God in a personal way. Karen had not been raised a Christian. After she married LeBron, his mother prayed for her continuously. As Karen put it, their lives were "hay-wired and crazy". Wanting to find stability, they had started going to church, then quit, then started again. When Samantha was four or five years old, they had started attending their current church. They began to find a more meaningful experience, but had not yet grasped the picture of continual dependence on God.

"Let God be the Pilot." They had heard it before, but didn't know how to make it practical. As they took in the messages shared at camp meeting, God showed them how to take His hand and what their next step was. They made decisions. They made commitments to implement what God was impressing on their hearts. They had found the key that would make it work for them: listening to the voice of God and following Him. While this concept was not new to them, Camp Meeting made it practical.

They had been among the first to arrive at Camp Meeting, and they were some of the last to leave. Karen voiced what many others have said, "Do I have to leave? This was a little taste of heaven!" Samantha and LeBron felt the same way.

Of course, you know it is inevitable for Camp Meeting to come to a close. The

chairs are stacked, the floor vacuumed, the sound system packed away. Everyone returns to face his or her life. But, as LeBron and Karen realized, the best part of camp meeting doesn't have to be left behind—the presence of God! He is what brings the taste of heaven to camp meeting and He can bring that same sense into the heart and home!

How does that happen? By continuing to listen to Him. By letting Him be your Pilot in every aspect of your life. By following through with the decisions



He called you to at Camp Meeting. It's working for Karen and LeBron. And it can work for you!

They formulated a simple family schedule that made God their focus and included time for Him as individuals and as a family. That was a challenge because their daughter attends public school and has to meet the bus early in the morning. They make it a priority to take time to kneel with her and pray together before she leaves. They spend quality time with each other every day—usually in the evening after work and school is over. They talk, laugh, play "Pass the Football", or walk around the pond.

Their relationships are becoming closer, richer, and more fulfilling.

Karen says that having a routine with a focus actually gives her more time to think. She has a slower pace, but gets more done without feeling stressed.



LeBron and Karen have a strong marriage in many respects, but recognized some patterns of poor communication. As Karen shared, in twenty-four years they had never had a conversation about resolving a conflict. When conflict arose, Karen would "hide in her shell" until it was safe to come out—and then they would just go on. A few weeks after Camp Meeting, a conflict came up. This time, she asked God for input and she listened. He directed her not to speak while she was upset. But once the emotions had calmed down, He asked her to open up the issue and gave her words

to tactfully speak to her husband—they worked it through to resolution!

When asked what they would say to someone about Empowered Living Camp Meeting, all three of them enthusiastically exclaimed, "Go! They won't want to leave!"

That brings us back to our starting point: "Do I have to leave?" No—you don't have to leave what started at Camp Meeting. You don't have to leave your Pilot behind. You don't have to leave your decisions behind. Camp Meeting can be the start of heaven on earth because God is always there for you. His presence is what makes camp meeting special and His presence can always dwell in your heart.

God will be speaking to you at Camp Meeting. If you have children and a spouse, he will be speaking to them. Take some quiet time before you leave Camp Meeting to formulate in your own words what God is saying to you. What is the next step He wants you to take? Write it down. Share it with your family. Find out what He is saying to them. Make a plan to implement it immediately. Develop an accountability plan with a friend or another family. In this way, you will take with you what makes Camp Meeting special to begin with—a sense of God's sweet presence!

Many people leave Camp Meeting with an inspiration to make the changes God has laid on their hearts, but often they find it difficult to follow through. The cares of life eclipse their convictions and old habits take the reins. It's easier to drift with the current of inclination than to press upstream. It doesn't have

to happen, though. Those who make God the focus of every day, who take time to listen to Him and let Him call the shots, find lasting change. God is there for you—at Camp Meeting and everywhere else. What is He saying to you right now? Is He assuring you of his love? Is He encouraging you to trust Him and let the stress go? Is He reminding you of a duty left undone? Take His hand and step forward with Him. Don't leave Him behind. No, you don't have to leave! *elm*

Enjoy the Camp Meeting Slide Show on the Special Features page at [www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](http://www.EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org)



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*It's About Walking With God!*

**2007 Empowered Living Camp Meetings**

**July 5-8, 2007**  
Hood River, OR  
(541) 399-3020  
godspan@gorge.net

**Open House**  
July 24-28, 2007  
Polebridge, MT  
(406) 387-4333  
office@empoweredlivingministries.org

**May 17-20, 2007** *New Location!*  
E. Oxford, WI  
(715) 343-1751  
cdriver@wi.adventist.org

**April 26-29, 2007**  
Grizzly Flats, CA  
(707) 225-2265  
christina@empoweredlivingministries.org

**October 11-14, 2007**  
Bourbon, MO  
(417) 661-6161  
empoweredfamilies@sbcglobal.net

**September 27-30, 2007** *New Location!*  
Angeles Oaks, CA  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@empoweredlivingministries.org

**August 30-September 2, 2007**  
Cohutta Springs, GA  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@empoweredlivingministries.org

**March 29-April 1, 2007** *New Location!*  
Athens, TX  
(706) 398-7218  
cobos@empoweredlivingministries.org

**December 6-9, 2007**  
High Springs, FL  
(706) 375-1707  
nrrnbcjp@comcast.net

“Power for Living” is available free of charge, and is sent out quarterly by mail.  
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