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## Co-Community Spiritual Director's Thoughts

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Dear Emmaus Companions

During the past two weeks we have seen the effects of terrorist attacks in France and now a thwarted attempt in Belgium. There has been a groundswell of reaction to the attack in France with leaders coming from all over the world from every part of the political spectrum to march in Paris in support of freedom, even those leaders whose societies, to be kind, are far from free. It was amazing to see Abbas and Netanyahu in the same marching line, not arm in arm but both still there. However well intentioned this march and however many millions join in, there is only one source of security, one place of peace to be found in this world and that is in the Lord.

Psalm 46 verse 8 says "Come and see the works of the Lord.."The word "Come" is translated more accurately as "run" or "pursue" meaning that we should both be quick to see the works of the Lord and be persistent in seeking them. Our hearts should always be yearning to see what God is doing in the world so that we can be in on what he is doing and gain strength, comfort and direction from his deeds as well.

Verse 9 says "He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire."

In the day when this was written, Assyria was on the ascent; its troops were conquering great swaths of the Middle East. They had already conquered and dispersed the larger kingdom of Israel to the north and now threatened to overwhelm the little kingdom of Judah whose existence seemed to hang on a thread.

But God had other plans. Not easier plans for Judah but plans that held out hope and life, grace and redemption. In the face of what seemed certain destruction, Judah was called to "Be still and know that I am God.." God wanted them not to exert every effort in forestalling destruction but to leave matters in his hands. They were not just to observe a moment of silence after which they were to put forth every effort to "solve the problem" but to discover that God is in charge and let him bear the brunt of the battle.

They, and we, are to cease striving and submit ourselves to God.

Now doesn't that go against the grain?

As we quiet our hearts and reflect on God we come to realize that he is sovereign and He will triumph over all the might of the nations. When we stop striving and are still before the Lord we realize the awesome reality of his coming triumph over the forces of this world, his exaltation among the nations.

Philippians 2: 10-11 states, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Jesus Christ is the Lord of history. Nothing happens outside of his plan which is for "the good of all those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)



## Springfield Area Emmaus

February 2015

Nothing leaves Jesus bewildered or astonished. Nothing takes him by surprise. Even though there is tragedy and trouble, "though the mountains shake and fall into the heart of the sea" those who know and love Jesus have nothing to fear. God is our sure refuge.

In light of this truth, after being still and knowing, there are things for us to do.

1. Put God at the center of your life. Don't wait, life is too short and uncertain to leave this to the last minute.
2. Wait with joy for the coming of Jesus as the Lord of glory.  
"And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming." (1 John 2:28)
3. Let the church be The Church. Let's stop playing games and work together in true unity, working side-by-side with each other. Let's pray as if everything depends on God. BECAUSE IT DOES. Let's deal with sin in our lives and give Jesus' grace and forgiveness to others instead of condemnation.
4. Love those who are different from us. When we take our eyes off God and hear about the things happening around us, evil and hateful feelings are roused in us. This is exactly what Satan wants. That hatred and violence is his meat and drink! Jesus on the other hand clearly told us "You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons (and daughters) of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5: 43-45) Yes, this is radical: to pray for those who hate and attack you.

However when you are still before God and know him as he is, then you realize that true security is not found in hatred and defending yourself but in letting go and letting God be glorified in the earth through your life and mine.

May God bless you and keep you in His peace  
Your Co-Spiritual Director

Rev. Bill



Hi Emmaus Community,

I serve on the board as Out Reach Committee. I enjoy greeting you all as you attend a Gathering. My Emmaus walk helped my relationship with Christ. For me it's all about LOVE..... I Corinthians 13-4

Ellen Morgan, Out Reach



A Message from your Community Lay Director

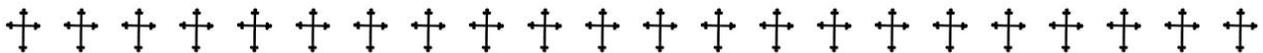


The year in a glance for the Emmaus Community.

Emmaus Event Calendar-2015

Date	Event	Comments
<b>Sunday 8 February</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>Sunday 8 March</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>Sunday 12 April</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>16-19 April</b>	Woman's Walk	
<b>Sunday 10 May</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>Sunday 14 June</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>25-28 June</b>	Men's Walk	Tentative
<b>Sunday 12 July</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM

<b>Sunday 9 August</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>Sunday 13 September</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>17-20 September</b>	Women's Walk	Tentative
<b>Sunday 11 October</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>Sunday 8 November</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>Sunday 13 December</b>	Emmanuel Board Meeting	5:30 PM
	Emmanuel Gathering	7:00 PM
<b>15-Dec</b>	Men's Walk	Tentative



Chrysalis Girls Flight # 59 is now past. They had 30 girls attend and Candlelight was well attended. These young ladies are now going through their Next Steps (Fourth Days). Let's keep them covered in prayer.



Boys Flight # 59 is coming up on February 14-16 at Piqua Greene Street United Methodist Church. There is still room for young men (15-24)

who you would like to sponsor on this great weekend. Applications are available on the West Ohio Chrysalis Web site.



The Chrysalis Hoot is scheduled for March 14 at Piqua Greene Street. Starts at 7 PM. Open to all past Butterflies as well as potential Caterpillars.

Tom Dever, Chrysalis Representative"

Jesus gives us hope because He keeps us company, has a vision and knows the way we should go." Max Lucado