



**CO-COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS**

Dear friends

Christmas has come and gone, the decorations have been taken down and the house is back to normal. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season calms down after New Years and we are back into our normal routines. Did Christmas make any difference in your life this year? Did the Christ child come alive in your heart? Is there a rebirth of your spiritual life? Each New Year I try and stop to take inventory of my spiritual life. It has become a way that I mark the milestones of my spiritual journey.

In some years my spiritual journey was marked by great spiritual high points but there were many other years that it seemed as if I was stalled and stayed in the same place spiritually. But in looking closer at those stalled years, I discovered that I often had difficulty praying and reading The Bible on a daily basis, or I hurried through it in order to get to *more important* things. What I didn't realize until much later in life, the very thing that kept me connected spiritually was what I had let go of during those spiritually stalled years. 2009 stands before us with all kinds of spiritual possibilities, but we must stay connected to God.

People often feel connected to God when they are on top of a mountain whether it is spiritual or an actual mountain. Many people go to the ski slopes of the Rocky Mountains during the cold winter months. When you get there you find that there are three ways in which a skier can get to the top of the ski slope. One can try to walk up the ski slope on one's own power, or be pulled up as holding on to a strap, or one can ride up in the chair lift. This can also be a picture of the way we try to live our Christian life. Some of us try to live a victorious Christian life by trying to do it completely on our own strength; others try to combine their own effort with

some degree of dependence on God. But the only way to know true Christian victory in every situation is to live with total dependence on the Holy Spirit.

The world outlook for 2009 is very bleak, but for those of us who have spiritual eyes to see, God is on the move. Hallelujah!!! God is ready to break through and make a way for his people if we will only stay connected to God. There will be difficult times ahead but we will see the glory of God being manifested in ways that will astound us. We have a wonderful God breathed; Holy Spirit led Emmaus Community that has taken the message of being a servant of Jesus Christ to heart. There is nothing more fulfilling than to become one of Christ's servants on an Emmaus weekend. When we truly let go of our egos; and are able to say, not I but Christ, then the glory of each act of agape becomes God's glory not ours.

In order for our spiritual life to grow we need times when we can be renewed and refreshed. One of the ways to refresh our spirits in 2009 is to come and worship with us at the gatherings each month. As the Emmaus Community meets together it is my prayer that we will be filled to overflowing with spiritual anointing. There is no way to relive your first Emmaus Walk but each month as we gather in God's presence we need to remember how Christ was present to those on the journey to Emmaus. Spiritual eyes are opened as Christ breaks bread with us, spiritual ears are unstopped as God's voice is heard and hearts that have grown cold are melted by the Holy Spiritual presence that fills them to overflowing.

Let us resolve to be Christ's servant and make 2009 a year that marks a spiritual high point for not only your life but also for the Springfield Emmaus Community. Spiritual Blessings in 2009,  
Carolyn Peacock

## HAPPY NEW YEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

I took my walk in September of 2001, and it has never ceased to amaze me how many talents and gifts we have in our Emmaus community. If you were at the December Praise Gathering, you witnessed some of our best. The amazing part of the gifts that were presented is that these folks are just a small part of the depth of our community talent. The Gathering was full of wonderful music and stories of Christmas—*awe-inspiring*. In closing our Praise Gathering, Pastor Bill Kelley, our Community Spiritual Director, led us into a powerful spirit-filled message that gave us meditations to ponder upon for the rest of the month, e.g., *“Are we doing what Jesus Christ has called us to do as His children?”* Following our Communion service, many people joined in the fellowship time. We had plenty of food, a lot of laughter, and a blessed fellowship. Since no one has stepped up to accept the Social Coordinator position, clean-up was done by some wonderful volunteers who said, *“Here am I Lord!”* Kitchen work and restoration was dispensed with in a few minutes. A great big thank you to those who helped clean-up for your agreeable servant hood!

Having willing and loving volunteers should come as no surprise, because servicing is a descriptive characteristic of our Emmaus Community. On Walk Fridays (which is normally a work day for most folks) the kitchen is blessed with lots of help and bathrooms are cleaned to “inspection perfection” by many volunteers. On Walk Saturdays we have an over-flow of “servants” who want to “give-back” God’s love as they

have received it. Walk Sundays in the kitchen and logistics’ restoration may begin a bit slim, as most of us are busy in our church related ministries, but gradually “the crowd” moves in to serve and the “chores” are done *lickity-split*.

When we are being Christ’s ambassadors, it is imperative that we demonstrate a Christ-like attitude of love, kindness, and politeness to one another during our times of service. New Emmaus “graduates,” who come to help, need us veteran helpers to bring them ‘up-to-speed’ on what is to be done or as they say in the military to instruct them in “on-the-job-training” so they can share the joy of being Christ to the Pilgrims. Teaching others to be the hands and feet of Christ is how we best express our love for Him. I know neither you nor I wish to miss out on sharing this wondrous joy. While we’re teaching “new graduates” what fun it is to work for Him, we’ll also be blessed with making good friends (such a deal)!! BUT, more than that, when we serve Jesus and others In His name He continues to be our very best friend, God’s son, our Savior, Jesus Christ who told us, *“No one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:6

*P.S. -- Attention Servants of Christ -- your check is NOT in the mail. It has been forwarded to your Heavenly address*

Praise His name!! Your brother in Christ,  
Larry McMahan, Lay Community Director

## KAIROS MINISTRY - ATTENTION ALL COOKIE BAKERS

Kairos #18 at Ross Correctional Institute in Chillicothe, OH on January 29 – February 1, 2009 needs your help to provide a gift of God’s Love in the form of a prayerfully home-baked cookie. Each team member is asked to bring 200 dozen cookies for a total of 10,000 dozen for the weekend. Everyone in the entire Institution receives 2 dozen cookies. This is a powerful way to show those incarcerated that God loves them and has not forgotten them.

### Here are some guidelines for the cookies:

- Approximately 2” diameter
- Does not include nuts, fruits, frosting, sprinkles or powdered sugar
- Brownies, Rice-Crispie Treats and No-Bake cookies are wonderful
- Please package 2 dozen cookies per 1 gallon freezer bag.
- Please do not include wax paper, plates, foil, napkins, etc.

### Any Questions or for Pick-Up, please contact:

Greg Bachman	399-4108	Dan Warren	408-7849	Dan Shroyer	399-0087
Joe Datko	399-3281	Dan Bostick	399-0923	Greg Stout	342-9528
Bob Horrocks	788-2105	Doug Feltner	399-0756	Harold Stout	399-0883

**God Bless You in your service to the Lord.**

## SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS WOMEN'S WALK #55

<i>Pilgrim</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Lindsey Ancrum	Revival Center Ministries	Kasi & Doug Gardner, Jr.
Betsy Marie Anderson	Freedom Road	Sue Browning
Tamara Barnett	Soapstone U.M.C.	Jeff & Mary Beth Cheeseman
Pat Bass	None Listed	Dot Higginbotham
Susan Blizzard	Simple Truth	Elaina Speas
Leana Combs	Victory Temple	Pattie Mumma
Dawnyel Culp	None Listed	Kimala Culp
Judy Culp	None Listed	Kimala Culp
LaNell Dobyns	First Penecostal Church of God	Sim Bowen
Betty Ealey	High St. Nazarene	Carolyn Brewer
Sheila Grayson	Mt. Zion Baptist	Verna Reed
Dee Hale	First Church of the Nazarene	Philip Hale
Lisa Hamill	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Cindy Hildebrand	Renewed Strength	Shawn Clark
Shelley Hopkins	Maiden Lane Church of God	Dave & Karen Speas
Starr Huff	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Rebecca James	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Gary Hollander
Jennifer Jones	Freedom Road	Joe & Rita Chapman
Edith Klingler	None Listed	Edie Voiz
Jacky Lee	Grace U.M.C.	Diane Page
Kimberly McCohn	London Vineyard Church	Elmer & Joyce Penwell
Lucille Miller	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Melanie Mingus	Clifton Pres. Church	Sara Levesque
Sharita Portis	None Listed	Wanda Walker
Diann Reno	Fellowship Christian Church	Johnny & Sharon Williams
Reva Ricketts	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Heather Ruch	Faircreek Church	Steven Ruch
Staci Seelig	None Listed	Ken (Barron) Seelig III
Joyce Simmons	Covenant U.M.C.	Kasi Gardner
Karen Smith	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Lisa Stump	Forest Valley Freewill Baptist	Rhonda Crist
Emily Webb	Renewed Strength	Shawn Clark
Andi Wilburn	The Journey Church	Brenda Barger
Andrea Young	Lagonda U.M.C & Freedom Rd.	Tammy Hively

### Team List

Lay Director	Mikie McMahan	Table Leader	Milar Mock
Board Rep	Mary Ahlborn	Table Leader	Pattie Mumma
Spiritual Director	Rev. Ray Harper	Table Leader	Kim Stehle
Co-Spiritual Director	Rev. Roland Wildman	Table Leader	Kristy Stehle
ALD	Shelly Canan	Ass. Table Leader	Silke Berner
ALD	Dee Moore	Ass. Table Leader	Sue Brown
ALD	Rhonda Voorhees	Ass. Table Leader	Yvette Isles
LOG	Mery Beth Cheeseman	Ass. Table Leader	Char Jacobson
LOG	Belinda Montgomery	Ass. Table Leader	Dorinda Jones
LOG	Cindy Moorman	Ass. Table Leader	Shirley Settles
Music	Kelly Crain	Ass. Table Leader	Mary Ward
Music	Marta Kennedy	Clergy	Rev Cindee Johnson
Table Leader	Cathy Boyd	Clergy	Rev Robert Martin
Table Leader	Melody Boyd	Clergy	Rev Kathy Reiff
Table Leader	Nancy Feltner		

High Street United Methodist Church  
230 East High Street  
Springfield, OH 45505

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### **UPCOMING GATHERINGS!**

**Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 7 PM**

**Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 7 PM**

**Sunday, April 12, 2009 at 7 PM**

### **FOOD & FELLOWSHIP:**

After each gathering, there will be a time of fellowship and food.

***If you plan to stay, please bring a dish to share.***

### **WALK DATES:**

#### **Men's Walks**

#37 April 23—26, 2009

#38 August 13—16, 2009

#### **Women's Walks**

#55 February 19—22, 2009

#56 June 18—21, 2009

#57 November 5—8, 2009

### **APPLICATIONS!**

I would like to encourage all to consider sponsoring a pilgrim for an Emmaus Walk.  
We are in need of men's applications!

### **CHRYSALIS APPLICATIONS NEEDED**

Chrysalis applications are needed for Girl's and Boy's Chrysalis weekends - Ages -- high school sophomore through college freshman - An Emmaus experience for YOUTH!

Girl's weekend - January 16 - 18, 2009

Boy's weekend February 13-15, 2009!!

Contact John Baugh for information, phone: 390-0954 email: jonbau@iapdatacom.net

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!**

Philippians