



COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

I know you have been there.
Those dark days when guilt gets you down.
You feel lower than a snake's belly.
Depressed, weak, aimless and powerless you wonder what this walking with Christ business is all about anyway.
The apostle Peter stood in your shoes.
He had been so confident in his faith as he sat with Jesus in the Upper Room. Peter felt that he had been born for this moment, chosen by God for this position. Here was Jesus, his Master, talking about how everyone was going to fall away as prophesied, "I will strike the shepherd and all the sheep of the flock will be scattered." (Zechariah 13:7) But hadn't Jesus said after Peter had named Jesus the Messiah, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church?!"
Well, now that everyone else was down, this was the time for the rock to step forward! So Peter proclaimed, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will!" How arrogant and proud a statement! Do you notice how Peter was NOT saying, "I will encourage and support these guys so that together we will not deny you!" No, Peter wanted to take first place. "Those other guys may deny you, but I am better than they are. I will never deny you." That sure isn't the humble servant heart of Jesus. That is a proud heart headed for a fall. Jesus knew what was coming because he had just told Peter, "I have prayed for you, Simon, (note, NOT Peter) that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:32) But nothing Jesus could say would make Peter listen.
Haven't we been there, also? We have run headlong down the wrong road, never listening to God's Word, heedless of every admonition and instruction, knowing that we know best. At one time we were attuned to what God was doing, but not now. Did you realize that could happen to you? That every day you have to wake up and yield yourself anew to God, listen to what he has to say and follow him? Reinhold Neibuhr was once asked if he was born again. He replied, "Every day, when I wake up, I am born again." That may not be the kind of answer you would like to hear but it is the truth. You can't look back and say, "I followed Jesus yesterday. He did wonderful works through me last week. I must be cool for today." No. Today stands on its own and you are called once again to listen and be obedient with a humble heart. Like Paul wrote, "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Cor. 10:12)

So Simon went his way, swinging his sword at the high priest's servant in the garden and following Jesus to the high priest's courtyard. There by the fire, as he watched Jesus standing silent before his accusers and as the servant girl hurled her accusations, Simon felt the ground of his confidence crumbling beneath his feet. You have been there. You have felt the sting of defeat, the onrush of temptation and then falling, falling..
Now what do you do?
To whom can you go?
The world will tell you guilt is bad for you. It is depressing, demeaning and debilitating.
Just get over it.
No. We cannot deny or dismiss what has happened. Sin covered up is like a cancer inside.
You can't keep any secrets from God. There is no hiding in the bushes like Adam and Eve.
He already knows what has happened.

Did you know that, even now, God is on his way to meet you to deal with what you have done?
Jesus was going to the cross, from the cross to the tomb, from the tomb to the resurrection, from the resurrection to the Upper Room, from the Upper Room to the road to Emmaus and from Emmaus to the Sea of Galilee.
Here Jesus would confront Simon with the question, asked three times, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Note that he is not yet again "Peter". In fact Jesus doesn't even call him a disciple. He is just what he was before he joined up with Jesus – Simon, son of John, fisherman. He has to confess his sin of pride, that he thought he loved Jesus more than the others, to once again take the leadership role that Jesus had for him among the disciples.
Simon replies, with renewed humility and genuine love, saying, "Lord, you know that I love you." Three denials, three questions, complete restoration.
Beloved, God cannot heal what we deny exists. God cannot pardon the guilt we will not confess. Guilt. It is an admission that we do know right from wrong. That we aspire to be more than we are. It is a signpost pointing toward a renewed relationship with God.

Bill Kelley
Spiritual Co-Director

WOMEN'S WALK #54

PILGRIM NAME	CHURCH NAME	SPONSOR NAME
Allison Allsopp	Rossford UMC	Cindee Johnson
Connie Alston	Huber Heights Baptist Temple	Dean & Shirley Settles
Irene McGill Bell	St. John Missionary Baptist	Louise Burley
Terri Belliveau	First Christian	Teresa Ehalt & Selena Martin
Kim Berg	Covenant Lutheran	Ellen Smith
Diahann Blackburn	Greater Grace	Anthony Blackburn
Susie Blair	Southgate Baptist	Teresa Ehalt
Crystal Burgel	Urbana Church of the Nazarene	Kelly Oberg
Donna Burton	Nation Chapel UMC	Cindee Johnson
Tammy Chamberlain	Lake Avenue Christian	Jacob & Silke Berner
Robin DeStefano	Westville UMC	Kellie Miller Konakkuran
Sabrina Dixon	New Hope	Jeaniene Dixon
Betty Earley	High St. Church of the Nazarene	Carolyn Brewer
Jeanette Ferrell	St. Raphael	Teresa Ehalt
Sherry Fout	None Listed	Nancy Feltner & Teresa Fout
Pamela Freshour	First Christian	Cathy Boyd
Pattie Fuschino	Grace Lutheran	Jill Anon
Martha Goodbar	Petre Baptist	Marvin Flory
Marcie Hall	Bethel Apostolic Church	Kellie Miller Konakkuran
Mary Henderson	Restored Life Ministry	Pat Baker
Cindy Hensley	St. John Missionary Baptist	Dot Higginbotham
Holly Holcomb	New Hope	Mandy Holcomb
Angelika Holland	Fellowship Christian Church	Wilma Stone
Gail Jenkins	Freedom Road	Rita Chapman
Terri Kaffenbarger	N. Hampton Community Church	Shirley Settles
Debi Knull	Urbana Messiah Lutheran	Penny Berlin
Kimberly McCohn	Vineyard Church	Elmer & Joyce Penwell
Mairy McKinley	Second Baptist	Bette Brown
Lori Mishler	First Pentecostal Church of God	Sim Bowen
Karen Nagafuchi	Base Chapel - WPAFB	Mark Kirkwood
Mary Palmer	Freedom Road	Janet Bostick
Shari Powell	The Bridge	Ellen Smith
Kristi Reed	New Life Church	Diana Campbell
Carl Rice	High St. Church of the Nazarene	Virginia Brown
Tonia Snyder	Urbana Church of Christ in Christian Union	Teri Phillips
Trudie Wyatt	Emery Chapel UMC	Marta Kennedy

Team List

Lay Director	Betty Yoakem	Table Leader	Donna Freeman
Board Rep	Mary Casto	Table Leader	Sharon Williams
Spiritual Director	Rev. Carolyn Peacock	Table Leader	Pat McBeth
Co-Spiritual Director	Rev. Sherri Blackwell	Table Leader	Karen Packer
ALD	Barb Baugh	Ass. Table Leader	Rhonda Crist
ALD	Millie Luttrull	Ass. Table Leader	Yolanda Bell
ALD	Rita Chapman	Ass. Table Leader	Barb Gathers
LOG	Mary Cogan	Ass. Table Leader	Corina Bowen
LOG	Viki Hyslop	Ass. Table Leader	Alma Glenn
Music	Janene Pearson	Ass. Table Leader	Bonnie Blumenshine
Music	Diane Page	Ass. Table Leader	Stephanie Carnes
Table Leader	Lori Vineyard	Clergy	Rev Cindee Johnson
Table Leader	Pat Dever	Clergy	Rev Deb Holder
Table Leader	Cheryl Jurkat	Clergy	Rev Marcia Rummel

A MESSAGE FROM YOU COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Community! Thank you for all the prayers and the cards I received after my injuries from being thrown by a horse. I'm still healing, and I hope to be able to help Logistics in November on Women's Walk #54. They have an awesome team and the Pilgrims will surely be blessed.

Sponsors! We need applications for women and men! Our lists are at an all time low. Please pray that God will place someone on your heart to sponsor. Every Christian deserves to experience that wonderful closeness to Christ many of us have felt during our Walk to Emmaus. - *An application is included!*

Social Coordinator! We are in dire need of a volunteer to coordinate the social hour after Gatherings plus the ice cream party on Walk Saturday nights. Please pray and see if God is prompting you to step up and help your community. The Social Coordinator doesn't have to "do all the work" – just coordinate the volunteers. There are many Share Groups that would be willing to work "once" a year. How about it Share Groups? Christ is counting on us.

Live In Teams! As Community Lay Director, I have the opportunity to attend team evaluation or exit meetings after each Walk. Evaluation of team members, after they have served on a team, is directed by The Upper Room Emmaus. Basically, the meeting is held to determine if a team member is ready to move forward. Unfortunately, there are a few team members who are not willing to commit to attend all the team meetings. Team meetings are designed to cover every aspect of the Walk and to prepare the Team to be aware of what the Lord may require of them. Each meeting is very essential to forming a qualified well-versed team. In order to serve our Lord and be the very best representative of the Holy Spirit for the Pilgrims, Christ asks for nothing less than 100 percent. We actually are doing the most important job we will ever do and serving the Greatest Boss (Christ Jesus) we've ever worked for. No matter how many teams you have served on, each one is special to God. Anything less than 100 percent when you are doing God's work is just lukewarm ministry, and we know what God does with lukewarm Christians. (Rev 3:16).

God bless, Larry McMahan

SHARE GROUPS...

Why are they needed? – To stay closely in touch with Christ! A group of Christians in fellowship is not an Emmaus invention. The scriptures report many stories of fellowship. The New Testament recognizes a special fellowship among those who share a common knowledge of Christ and those who want to grow in that knowledge by sharing with others in a life of grace. Acts 1:42 says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers." That's what we did on our Emmaus weekends and it's what we need to continue to do in order to grow spiritual and maintain that feeling of well-being.

Regular participation in a Share Group can be a renewal of your Emmaus weekend experience. Share Groups hold us accountable for spiritual growth and Christian action. As we learn to trust our brothers/sisters in our Share Groups we are confident that we can reveal our deepest fears and feelings to them knowing they will share it only with God in prayer.

A Share Group is a comfortable group with whom to share our "closest to Christ" experiences. "Closest to Christ" is when the focus of the moment was on Christ, a time in which we experienced something which was Christ-like. For instance, we saw the image of Christ in the actions of another person or we witnessed a situation in which we can say, "This represents Christ's activity in the world." A "close moment to Christ" keeps us in conscious touch with Christ and builds us up in Him. We are able to do this by dying to self and by being able to see Christ working in the lives of those around us. It's a memorable experience to share with our Share Groups as it gives us an opportunity to grow bolder in our witness.

As Christians we always find ourselves in a three dimensional relationship—three sided, with God, with others, and with ourselves. In Romans 12: 1-2, Paul calls us to "offer ourselves as a 'living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to Him;" Ephesians 4: 2-3 "Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together." God desires His people bond to Him and to one another. Blessings, Mary Ahlborn

If you don't have a share group, please contact our good shepherds:

Women: Mary Ahlborn (937) 322-1958

Men: Sim Bowen (937) 605-1066

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UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 6 PM:

Reunion for Men's Walk #36 (David Southward)
Reunion for Women's Walk #40 (Lisa Mayhugh)

Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 7 PM - Gathering
Gathering.

Starting in December gatherings will be held on the
second Sunday of the month.

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.

QUESTIONS???

If you "hear" something that causes you concern
regarding Springfield Area Emmaus and want to
find the answer, please contact any Board mem-
ber. Board meetings are held prior to each
Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Carr Room and are
open to all Emmaus members.

WALK DATES:

Men's Walks

#37 April 23—26, 2009
#38 August 13—16, 2009

Women's Walks

#54 November 6—9, 2008
#55 February 19—22, 2009
#56 June 18—21, 2009
#57 November 5—8, 2009

Emmaus Directories

New directories current through June 2008 will be available
at the October Gathering for \$1.00 donation. The small
donation is to cover printing and paper costs. To date we
have 3,514 members in the data base. If you have a name
change, a new address or phone number, please contact
John Ahlborn, tel: 322-1958 to update the data base.

THANK YOU, COMMUNITY

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who
give up so much of your free time to serve the Pilgrims for the
Lord before and during each Walk. God has blessed your ef-
forts to create an environment that welcomes the Holy Spirit.
We are a Community that CHRIST CAN COUNT ON!
In Christ, Board of Directors