

Springfield Area Emmaus News

December 2005

*Merry
Christmas!*



WHO KEPT THE SHEEP?

I imagine it was a cold and crisp night. The shepherds were probably gathered around the fire trying to stay warm, fussing about who was to go out next, and watch against the predators. Their biggest worry was the wolves, but there were some lions, an occasional bear and the worst predator of all, other people. The flock had to be guarded at all costs. It meant everything to them; their food, clothing, even their Temple sacrifices. They sold sheep for money to buy necessities and pay taxes. The flock **HAD** to be guarded at all costs!

Then it happened. An Angel of the Lord appeared and said “Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy! ..For unto you this day, in the City of David is born a Savior”. You know the story. The night sky filled with a choir of the heavenly host singing Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men! The shepherds immediately left their flocks and went to Bethlehem to see this Savior, the Christ Child.

But the not so strange thing is that they all left. They didn’t stand around for a couple of hours making out a schedule of who was going to stay and watch the sheep; when they would be relieved, and who would be next to see the savior. They all left. They walked away, leaving everything that was of economic value to them and their families, to see this Messiah, this Gift of a Child Savior that had been foretold for so many generations. You see, they knew two things; 1- the Christ Child was more important than anything to do with themselves, and 2- when God calls for you He will not let any harm befall you.

I do not believe that any of those shepherds who made the trek to Bethlehem had any significant loss because of that journey.

It’s the same way today. A lot of people are afraid to enter into a personal relationship with Christ because they are afraid they’ll lose family relationships or friends. I have friends who think that Christians have to give away all of their money and aren’t allowed to have fun! When we enter into a relationship with Christ, God will not abandon us. He will take care of us and see to all of our needs. I must admit that my needs have changed from when I was in the world, but I have never had so much fun and felt so much love and purpose for my life.

God has taken care of Becky and I, and we wouldn’t change a thing!

I know who kept the sheep that night 2000 years ago, the same loving Good Shepherd that is still looking after every need of His flock!

MERRY CHRISTMAS--ROY

Women's Walk # 46 February 23-26, 2006
Men's Walk # 31 April 27-30, 2006
Women's Walk # 47 June 22-25, 2006
Men's Walk # 32 August 17-20, 2006
Women's Walk # 48 November 2-5, 2006

All walk dates are tentative.

KAIROS

Who are Kairos volunteers? They are individuals who have completed a three day street weekend (Emmaus, Cursilo, Cum Christo, etc.) and represent a variety of Christian denominations focused on the common ground of giving inmates the gift of seeing Christ's love and forgiveness in their brokenness. The pay for these services is nonexistent but the fringe benefits are out of this world. Want to become a Kairos volunteer or learn more about it? Call Sam at 937-399-3724.

Upcoming Kairos weekends are as follows:

Ohio Reformatory for Women - #25 - May 18-21, 2006.

Ohio State Penitentiary - #1 - TBA.

Lebanon Correctional - #32 - March 16-19, 2006.

Ross Correctional #12 - February 23-26, 2006;

#13 - August 17-20, 2006.

Marion Correctional - #18 - October 27-30, 2006

Toledo Correctional - #5 - November 3-6, 2005;

#6 - May 4-7, 2006.

A review of the above list shows that the number of institutions served is up about 30% from a year ago.

Commensurate with this growth is an increased **need for volunteers.**

Don't forget to check out the Kairos website during your next surfing session at www.kairosohio.org.

In His Love, Sam Poston

TRAINING SESSION FOR JANUARY

Prior to the January gathering,
There will be a training session on
Emmaus Walk music.

Please mark your calendar and attend.

Attention GFS shoppers....

If you tell the cashier, you would like your purchase to benefit the Springfield Area Emmaus, the dollar amount will contribute towards the percentage of discount when we make purchases for walks and gatherings. Thank you!

FOURTH DAY BOOKS

We have some members of the Springfield Community who attended their Emmaus Walks elsewhere and do not have the Fourth Day books. The latest Fourth Day books were published in a different color and I do not have a complete set of the old ones for a walk. We would like to give anyone missing a Fourth Day book one of the older copies so they are used. Please contact Sue Stephens at 323-3222 if you would like to have a Fourth Day Book.

Christmas Celebration Gathering

December 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy the music
honoring Christ's birth!

If you would like to sing a song (one),
please contact Lynda
Johnson at 390-0151

Do you have a share group? Remember that you need to be active in a share group. It is essential in maintaining the experience of your walk! Call Patty Aliff (325-6270) for women's share groups and Jerry Peterman (325-3629) for men's share groups.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!

Thoughts from one of the Spiritual Directors...

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the house of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10, 11

Joy is our Christian birthright. It is one of the primary reasons why our Savior came, to bring good news of great joy. So how can we enlarge our capacity for joy? How can we cultivate our joy in the Lord?

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Pray daily that the Lord will fill you with His joy. The hymn writer, Joseph Haydn wrote, “When I think of God, my heart is so filled with joy that the notes fly off as from a spindle.”
2. Read Christian literature that emphasizes the joy of our Christ-centered faith.
3. Act joyfully, even if your mood and/or your circumstances are otherwise. A brighter outlook almost always causes the dark clouds of doubt and despair to vanish.
4. Pass on your joy. Share good news. Write upbeat letters. Make upbeat phone calls. Make it a habit to speak well of others in their presence. Richard Wagner wrote, “He who gives joy to the world is raised higher among men than he who conquers the world.”
5. Cultivate friendships with positive, joy-filled people. Avoid the cynic and skeptic as much as possible. Have friends who refresh your spirit with goodness, faith, and joy.
6. See yourself in the company of joyful saints. Stand mentally in their presence and reflect their glow. Helen Keller wrote, “Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm and our intelligence aglow.”
7. Become a Merry Christian and make Merry Christians.

In the words of a three year old, “I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New You!”

Chris Farmer
Co-Spiritual Director

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED

This is directed to all 2005 Emmaus pilgrims. Now that you have been in your fourth days, I pray that you have gotten into a share group. If you have an email address, please contact me and I will gladly add you to the 386 addresses that reach around the world. There are people receiving email messages in all fifty states and in seven foreign countries.

No prayer request is too small or too big for those who are committed to pray! We have seen wonderful things happen and it only takes a few moments of your time to get connected to the email prayer chain. Simply send me your email address at ramaster@iapdatacom.net. In the subject space write “Prayer Request” and I will take all praises, all concerns and send out information about church dinners and projects to benefit anyone in need. Each of you have received one of our prayer chain cards in your Sunday packets. If you do not have email, you can call Pam Peterman at 325-3629 and you will be connected to the phone prayer chain. She will call me and I will get your request out as soon as possible.

We have had five walks in 2005. I have only received three email addresses from these new community members. I think this is a vital part of why the Springfield Emmaus community is so close and caring. Please make my mission a little easier by sending me your email address. Stay on the Emmaus Road!

Love in Christ, Becky Master
“The Email Lady”

AN UPDATED SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS DIRECTORY WILL BE PRINTED IN JANUARY 2006

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER LISTED
OR IF YOU HAVE MOVED, CHANGED PHONE NUMBERS, MARRIED, DEPARTED TO YOUR
HEAVENLY REWARD, OR IF YOU KNOW OF OTHERS WHO HAVE MADE ONE OR MORE OF THE
CHOICES ABOVE, PLEASE NOTIFY THE DATA MANAGER AT 937-322-1958 BEFORE CHRISTMAS!!
(A FRIENDLY ANSWERING MACHINE WILL RECORD YOUR MESSAGE, IF THE DATA MANAGER IS OUT!)

WE TRULY DO APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN IMPROVING THE EMMAUS DATA BASE!

OH, AND ALSO, MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

P.S. IF YOU'RE NOT SURE WHEN YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES
LOOK FOR THE DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL! Thanks!

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