

Springfield Area Emmaus News

March 2006

How many
days until
SPRING?

In The Name of The FATHER, The SON and (last but certainly not least) The HOLY SPIRIT

Since I went on my walk weekend over 15 years ago, I have been constantly growing as a Christian. I have prayed almost daily for the Lord to open my heart and mind to new Christian experiences and knowledge that He would have me learn for my life and for His will. I must admit that in my humanity I have often asked for things that *I* wanted instead of what I knew that, deep down, was probably not the Lord's will, but He's my loving Father and He knew what I was going to ask before I did!

As a new pilgrim fresh from my walk, I had an exceedingly great hunger for Bible study, and how to pray for others, my family and myself. Before my walk the Holy Spirit was just a name that was part of something called the Holy Trinity, so I have prayed almost daily from 1990 to be open and to *recognize* the leading of the Holy Spirit.

As far as I can tell, the first reference to the Holy Spirit is in Genesis 1vs 2. The passage that is most precious to me that describes the Holy Spirit is basically the same in all four gospels, which describes Jesus' baptism. (Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:32) Mark 1:10-11, *As soon as Jesus came out of the water, He saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. A voice from heaven said "You are my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased".*

Coming to the Church Sunday afternoon during Women's Walk #46, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in my heart stronger than I had ever experienced Him before. It was a wonderful feeling and at the same time I was worried that I wouldn't allow myself to be His vessel at the closing ceremony. The solution? PRAYER! I came in the kitchen door, immediately grabbed 3 Cogan Prayer Warriors, and hit the back wall of the dining room praying. Now I weigh 270 lbs., and Mary, Larry and Sarah held me about 4 feet off the ground for a good 10 minutes! I have *never* been prayed over like that before and it was one of the most beautiful Christian things that has ever happened to me. We prayed for the Spirit to descend on me and fill me, and that I would be open to understand God's will and allow myself to be used for His special purpose that He had planned for the pilgrims that evening.

Now God didn't let me in on what that plan was. Nor did He tell me who it was who needed to hear what was said at the closing. These answers may be revealed in the future or may never be known by anyone except God and His Child. I just hope that I was obedient.

One thing I didn't expect was the residual effect of this experience. It seems that since Sunday, I've reached a new spiritual level with the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, I'm being reminded of lots of things I promised God I would do, but put on the back burner. I've got a feeling I'm going to get pretty busy in the near future!

Coming into the Easter season, we all know what Jesus went through for us. He couldn't have withstood the Passion without the Holy Spirit, but three years earlier He went to a wedding to *have fun*, and I believe He depended on the Holy Spirit to be there when He changed water into wine.

When you get up in the morning, invite the Holy Spirit into your heart. Make it a daily invitation. You may be surprised at how much of a blessing it can be! I know I am!

IN HIS LOVE---ROY

Gathering on Sunday March 19th – 7 p.m. Reunion – Women's Walk #46 – 6 p.m.

Important Dates to Remember...

Upcoming "WALK" Dates

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.

Emmaus Walk Information

April 27-30, 2006 Men's Walk # 31
Dan Warren Lay Director
Spiritual Directors
Dennis Moritz and Walter Mock

Have your study of St. Paul come alive!

My daughter, Sarah, and I went on the educational/pleasure cruise following St. Paul's Second & Third Missionary Journeys, Nov. 2004, lead by Bishop Ough of the Methodist West Ohio Conference. It was truly inspiring to walk where Paul walked and preached in the company of 500 Christians of several denominations. We experienced the power and presence of Christ in the places where Paul witnessed. Since our return our Bible Study of Paul's letters has taken on a new meaning. A sequel cruise tracing Paul's Fourth Missionary Journey (Athens to Rome) will be lead by Bishop Ough and other scholars Nov. 9-19, 2006. If you may be interested in exploring this inspirational opportunity please contact Ed Pickering (323-6516 or epickering@core.com), Springfield area tour host, for descriptive brochures and applications. An informational session for interested persons is planned in March. Already several blocks of cabins are filled!

Ed Pickering, Spfld. Men's Walk #1, Table of Luke

KAIROS

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 #13 - August 17-20, 2006.

Toledo Correctional - #6 - May 4-7, 2006.

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

In His Love, Sam Poston

Attention
GFS & OfficeMax shoppers....

The Springfield Emmaus Community received a \$211.92 REBATE due to all of our wonderful EMMAUS brothers and sisters shopping there in 2005, from GFS. Office Max also gives the community a percentage. 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!

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. 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. Stay on the Emmaus Road!

Love in Christ,
Becky Master, "The Email Lady"

Directories are available for \$1.00. Please contact John or Mary Ahlborn at 322-1958. Also, if you have corrections to make to addresses, phone numbers or know of changes to make to other people, please let them know.

SHARE GROUP INFORMATION

Remember that you need to be active in a share group. It is essential in maintaining the experience of your walk! Call Patty Aliff *408-5775 or email her at paliff@tacind.com for women's share groups
Call Jerry Peterman at 325-3629 for men's share groups.
(* new phone and email)

Thoughts from one of the Spiritual Directors...

I recently had someone say to me that they weren't sure if their prayers were ever effective or helped anyone. I know the feeling.

When I was a student pastor I found out that a 42-year-old man related to the church was in the hospital with some heart symptoms. I got there the same day and visited with him. He told me, in essence, "No problem. They didn't find anything. I am going home in a few hours. All I have is a little indigestion."

Later that evening I got a phone call saying that the man was not only still in the local hospital but also was in heart failure. I raced to that rural hospital to find the family in a hallway waiting area. Above our heads was a speaker system emitting a regular beep. I was informed that was the man's heart on an audible monitor so that the surgeon, who was already occupied in the operating room, could keep track of the man's condition. To make a long and tragic story short, I sat in that waiting area with the family and listened to that 42-year-old husband and father die. The monitor would cease beeping for first ten seconds, then twenty, the intervals of silence getting longer and longer. After some hours the beeping stopped altogether and a nurse came and told us that he had died. I never endured such a helpless feeling as I prayed for that man with the family and silently. As the periods of silence grew longer and longer I felt absolutely useless and hopeless. When I took my feelings back to a very loving small group at seminary they said the kindest, and truest words to me. "You were effective in just being there with them and for them. You are there to lift them up to God and to come alongside them. You aren't responsible for the man not being healed."

Beloved, prayer does work but the answers are not up to us. Our very necessary work is to come alongside of those who are lost, hurting, anxious, or afraid and lift them up to God in ways they may not be able to themselves.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that you are no good at praying for and with someone. The only two requirements for being good at prayer are: 1) Believe that God loves you and 2) Dare to care! Weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.

The most stumbling words and hesitant, disjointed prayers are clearly heard by God and a blessing to the ears of those who pray with you.

As I say in my Means of Grace talk: (You want to hear the whole thing again? Why, thank you, I will!) YOU ARE WORTHY TO PRAY. And I add YOU ARE ABLE TO PRAY.

So: Don't think too much. Feel more.

Don't stir up churchy language. (You know what I mean.)

Please don't say GAWWWWD. (Sorry, that's just me. Say His name whatever your accent or preference.)

Say to God what you feel in your heart. Be in touch with yourself and the situation.

You will be such a blessing to those you pray for.

Your prayers will do more good than you will ever know and you will come to know a lot.

Your servant in Christ
Bill Kelley, Co-Spiritual Director

**Men's Walk #31 is quickly approaching.
Pray for God to lead you in what you need to do for this walk!**

**High Street
United Methodist Church
230 East High Street
Springfield, Ohio 45505**

**Newsletter Email:
pmcbeth@sbcglobal.net**

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John Ahlborn, 4985 New Carlisle Pike
Springfield, OH 45504**

Men's Walk # 31 Live-In Team April 27-30, 2006

**Dan Warren, LD
Dennis Moritz, SD
Walter Mock, Co-SD
Jeff Burcham, ALD
Greg Stout, ALD
Jim Vineyard, ALD**

**Perserverance
Means of Grace**

**Priorities
Discipleship
Fourth Day**

**Dee Craycraft, MD
Butch Lindeman, AMD
Jim Ehalt, LOG
Gene Porter, LOG**

**Chris Ehrhard, TL
John Baugh, TL
Jeff Cheeseman, TL
Dwight Dobbins, TL
Joe McBeth, TL
Lynn Montgomery, TL
Duane Tron, TL**

**Fourth Day Example
Life in Piety
Priesthood
Christian Action
Changing our World
Body of Christ
Growth through Study**

**Barry LaPrise, ATL
Pat Taylor, ATL
Dan Bostick, ATL
Tom Comer, ATL
Elmer Penwell, ATL
Johnnie Williams, ATL
Par Tolliver, ATL**