

Springfield Area Emmaus News

September 2006

Time for
school!

What A Meeting!

What a weekend! What a Walk! My first time as part of the team for an Emmaus Walk, was exhausting and may have been the best thing I've ever shared with 57 other men. My original walk is one of those events I'll never be able to forget. But this walk, as part of the team leading 33 'pilgrims' to meet Jesus on the road...to Emmaus!

I was asked as part of the team to sit back, watch for opportunities to lead...open discussions, mentor, pray (with or for), to participate in designing, drawing, singing, reading...and sharing. I even had to be in a skit. But what I witnessed, felt, saw and heard...outweighed anything I could have imagined! Even knowing what would happen didn't take any of the edge off. I knew from my own experience how every element and aspect could affect every one of us. I'd felt the emotions, heard the testimonies...I'd met Jesus on that road before. No matter. I met Him again over this weekend.

I was asked by some I felt were more spiritually mature than me, to join with them in their prayers, felt inadequate as I realized a few were thinking of me as their mentor, wept again and again, when things that affected me so much the first time were re-presented to me, once again personal...from Jesus. As I watched, I could see myself on my own walk...in the faces of those 'pilgrims'...as they saw Jesus coming to them in a skit, a gift of agape love...as they heard of His love for them...or felt it as someone brought their meal to them...or, as they learned it's okay to hug another man with the love of Jesus! I saw 58 men learn to work their schedules to share three showers and only a few bathrooms. I heard the testimonies from men who began with I was ready to go home till...happened. I saw tables of six or seven men come together as family. Heard the roaring laughter, the shouts of excitement and cheers for Our Lord Jesus. I listened as some admitted they were afraid they may have wandered in to a 'cult'...only to realize they were there to feel the love of Christ and experience the grace of God...in the way He chose for them to feel it...personally.

This is the key. Nothing we as the team did could have done what God did. He let us help facilitate it...but, God chose the team...He chose the 'pilgrims', He chose the words, the acts of agape love, the mix at our tables...and He knew what would bring each of us face to face with His Son! We all met Jesus, we could all see Him as we looked into the faces of each of the 57 other men. Jesus revealed! Revealed in human acts, words, letters, posters, skits and song. The men of Springfield Area Emmaus Walk 32, saw, felt, heard and tasted Jesus! Some for the first time...some of us again and renewed! Praise God! His grace is perfect, His love is extravagant, full and there are not enough words to describe it.

He is able and does find ways to show it. This 'Walk to Emmaus' is one of His ways to demonstrate and learn of it. There is nothing I can do to bring another to Christ...but to present Him. I pray for God's help to live in such a way that I can....

**** Steve Green was an Assistant Table Leader on this walk and he wrote this from his perspective of the walk as a Team member. Thanks to Steve for sharing this with all of us.

Tom

**Important Dates to Remember...
Upcoming "WALK" Date**

*Women's Walk # 48
November 2-5, 2006*

All walk dates are tentative.

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED

If you have an email address, please contact me and I will gladly add you to the many addresses that reach around the world. Simply send me your email address at bamaster@bright.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. 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"

SHARE GROUP INFORMATION

Women's Good Shepherd
Mary Ahlborn, 937-322-1958
Email: jahlborn@woh.rr.com

Men's Good Shepherd
Jerry Peterman at 325-3629

Thank You Emmaus Community for the recently donated Kroger coupons!
We collected \$40 worth towards gift cards. A walk costs the community just over \$2000 so any bit helps. Thank you for being obedient.

Who Should I Sponsor?

"The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of the community's recruiting practices. If the community makes a commitment to recruit strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church, then the community will be a strong, vital force in the renewal movement. If, on the other hand, The Walk to Emmaus is looked upon as a hospital where every human illness can be cured, it will weaken the entire community. Emmaus is designed to spiritually renew church members who, in turn, can Christianize their environments.

Several qualities to look for in prospective pilgrims:

- (1) They are already on a pilgrimage, willing to grow and move forward in their journeys of faith.
- (2) Persons should have a Christian orientation--no, a Christian fervor.
- (3) Persons should not be so consumed by other situations that they will not be able to give full attention to the message and experience of The Walk to Emmaus during the 72-hour experience and all the follow-up activities."

quotes from Day Four, the Pilgrims Continued Journey

More people are won to Christ when we personally practice Discipleship, than when we send them on spiritual retreats. Christian retreats, e.g., "The Walk to Emmaus" are to promote spiritual growth and to continue the development of Christian leaders' abilities to be faithful witnesses. During "The Walk to Emmaus" we learn how to better serve Christ and what "tools" (the Holy Scriptures and Prayers) we need when we are led to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our families, our churches, and our communities. If a Pilgrim only knows "about" Christ or may not be involved in the life of a church, the entire experience of Emmaus may be drowned in confusion. Words like "Piety" -- "Intinction" -- "Priesthood" -- "Discipleship" -- "Prevenient" -- "Sanctifying" -- "Justifying" may even be foreign to many Christian leaders. Think how they affect persons who are looking for answers to their problems? A re-read of Chapter 8, "The Next Generation, Being A Good Sponsor" from the *Day Four* booklet is a great guideline for sponsoring Pilgrims.

KAIROS...

The upcoming weekends are as follows:

- (1) Ross correctional (Chillicothe) - Feb. 1 - 4, 2007.
- (2) Ohio Reformatory for Women (Marysville) - Nov. 16 - 19, 2006.
- (3) Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (Lucasville) - Oct. 26 - 29, 2006. IF.I.I. - Walter Mock is a clergy on this team.
- (4) Franklin Prerelease - Sept. 21 - 24, 2006.
- (5) Lebanon Correctional - Sept. 14 - 17, 2006.
- (6) Marion Correctional - Oct. 26 - 29, 2006. (7) Toledo Correctional - Nov. 2 - 5.

Decolores, Jim Vineyard

The Agape chairladies (Barb Baugh & Mary Cogan) would like donations of agape writing materials to have on hand for when it's announced on Saturday night that some pilgrims need more letters or notes. The writing of these Agape notes should be done quickly in the dining room right after the Saturday night service. The pilgrims will be coming to the dining area for their ice cream social!

HELLO, SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS COMMUNITY:
MY NAME IS RAY HARPER, AND I AM THE NEW BOARD REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE EPIPHANY YOUTH PRISON MINISTRY. I WILL BE LETTING YOU KNOW THE DATES OF UPCOMING WEEKENDS AT OHIO REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN, IN MARYSVILLE (ORW), MADISON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, IN LONDON (MaCI), AND FRANKLIN PRE-RELEASE CENTER (FPRC) IN COLUMBUS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE AT ANY OF THESE INSTITUTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT lambano07@yahoo.com. PARTICIPATION IN THIS MINISTRY IS OPEN TO ANYONE OVER 18, MALE AND FEMALE, WHO HAVE COMPLETED A STREET WEEKEND. IF YOU NEED ANY INFORMATION, JUST LET ME KNOW, AND I WILL GET BACK TO YOU WITH WHAT EVER YOU NEED. GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS DIVINE CARE. REMEMBER: "WHEN I WAS IN PRISON..." PASTOR RAY HARPER

**September Gathering
Sunday, September 17th
at 7:00 p.m.**

Thoughts from one of your Spiritual Directors

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13: 7)

As he looked at his friend through the wire fence of the Japanese prisoner-of-war camp, Arthur knew his friend was a walking dead man. Skinner was a resident of “zero ward”, the section for those given no hope. Afflicted by several tropical diseases, malaria, dysentery, pellagra, scurvy, he was a seventy-nine-pound shadow of the man he used to be.

Arthur could barely look at his beloved friend, yet couldn't look away. Skinner's eyes, though watery and dull, locked on him and wouldn't let him go.

That hint of vitality even in the ravage of disease firmed Arthur's resolution. Fumbling in the handkerchief around his neck, he removed the heavy high school class ring he had been saving to barter for himself and held it out to Skinner. “See what you can get for this,” he whispered. He turned and left, never expecting to see his friend alive again.

What kind of love would give away such a chance to help yourself for someone you just knew was hopeless? To give a treasure to a dying man?

“I believe in you,” that gift said. “Don't despair. Don't give up.”

A couple months ago I wrote an article asking that we think twice about sponsoring on a walk those who are in a crisis mode or who are unsaved. That does not mean that we should not be involved in their lives or be uncaring. Far from it. We need to be even MORE involved than if we sponsored them on a walk. There are so many people out there standing on Skinner's side of the fence. We need to reach out to them. People who are struggling in their careers and marriages.

Children who are struggling in school. Those afflicted with cancer. With lack of faith. Someone who needs you to reach out with a ring of belief. You can give them one, changing their life forever.

Skinner took the ring and buried it in the dirt floor of the ward. The next day he handed it to a guard who seemed to have a hint of decency. The guard muttered “Takai?” “Does it have value?” Skinner said, “Yes” so the soldier smiled and slipped it into his pocket. A couple days later he walked past Skinner and let a packet drop. Sulfa tablets. A day later it was limes for the scurvy. Then canned beef and a pair of pants. Within three months Skinner was out of “zero ward” and back to work.

He survived the war to see Arthur again. All because someone believed in him. Love is not blind. But love believes beyond what it sees. Love embraces a wayward son and puts a ring on his dirty finger, shoes on his dusty feet, a festal robe around his bowed and shaking shoulders. Do you remember? That's what God did for you! Now God has given you the precious privilege of handing on the ring to someone who needs it. De Colores!

Bill Kelley, Co-Spiritual Director

(Adapted from [A Love Worth Giving](#) by Max Lucado)

Women's Walk Reunions

Women's Walk # 33 (Nancy Miller Ernst, Lay Director) will be having their reunion at 6:00 p.m., October 15th. in the cafeteria. At that same time, WW # 34 (Gail Eckler , Lay Director) will hold their reunion in the choir room.

Jesus loved you so much He died for you!

Men's Walk #32 is past the 3 days and just beginning the 4th days and the pilgrims all responded to the questions about what the weekend meant to them and what they were going to do about it. The team and community were blessed by the pilgrims. Also, all members of the team did their parts without a hitch and worked together like a well trained team of horses. It was a beautiful experience to serve on this team and with the pilgrims. The community that worked on the weekend and those who prayed and those who sponsored and those who sent agape are to be thanked for jobs very well done.

Blessings to all. Gene Porter

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WEBSITE AT
[HTTP://SPFLDEMMAUS.COM](http://SPFLDEMMAUS.COM)
YOU CAN ALSO SEE OUR
NEWSLETTER AT
WWW.HIGHSTREETUMC.COM

WHY SHARE GROUPS???

If you want to be a live-in Team member, please remember being active in a Share Group is required. Share Groups keep us accountable by insuring we are focused on our #1 Priority, Jesus Christ. Sharing with friends our Bible studies, our prayers, and our Christian actions keep us on task and reminds us of the promise we gave to Christ "*Christ is counting on me*" and the one He gave back "*I am counting on Him!*"

Lay Directors have been having difficulty finding new live-in team members because many are not in Share Groups. There must be a Share Group that needs YOU!

Ask your Sponsor to help you find one--OR--call the Good Shepherds -
Men's, Jerry Peterman @ 325-3629--Women's, Mary Ahlborn @ 322-1958.

NOTE: PLEASE CONTACT John Ahlborn (Data Mgr) @ 322-1958 OR email: jahlborn@woh.rr.com if you have a new address or phone number. Also, if you are currently using a cell phone in place of a residence phone, we need to change your telephone number in the database. Lay Directors have been unable to contact many potential team members due to incorrect or disconnected phone numbers.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL FOR EXPIRATION DATE OF NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION.