

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus  
Cursillo - Chrysalis - Kairos - Walk to Emmaus  
De Colores!

Emmaus  
Normandy UMC  
450 W. Alex-Bell Rd.  
Centerville OH 45459

Vol. 15 No. 3

# Thoughts from the Chairman

## Orange Barrels and Such



One thing that I have noticed since we moved to the Dayton area are the ever-present orange construction barrels. They seem to be everywhere – all the time. The barrels signal there is work to be done or work in progress. Generally, they indicate delays, detours and usually, inconvenience. They serve as a warning of things up ahead. To me it seems like some of them have been around forever. At times, all of this seems to be too much! Sometimes, we may even lose our temper - all in response to some orange barrels

In some ways isn't our walk with the Lord similar? Even though we are 'new creatures', the road can be rocky. We need to remember that we are works in progress. We can experience (what we might think are) delays, detours, 'inconveniences' on our walk with the Lord. We can become frustrated at ourselves and those around us. Wouldn't it be nice if we could put up some orange barrels to remind everyone (including ourselves) that we are works in progress?

Now if we get upset with the literal orange barrels in our life, is it really a stretch to realize that we can also get upset at the Lord's 'works in progress' around us (ourselves included) even when there might not be any barrels visible. We all know that the absence of the orange barrels does not necessarily indicate the absence of construction. We all are in God's Construction zone – and the five 'Grace' talks: Prevenient, Justifying, Means, Obstacles and Sanctifying can give us an indication of exactly where we are in our walk with the Lord.

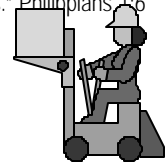
There is a Gospel song from the 1980s – unfortunately I do not remember the writer or singer, but the refrain goes like this: "He's still working on me, to make me what I ought to be, It took Him just a week to make the moon and the stars, the sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars. How loving and patient he must be, 'cause He's still working on me..." Our Father willed the entire universe into being, but loves us enough to work on us our entire lives – and all the while the 'Mansion-builder' is preparing our eternal home... We will not be made complete until we meet the Lord face-to-face.

We are special in God's eyes. We are created in His image – more correctly, we are being created in God's image – because, most definitely, we all are still works in progress. In some ways all we are missing are the orange barrels around us...

Well then, if we are all works in progress – and the mansion builder is preparing our home, can we use this information to look at ourselves and our fellow brothers and sisters in a different light? Possibly a softer, kinder, more understanding light?

Paul says it succinctly in his letter to the Philippians: "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 (NIV) We all are works in progress, please handle with care!

De Colores



Joe Amend

### Gatherings and Other Noteworthy events of the Larger Community

(All times are p.m. unless otherwise noted)

#### Upcoming Area Walks and Events

- Greater Dayton Women's Walk #54  
April 24-27, at Normandy UMC
- Greater Dayton Men's Walk #31  
May 15-18, at Normandy UMC
- West Ohio Chrysalis Girl's Walk  
July 11-13, 2003, Greene St. UMC  
Piqua, Ohio.

#### Gatherings

Normandy UMC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	7:15
Enon UMC	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	7:30
Christ UMC	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	7:00
Wilmington UMC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	7:00
Sidney 1st UMC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	7:00
Dayton Board	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	7:00



## Epiphany

"I was in prison and you visited me . . ." Matthew 25:36

"My dad taught me to drink when I was twelve and mom taught me how to smoke dope while we sat at the kitchen table when I was thirteen and had been in trouble with the law since age ten. They split up right after I turned fourteen. My dad lives with some other lady and mom is doing the best she can – but not doin' very good. I miss my mom the most. Can I read? Not very well. Do I own a Bible? No, never have. Do I want to come back to this life (prison) after I'm released? No. What am I gonna' do to change my life? I don't know."

This actual conversation was with Richard, an inmate at a facility for Ohio's youthful offenders. Hope is a precious commodity behind prison walls. Nearly 90 percent of the youth come from single-parent families. The average education level is 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The sentences these kids are serving range from one or two up to forty-five or more years.

**These youngsters are the last, the least and the lost** that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 25:36 as he tells the parable of the sheep and the goats. Some of the incarcerated kids have been abandoned, forgotten or even disowned by their families. They receive no uncensored mail, have few, if any, visitors and as a result have learned to build huge protective "walls" around themselves to survive prison life.

Hope is a precious commodity behind prison walls.

Imagine yourself in these conditions: Except for meals, or those going to school, you must stay in your pod (locked dorm room) twenty-two hours a day. You are counted several times every day – not by name, but by number and dorm. You are told when to sit, stand, walk, run, sleep, eat, talk or be silent, when you can use the toilet and when you can't. When you talk back or engage in horse-play you may find yourself in "the hole". You are isolated from the rest of the population for some time until you learn to behave appropriately. It may be a day, a week or a month. You are forced to learn the ways of the prison to survive. You have to be tough, or weird or scary, but if you don't find a way to build your protective wall, the others will "get to you" and you'll have to join a gang that you never wanted to join. You crave something different, but what?

That's the scenario that presents itself to Epiphany volunteers - kids hungry for God's love and care. Epiphany weekend experiences are Walk to Emmaus -type formats geared to the restrictive environment of the prison system. The experience includes a birthday party in which every Star (instead of "pilgrim") receives a gift, cake and ice cream plus a real party atmosphere. By the end of the weekend, the Stars are usually convinced that God truly does love them and cares about them through the Epiphany volunteer team members. Once you get to know the kids, you realize that life has dealt many of them a bad hand and they're doing the best they can with it. **One day, they will be released back into society. What better way to help prepare them for life?**

If you feel called to reach out to these young people, you need only to have completed your own three-day weekend Epiphany is a non-denominational ministry. You must be at least 18 years of age and not related in any way to any inmate. Many of the Dayton Emmaus Community

members are involved in Epiphany Ministries. Speak to one of them about their experience. If you want an application to participate, please call **John or Jane Tonkin at (513) 934-3070** and they will see that you receive one promptly. You can also e-mail them at [jtonkin@go-concepts.com](mailto:jtonkin@go-concepts.com).

**See you in prison!**



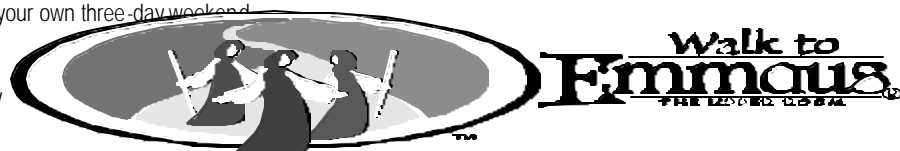
## From the SD's Study

One of the Florida State football coaches once instructed his players, "You guys line up alphabetically by height." The same coach also once told them, "You guys pair up in groups of three, then line up in a circle."

Well, if you try to follow that guy's instructions, you're going to find out it's impossible. That's one of the great things about Christianity: Not only is it possible, it's also not very complicated. This is my first newsletter article for the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community, and so I invite you to look at the basics: We must understand that we are all sinners, and therefore we all need a Savior because none of us is strong enough or rich enough or smart enough or good enough to pay the price for our sins ourselves.

That's what is offered to us by God through Jesus Christ: Salvation. We do need to accept the gift, which also means accept the way Jesus taught us to live, and then Heaven is in our future. Great! Simple! Of course, we have to do it: Too many of us want to sort of "waffle around" and not go all the way with Jesus. Let's do it! Go all the way with Jesus!

**Keith Weller**





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<http://www.daytonemmaus.org>

## De Colores!

'Not by might nor by power, but by My spirit' says the Lord Almighty.  
Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

 <p>Work in Progress!</p>  <p>Handle with care!</p>	<p>This is a:</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Subscription or renewal</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>One year \$8.00</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Address change</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Two Years \$14.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Three Years \$20.00</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Subscription or renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	One year \$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address change	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Years \$14.00			<input type="checkbox"/>	Three Years \$20.00
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