

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 No. 6

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

June 2003

From the Chairman:

Who Me?

Many of the biblical prophets initially resisted the Lord's call. A notable exception is Isaiah. His call is detailed in Isaiah 6:1-13. A quick read through this passage yields several parts to the story: First Isaiah has a vision (v 1-2). Second, the Lord is praised. (v 3-4). Next Isaiah, in the presence of the Lord, comes face to face with his shortcomings (v 5). He is then cleansed (v 6-7). The Lord 'wonders' who He can send to do the job (v 8); Isaiah volunteers (v 8). Finally, the Lord gives him instructions and some prophetic wisdom (v 9-13). It is also interesting to note, much in keeping with the majority of Old Testament prophecies, there is not a whole lot of good news for Isaiah to spread.

The part that I would like to concentrate on this month is in verse 8 - Isaiah accepting 'the call'. He simply says, "Here I am, send me!" In the New International Version there is an exclamation point. Wow. Do I respond to the Lord's call with an exclamation point? Not nearly often enough. I am continually inspired by the simplicity of Isaiah's acceptance of God's call: no hesitation, no let me pray about this, no forming a search committee, no nothing, just an emphatic Yes! (I am reminded of a former Dayton Community Lay Director's signature affirmation of faith.)

In the Christian Action talk we are reminded that we are God's hands and feet here on earth. Without volunteers, God's word cannot be spread. Christianity is never more than a generation away from extinction - we must pass along our faith to the generations that follow. There is no getting around it; the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is a call to action. It is filled with action verbs - go, make disciples, baptize, teach. I think we are called to do the same things today, but how?

First, we must be able to discern the call. The Lord in his infinite wisdom meets us at our own points of need. It took being blinded for three days for Paul to get the message. (Acts 9) Personally, as much as

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HOW TO FIND US!

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

UPCOMING WALKS

Women's Walk #55, July 24-27
Christ UMC
Women's Walk #56, August 14-17
Christ UMC
Men's Walk #32, August 21-24

Chrysalis Youth Walks

Girl's Flight #36, July 11-13
Greene Street UMC, Piqua
Boy's Flight #36, July 25-27
Greene Street UMC, Piqua
Girl's Flight #24, July 11-13
St. Andrews UMC, Findlay

Kairos

Lebanon Correctional, Sept. 11-14

Kairos Closing,
Sunday, Sept. 14, 5:00 PM
All invited! See Details page 2

GATHERINGS

Normandy UMC	2 nd Mon	7:15
Enon UMC	1 st Mon	7:30
Christ UMC	3 rd Fri	7:00
Wilmington UMC	2 nd Tues	7:00
Sidney 1st UMC	2 nd Tues	7:00
Dayton Board	4 th Tues	7:00

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I like the story, I would much prefer to be more sensitive to the Lord's call – so he doesn't have to get my attention.

Second, we need to respond to the call. One of the interesting things to ponder is how the biblical characters responded to the Lord's call. Moses argued that he was unworthy. (Exodus 3:11-4:17) In Exodus 4:14 we find that the Lord's anger burned against Moses. (It seems to me that at some level Moses was lucky to make it down off the mountain alive.) Gideon asked for not one, but three signs (Judges 6:17, 36-37, 39-40) after the Lord called him. Hopefully we can learn from these examples. The Lord has always used frail human beings to be His messengers, showing us their shortcomings and frailties along with the mighty works they did for Him. We all are sinners and we all fall short of the glory of God, but the staggering thing is that He still can and will use us if we let Him. Remember, the Lord doesn't call the equipped, but He equips the called.

There are numerous examples of the enormity of the job to be done – "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37-38) and "Many are called, but few accept the invitation" (Matthew 22:14) to name just two. If the task is so large we cannot do it on our own and must rely on the grace and providence of the Lord to accomplish His tasks, then He has us exactly where He wants us. Remember His statement to Paul about His strength being greatest when we are weak? (2 Corinthians 12:9)

We should never lose sight of the true purpose for the church (and the Emmaus Community) which is "... for the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12) Again, note those action verbs. We have already discussed the necessity of being God's hands and feet, therefore, it is our job, collectively and individually, to equip the saints for the work of service. Then when the Lord calls us (and rest assured He will) we don't have to answer, "Who, me?", but rather, "Here I am, send me!"

De Colores
Joe Amend



WILLING SERVANT FORM

In an effort to decrease paperwork and increase the effectiveness of the Willing Servant Form, the Board has made the following change:

If you filled out a "Blue" form after June 2002, it is now good for a two year period (June 2002-June 2004). Therefore, if you have already turned in the Blue Willing Servant Form you are eligible to serve on all the live-in Teams through 2004. If you haven't yet turned this form in please do so at your earliest convenience.

The Board *greatly* appreciates the community's willingness to serve our Lord and Savior.

Bob Hewitt
Leadership Chair



KAIROS CLOSING

If you would like to attend the Kairos closing, your name must be added to the list.

Call Dick Erbaugh 294-0080

Greater Dayton Emmaus Board Members

Agape	Phyllis Heitz	866-5390
Chairman	Joe Amend	879-4595
Christ UMC Rep.	Larry McSwegin	298-2043
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& Book Table	Margaret Tuttle	433-0511
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	Sharyl Tinnel (W)	866-2529
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	Keith Weller	253-3439
Supply	Shelia Shade	698-4014
Treasurer	Joyce Stare	320-1154
Worship	Andy Manwell	848-4611



From the SD's Study

We rejoice for the many ways God has blessed the Emmaus Community. After each walk we proclaim:

"Wasn't it great to see so many pilgrims give their lives to Christ." It isn't hard for us to rejoice under these circumstances. It is easy to rejoice when God shows up because, "in His presence is fullness of joy."

But, "How can I be joyful always when my world is crumbling around me?" The children of Israel felt the same way during their captivity. "How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?" Psalm 137:4. This morning these words to an encouraging hymn came to mind.

Christians rouse and arm for conflict,
Nerve thee for the battlefield;
Bear the helmet of salvation,
And the mighty gospel shield;
Let the breastplate peace be on thee,
Take the Spirit's sword in hand;
Boldly, fearlessly, go forth then,
In Jehovah's strength to stand.

Let your imagination take hold of the unseen. We are spiritual beings on a human journey. "But we don't wage war with human plans and methods. We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:3-4. What are God's mighty weapons? Paul prefaces his statement on warfare by coming to his readers in the "meekness and gentleness of Christ."

Over and over again, God has brought James 4:7-10 to my mind. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you....humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty." Zechariah 4:6. Those who will have victory are those who allow God's Spirit to do the battle for them. "Do not be afraid or discouraged For the battle is not yours, but God's." 2 Chronicles 20:15.

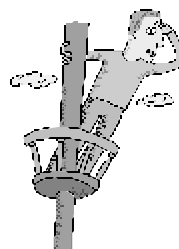
Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15:9-11.

It is Christ living in me through the Spirit that brings joy. The secret to having joy unstoppable is allowing the Spirit to have His way in our lives.

The joy of the Lord is my strength!

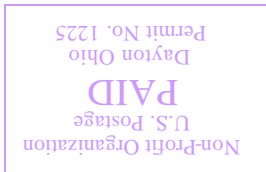
De Colores!

Hazel Burns



Plan ahead!

Opportunities for serving are abundant this summer! There are TWO walks in August on back to back weekends which follow closely behind WW#55, July 24-27! The October Women's Walk was moved to August due to changes in available space at Christ UMC. Rather than cancel the Walk, the decision was made to use the time that is available. We know that other communities actually schedule back to back weekends on purpose and like it that way. While it may not be what we are accustomed to, we might find that it suits the community. These will be the last Walks for the year 2003. Let's mark our calendars for WW# 55 **July 24-27**, WW#56 **August 14-17** **AND** MW#32 **August 21-24** and be ready to rise to the occasion!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Normandy United Methodist Church
GREATER DAYTON EMMANUS
450 West Alex-Bell Rd.
Dayton OH 45459
<http://www.daytonemmaus.org>

De Colores!

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him.

Psalm 103:11



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