

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 No. 9

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

September
2003

From the Chairman

Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution?

"... [My word] ... not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)

Many times in my life this verse has spoken to me – usually in times of indecision or turmoil. It tells me that in spite of or despite what I may do, the Lord's Will will be done. This is very comforting to me to realize that the weight of the universe is not on my shoulders, but in the providential hand of our Lord. Whew! That's a load off my tiny brain! All too often I can get into the mode of thinking that everything will fall apart if I don't take care of it personally. All too often we can fall into the trap of thinking it won't get done without our direct intervention or involvement. As our Scripture verse states, it will get done. My continuing hope and prayer is that I can be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Sometimes it is difficult to discern between the two.

This should not be taken as a license to back off and do nothing – we still are Jesus' hands and feet here on earth, but rather it should lift the burden of thinking we have to do everything by our selves. Paul provides an excellent example in his personal ministry. He started many churches and left them to others to be nurtured. To paraphrase 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, Paul planted the seeds, Apollos watered them, but the Lord made them grow. The planter and waterer are nothing, and the Lord is everything. This is the reality check I continually need to take.

To me, this means that the success or failure of a task isn't necessarily in my responsibility, but rather it is the execution of the Lord's plan that is up to me. In many ways, I am merely the conduit of the Holy Spirit. Like a garden hose, I don't necessarily know the purpose or where the Spirit is leading, but rather I need to realize I can be the means by which the Spirit is delivered. This allows the Spirit to work in very mysterious (and marvelous) ways through me. Maybe, just maybe, many of those day-to-

(Continued on page 2)

HOW TO FIND US!

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

UPCOMING WALKS

Men's Walk #33, January 22-25 NUMC
Women's Walk #57, February 19-22
Women's Walk #58, April 15-18
Men's Walk #34, May 13-16

Chrysalis Youth Walks

Women's Weekend #14 (Ages 18-24)
September 26-28, Greene St UMC

Men's Weekend #14 (Ages 18-24)
October 31-Nov 2, Greene St UMC

Kairos

Lebanon Correctional, Sept. 11-14

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

day 'chance' encounters we all have might not be so chancy after all...

When we disregard or ignore the will of the Lord, it can be likened to getting run over by the 'spiritual express train' – there are numerous examples in the Bible of those who tried to run from (Jonah), hide (Elijah), deny (Peter), mock (Goliath) or otherwise work against the Lord's purpose (Saul). Just remember who prevailed in these encounters. Part of our walk with the Lord is the increasing awareness of the futility of ignoring the call of the Lord. Remember, the Lord has said His Will will be done... I have a pretty good idea of how to discern the will of the Lord – pray, meditate and ask for advice, etc. What I need to remember is to do it.

The Lord will accomplish what he purposes. What we all need to try to be is part of the solution and not part of the problem – things are much easier that way – I'm sure Jonah would agree. When you think about it, who would n't agree?

De Colores

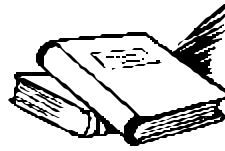
Joe Amend

FYI:

October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

Focus On the Family did a radio broadcast last week and mentioned this website, www.clergyappreciation.org. I checked it out and found it to be an excellent resource for ideas to show appreciation. It even has a guide to help with special planning. Let's raise the bar for showing clergy appreciation at our churches.

Ken Wilson
Kitchen Chairman



From the SD's Study

A while back a little boy came home from the second grade, with a report card that was not at all acceptable. After supper, his father, trying to be patient but also firm, took the boy on his knee and began, "Son, we're going to have to do something about these grades."

To which his son replied, "We can't, Dad. They're in ink."

Notice, the boy was already learning a lesson we far too often learn: He did not accept his own guilt; he only wanted to escape the consequences.

Okay, okay, this is a warning. I learned the hard way, when I was a teacher, that even many parents do teach their kids "it's only wrong if you get caught or punished."

To those of us who hopefully do understand more about right and wrong, this little story serves as instructions for salvation: We must acknowledge our own sinfulness if we wish to be saved. "We've been on an Emmaus Walk, so we must be good Christians," is no more valid than "I go to church, so I'm a good Christian." These things are very important, but only a beginning. We must "walk the walk" is the modern way of saying it. We must love everybody, not just some-bodies.

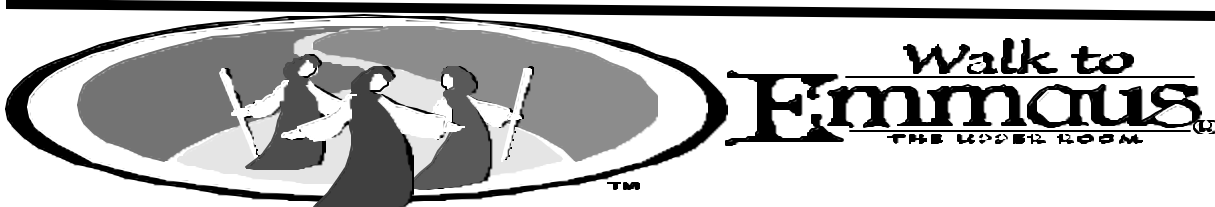
"Forgive us our trespasses AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US."

Do we?

Do we accept the responsibility for what we do wrong, and do we accept the responsibility for REALLY doing better? Then we can accept our Savior, because we know we need our Savior. Then we are saved!!! Praise the Lord!

De Colores!

Keith Weller



AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD . . .

Six Dayton Community members attended the 25th Anniversary International Gathering of the Walk to Emmaus in Nashville, Tennessee July 24-27. Over 1300 US community members and representatives of thirteen other countries were represented at the event. A daily schedule of plenary sessions and workshops kept us all hopping, but provided good information on the various "tracks" we selected.

Upper Room is attempting to raise \$100,000 to help start new Emmaus Communities in Bulgaria, Latin America and several other countries. The first Emmaus Walk in

One million pilgrims world wide have gone on the "Walk"

South Africa was in 1995 and now there are 35 communities there. They became a key force as many Emmaus people were used

as volunteers to keep the peace during the first free elections there. God used them mightily as the new nation of South Africa emerged.

According to Bob Wood, the "father" of Emmaus, since 1978 when the first walk was held, nearly one million pilgrims world-wide have gone on "The Walk" and it is now considered to be a vital component for church renewal in America and other nations as well.

Highlights of the weekend included the parade of community banners (ours was being used for a walk and did not appear in the parade) and a Friday night concert by Larnell Harris singing some of his newer music as well as some of the old favorites. On Sunday we were privileged to hear Tony Campolo preach a powerful message on the Lord's Prayer in which he challenged us to move beyond our Emmaus activities and to truly "count on Christ" to reach out to the last, the least and the lost until we see Christ in the face of those we serve.

A wide variety of vendors were on hand to make Emmaus clothing, books, etc.

available. They included the Upper Room of Nashville, Cokesbury publishing, Dove Inc., a clothing supplier and Sings the Rooster, a light hearted line of Emmaus products designed around the song, "De Colores!" Epiphany Ministries was represented and National President, Peggy New manned the booth alone the entire weekend!

Those attending from our community were Bob and Peggy Hewitt, Charles and Charlene Kaiser, Jane and John Tonkin. If you want to know more about the event, look them up at a Dayton Gathering.

If you want to peruse the catalogues of Dove, Inc. and Sings the Rooster on-line, their websites are: www.Doveinc.com and www.singstherooster.com.

John Tonkin

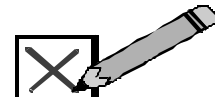
Elections: Coming Soon!

This fall, five Emmaus Board positions will be up for reelection. For me, serving as Newsletter Chair has been a blessing. It is free leadership training, on the job, in a safe environment.

It really is an opportunity to dig deeper into service and community in the Body of Christ. Please prayerfully consider if the Lord is calling you to this worthwhile ministry.

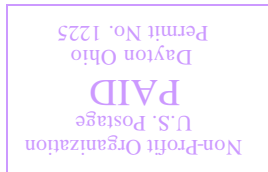
Details to follow next month.

Christy Utz



Lord Jesus, Christ,
We thank You for the mighty movement
of your fresh wind and fire on the Walks
of 2003.
You are so very, very rich and generous.
We have seen great things.
What a privilege and honor to serve You.
May your Name be praised in all the earth.
In Jesus Name,
Amen





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

De Colores!

***Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the Name of the Lord. Let the Name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.
 Psalm 113:1-2***

To renew your newsletter:

- Fill out the following form
- Address it to Newsletter
- Send to the Emmaus address on the first page of this newsletter.



This is a:

<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

Total Enclosed \$ _____ (checks payable to "Walk to Emmaus")

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____