

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 No. 12

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

December
2003

FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

What are we going to do?

The birth of Jesus is recorded in two locations: Matthew 2 and Luke 2. In Luke Chapter 2, we find the account of the angelic proclamation of Jesus' birth to the shepherds – and the shepherd's response to this news. In Matthew 2 we have the account of the Wise Men and their visit to see the baby Jesus. Other than Jesus being born in Bethlehem, there is very little repetition in the two stories. This is not necessarily surprising because Matthew was written primarily to the Jewish people and, as such, presented Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Luke wrote primarily to the Greeks and portrayed Jesus as the perfect man, far surpassing the highest ideals of the Greeks. Jesus' birth, as detailed in these two accounts, is the same event but from very different perspectives. It has always struck me as very interesting to whom the news of Jesus' birth was delivered and the various responses to this glorious news.

Matthew's account tells the story of the Wise Men who were thought to be from an educated upper class in Persia - modern day Iran. Their visit probably occurred sometime after Jesus' birth, because there is no mention of the stable or manger. (According to Matthew 2:11, the Wise Men visited Jesus in a house.) There is also an additional clue that their visit was sometime after Jesus' birth because of the age of the children that Herod murdered. This information is the reason that the church celebrates Epiphany, or the coming of the Wise Men, after Christmas.

From Matthew 2:3 we know Herod and all of Jerusalem was "disturbed" with the news of the Messiah's birth. In Biblical times, Bethlehem was a separate village about five miles south of Jerusalem - not a long distance to travel for the residents of Jerusalem. (Interestingly, Bethlehem is now contained in what is suburban Jerusalem.) And we also know the Jews of the time expected the Messiah to be born in Bethlehem and to be from David's family – the Priests and Scribes quoted Micah 5: 2-4 to Herod when he inquired as to where the Messiah would be born.

From Matthew's account, everyone in Jerusalem knew that Jesus had been born and where the birth took place. It is interesting to see who responded to this information. The shepherds from around Bethlehem heard the angelic proclamation, went to the manger and responded 'joyfully' (Luke 2:20). The Wise Men traveled all the way from what is modern day Iran and 'bowed down and worshipped Him' (Matthew 2:11). Herod re-

HOW TO FIND US!

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UPCOMING WALKS 2004

Normandy UMC

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

Christ UMC

Women's Walk #59, July 22-25
Men's Walk #35, August 12-15

Normandy UMC

Women's Walk #60 Sept. 23-26

sponded by having all the young boys in Bethlehem killed (Matthew 2:16). In the Biblical accounts, no one else is recorded as having responded to the news of Jesus' birth – not even the religious leaders of the time...

It would behoove us all to consider how we intend to respond this year to the glorious news of Jesus' birth. Who will we be like? The shepherds? The Wise Men? Someone else? The choice is certainly ours to make. How we respond to the question reveals a lot of our attitude toward Christmas.

The Jewish people of Jesus' time were certainly confused about the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. Quite possibly, the Jewish people of the time were looking for the Messiah that was prophesied in Isaiah 9:6b – 7 "He will reign on David's throne...forever." What they got (and us too) was the Messiah of the first 2 lines of Isaiah 9:6, "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given..."

There appears to be a gap of several thousand years in the prophecies contained in Isaiah 9:6. The first part has already been fulfilled, and we are still eagerly awaiting the fulfillment of the rest of the verse. It is very difficult, at best, to interpret biblical prophecy. In defense of the people of the time, we have the advantage of 2000 years of historical perspective and a complete Bible (including the New Testament) at our disposal. It is always important to closely examine the context in which the prophecies were made and be prepared for the unexpected... We should always be alert for scenarios that may deviate from the established Biblical interpretation but still fulfill prophecy.

Back to my original question, what are we going to do now that we have the information on the birth of Jesus? I think the essence of what our response should be is found in the great Christmas song, "Go Tell It On The Mountain", lyrics by John W. Work, Jr.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
(But don't forget to tell it also in Fairborn, Dayton, Beaver creek ...)

The Amend family prayer is for everyone to have a blessed Christmastide – and always remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

De Colores!
Joe Amend



From the SD's Office

Dear Greater Dayton Emmaus Community,

"Christmas is love tugging us back to God with the powerful clasp of a tiny hand reaching out from a bed of straw." (Anonymous)

I'm as guilty as any other pastor or Sunday school teacher: Every year I try to come up with some original way of looking at Christmas, perhaps highlighting a part of the Christmas story I think someone may have missed. I found this poem in the December, 1994, Joyful Noiseletter, and I think it comes close to including the whole picture.

Christmas Laughter

This is the melody of Christmas!
Wide-eyed, sleigh bell laughter of
tiny ones experiencing the bright surprises;
Whisper-laughter of parents
exchanging their knowing glances;
Tear-dimmed chuckles
of reminiscence;
Freshets of family-get-together
laughter;
Ties-that-bind laughter
of the church family;
Joy-in-heaven laughter
of a great company of angels watching the
first shepherd-visitors making their way to a
manger.

Dr. John J. Walker, Post, Texas
(Reprinted by permission.)

God's blessings to you all, and De Colores!

Keith Weller

Dearest Friends,

Thank you so much for all of the prayers and love you have offered up for Connie and me. It is so hard to describe what it has meant to be a part of this community. You have truly shown and reinforced the statement, "You will never have to go through

You will never have to go through anything alone again.

anything alone again." I know that God is not done using me or this situation for his glory.

Already, my daughter, Rachel, received Jesus into her heart

on November 9, just five days after her mom's physical death. Hallelujah! Never doubt where Connie is right now and that as God's children, we will see her again. De Colores!

Stephen Puderbaugh

Men's Walk #28

The best gifts

In case you're still a few gifts short of your holiday giving list, here are some timeless ideas that won't cost you anything (except, perhaps a bit of **pride**)

- **Patch up** a quarrel.
- **Find** a forgotten friend.
- **Write** an overdue love note.
- **Keep** a promise.
- **Let go** of a grudge.
- **Lessen** your demands on others.
- **Apologize** to someone.
- **Point out** the one thing you appreciate most about someone you work with or live near.



Source: *The Finishing Touch*

By Chuck Swindoll



Thanks Joe! Thanks and a huge hug for giving your servant's heart to the community as Chairman in 2003.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, and make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26.

Thank You from Legacy

Thanks so much to the Emmaus Community for again supporting our Thanksgiving Sing Concert. Attendance was about double that of last year, and the response was terrific.

We were fortunate to get the support of Bill Nance, Melody Morris (our co-emcees) and WFCJ - Inspiration 93.7.

We will be working on our CD project and will let you know when it is ready.

Thanks to the Lord for all His help, and thanks to you for supporting our ministry.

We hope to see everyone again at next year's concert.

Mick Burdge

Ed Huber

Troy Kaper

Jim Krile

Steve Rohr

Dave Skinner

Legacy

Election results

The following were elected to the Board to serve a three year term at the November Gathering.

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Good Shepherd | Joyce Zimmann |
| Treasurer | Duane Veley |
| Women's Registrar | Carol Spahr |
| Computer | John Wissinger |
| Newsletter | Christy Utz |

A very special **thanks** to the nominating Committee for their efforts in filling these positions. The nominating committee consisted of Mary Pat Peck (chair), Jim Kear and Jan Schneider.

Bob Hewitt

Leadership Chair

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 450 West Alex-Bell Rd.
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 www.daytonemmaus.org

De Colores!

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

I saiah 55:1

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
- Available **FREE** on the Web page www.daytonemmaus.org



The table of the Lord is set!

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: _____