

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 16 No. 3

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

March
2004

FROM THE CHAIRMAN CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

A survey indicated that 90% of men in America lack a true friend. I suspect the percentage is lower for women. They seem better at making close friends than men. Friends are people who have made a major commitment to other human beings. This is an “irrational commitment,” meaning people care about their friends without asking, “What’s in it for me?”

Mark 2:3-5 gives an example of this kind of friendship.

Four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't get to Jesus through the crowd, so they dug through the clay roof above his head. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing THEIR faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

This is a friendship of dependable faithfulness and trusting vulnerability. Most of us aren't paralyzed, but we all have some brokenness. It is only when we allow others to see our warts, when we give and receive help, that healing becomes possible.

I would liken this small circle of friends in Mark to a share group. This is because those in a share group possess and implement an irrational commitment to the well being of its members. I see share groups as a necessity for successful living; they provide wondrous benefits in happiness, health, support and growth. It's where we encounter God's love in a tangible way and discover the transforming power of being loved, accepted and valued just the way we are.

Before Emmaus, I was part of that 90% and had always felt saddened by this. Since my Walk I have been meeting weekly with 3 fellow Pilgrims. What a blessing

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HOW TO FIND US!

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

UPCOMING WALKS 2004

Normandy UMC

Women's Walk #58, April 15-18
Men's Walk #34, May 13-16
Women's Walk #60 Sept. 23-26

Christ UMC

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

Kairos

Lebanon Correctional

Men's Walk #28, March 11-14

GATHERINGS & BOARD MEETING

Normandy UMC	2 nd Mon	7:15
Christ UMC	3 rd Fri	7:00
Dayton Board	4 th Tues	7:00

CANDLELIGHT AND CLOSING

Candlelight	8:30 PM	Saturday
Closing	4:30 PM	Sunday

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this has been to me. I consider these men to be true friends whom I can trust and share with. They encourage, hold me accountable and help me to keep growing in my faith.

Bottom line—we need friends! The question is: are you willing to invest some of your most precious possession-time-to develop a few close friendships? Don't wait until tragedy strikes, a crisis arises or life is unbearable. Join or start a share group today. Start making TRUE friends now.

This is dedicated to the memory of Jack Williams, a member of my Share Group, who was a true friend.

Bob Hewitt



A good read

In his book, Renovation of the Heart, Dallas Willard paints a picture of God's idea of community. It is taken from Romans 12:1-21.

- Letting love be completely real
- Abhorring what is evil
- Clinging to what is good
- Being devoted to one another
- Outdoing one another in giving honor
- Serving the Lord with ardent spirit and all diligence
- Rejoicing in hope
- Being patient in troubles
- Being devoted to prayer
- Contributing to the needs of the saints
- Pursuing hospitality
- Blessing persecutors and not cursing them
- Being joyful with those who are joyful, weeping with those who weep
- Living in harmony with each other
- Not being haughty, but fitting right in with the "lowly"
- Not seeing yourself as wise

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From the SD'S office

Imagine knowing how a story ends before you read it. Really, as kids, when we were told stories of "Sleeping Beauty" and "Snow White, and all those other stories Mom and Dad shared with us, we did know the ending ahead of time. We knew the hero would come and save the heroine and "they would live happily ever after."

As we got older, and began reading stories ourselves, we still really knew what the end would be. Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys would solve the mystery, and Tarzan would swing off through the trees with Jane. In all those romantic novels the ladies like to read, and those Louis L'Amour westerns I like to read, we still know they're going to "live happily ever after."

But life, real life, isn't like that. There are divorce, unemployment, mental illness, and shattered dreams. There are disease and pain and death. We don't live "happily ever after."

Or do we?

That's the joy of the Christian Faith. No matter how bad it gets here on earth, we know it's going to get better. In fact, and this may be even more exciting, no matter how GOOD it gets here on earth, it's still going to get better.

As we enter the season of Lent, as we prepare for the events of Holy Week, let's celebrate living happily ever after. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, we are assured that, if we choose to accept the gift, we will live eternally with God, in a perfect place, "happily ever after."

De Colores!

Keith Weller

May no one I leave unhugged

When we meet each other at Gatherings and hug, the Joy of the Lord flows in torrents! What a blessed fellowship is ours. "We have come rejoicing! The Lord has done great things." Psalm 126.

In our exuberance let's watch for the new pilgrims of MW#33 and WW#57, or anyone arriving alone, or new to our community.

For one, please watch for a Pilgrim from GA-recently transferred to WPAFB. An early blessing to me in servant hood as Good Shepherd was to meet him in cyber and in person. His name is Chris Morrison. May we show him that Christ's love melts Ohio ice and snow!

De Colores
Joyce Zimmann
Good Shepard



Lost and Found

The lost and found box is overflowing! It will be in the lobby at the March Gathering. Please take a moment to retrieve your lost items.

Shelia Shade
Supply Chair

Cookies for kairos

Please bring cookies for Kairos #28 to March 8th Gathering.

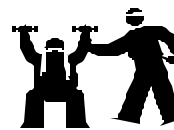
Requirements:

- 2 doz. per plastic bag
- Chocolate chip or brownies
- Prayed over.

Contact Garry Peck (937) 277-4128

"I was in prison and you visited me"
Jesus

Pump it up!



The walks have been great! It's hard to imagine that they could be even better. But it's true. And you can help. God kindly let's us join Him in His work but it's up to us to **bring Him our best**.

Emmaus Community Training

Saturday, March 13

8:30-4:30

Normandy UMC

Lunch provided

Call **Bob Hewitt (937) 866-1108**



Secrets

Recently, I asked one of my sisters at my home church if she was interested in attending an Emmaus Walk. She replied that she had planned to go in the past but had taken herself off the list. She explained that there were too many secrets being expressed by Emmaus Pilgrims in our church. I had to agree that secrecy is a red flag for any organization. The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus p. 137 states:

"Emmaus pilgrims can harm the unity of the church by acting as though Emmaus involves secrecy, like a lodge or a mystery cult. **The single greatest obstacle to a graceful relationship between Emmaus and the church over the years has been the image of secrecy.** Secrets create barriers; they bind together those "in the know" and separate them from those who do not know.

There is nothing secret about Emmaus. Even Candlelight, personal agape letters, and the community's presence at the Closing can be mentioned when Emmaus is explained to a person being sponsored".

I went home, dug out my booklet on Emmaus and offered it to her. She accepted it gladly and I pray she will still consider going on the walk.

Christy Utz

Newsletter Chair

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 www.daytonemmaus.org

De Colores!

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

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- Never repaying evil for evil
- Having due regard for what everyone takes to be right
- Being at peace with everyone, so far as it depends on you
- Never taking revenge but leaving it up to God
- Providing for needy enemies
- Not being overwhelmed by evil, but overwhelming evil with good

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: _____

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