

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 16 No. 6

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

June
2004

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship is the most important job of all in the Emmaus Movement. Our model for sponsorship is found in Luke 24:13-35, the story of Jesus' encounter with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Recall that Jesus chooses two people who were already believers. Similarly we are called to invite Pilgrims to attend the Walk to Emmaus who are believers. During their time together faith was "re-explained". It was not something new, they had heard about it before. The re-explanation on the Walk weekend is provided by the talks and meditations and the Pilgrims find their belief and faith strengthened.

In Jesus' sharing of communion when they reached the village of Emmaus, the disciples "eyes were opened", they recognized Him and "re-experienced" grace. Again, this was not the first time they experienced God's grace but a re-awakening of a previous moment in their journey of faith. Pilgrims "re-experience" grace through unanticipated moments bursting into their lives through acts of communion and agape. Such an act of agape would be the love they are enveloped with at Candlelight by complete strangers.

The disciples "re-turned" to their little Christian community in Jerusalem to share their story after experiencing Jesus. They had a church to which they returned. So, also, the Pilgrims we sponsor should have a church family to return to. All the disciples became the body of Christ in the world. They supported and loved one another and held each other accountable as they shared the gospel of faith, grace and love with all they met. They also shared their experiences with other believers who had experienced the risen Christ, but maybe in different ways. Hopefully on a Walk to Emmaus weekend the Pilgrims learn that what they experience is not a "private gift" but one that needs to be shared with believers and non-believers alike. They also learn that they cannot do it alone but need to stay connected to other believers, through Share Groups, in order to grow and continue on their faith journey.

"The purpose of Emmaus is the renewal of the church as a body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of church members as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Emmaus EXPANDS participants' spiritual

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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 #60 Sept. 23-26

Christ UMC

Women's Walk #59, July 22-25

Men's Walk #35, August 12-15

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

From the SD's Office

Faith: Seeing What's Real

In the movie *The Truman Show*, Jim Carey lives his life as if he is in the real world, but unbeknownst to him it is all scripted. He is the only one in the apparent island community of Seahaven that isn't acting. He believes what he sees is real. He puts his faith in his island community. The story-line revolves around the increasing doubts he has about his idyllic community and growing distrust in the only people he has ever known. It is about his search to not only be a true man but to find a true world as well. Are you searching for what is true? If you are, the only way to find it is by faith.

The kind of faith we read about in Hebrews 11:1, which says: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Shauna reminded me that faith is like turning on a light switch; though we cannot see electricity we have faith that a light bulb will turn on when we flip the switch. We see the substance of what we hope for through the evidence of what we do not see with our eyes.

Faith is a present and continuing reality. Faith is a living thing, a way of life the writer of Hebrews wants to see his readers practice in their daily lives. It is the substance of a reality we have no way to materially substantiate. Faith allows us to experience the truth of something for which we can not validate apart from faith. "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because those who come to God must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him". We read in verse 6 and we know from our study of Romans that the "just will live by faith."

Suppose one day we receive a letter in the mail. Our long-forgotten Aunt Martha has died, willing her estate in Hawaii to us. Now, we have never been to Hawaii—we have never seen the property—but it is ours. It is as good as the word of the law. So it is with faith. It lays hold of spiritual truths that we cannot prove with our senses, but exist nonetheless.

Faith is not an emotion we conjure up, it is not a resolve: it is a gift. Paul tells us in Romans 12:3 that everyone has been given a measure of faith. God has put within us the ability to see His moving behind the veil, behind the scenes as a benevolent God. It is as if we, like Truman, are a spectacle to men and angels, on stage for all to see what God is doing in our every day lives as we trust Him, as we have faith in Him, as we become what He has called us on to the stage of life to be.

People around us need to see and feel our faith in God and in them. Faith is not only a gift God gives us to make possible our relationship with Him but it is also His gift to us that we share with others. In Henry Drummond's

book, *The Greatest Thing in the World*, he says, "You will find, if you think for a moment, that the people who influence you are people who believe in you. In an atmosphere of suspicion men shrivel up; but in that atmosphere they expand, and find encouragement and educative fellowship... To be trusted is to be saved. And if we try to influence or elevate others, we shall soon see that success is in proportion to their belief of our belief in them. For the respect of another is the first restoration of the self-respect a man has lost; our ideal of what he is becomes to him the hope and pattern of what he may become."

Hebrews 11:2 says, "This is what the ancients were commended for." The way to please God has always been by faith. Jesus was asked what do we need to accomplish the works of God. He responded by saying, believe in Him, this is God's work. Our work in life is to believe in Jesus and trust Him to do His will through our lives.

What truth do you need to confront about yourself and the world you've been living in? What area of your life do you need to have faith in God about today? Is it your future? Do you need to have faith in your finances? God is not an unjust judge, He is a loving Father who knows you and loves you and will lead you to the truth you need to understand today. He has given you faith to believe that He will take care of you. Are there relationships that you need to trust God to resolve? Will you trust Him today with your life?

Randy Daniel

Greater Dayton Emmaus Board Members

Agape	Phyllis Heitz	866-5390
Chairman	Bob Hewitt	866-1108
Christ UMC Rep.	Larry McSwegin	298-2043
Computer Admin.	John Wissinger	278-8030
Kitchen	Ken Wilson	436-7835
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Housing	JoAnn Floyd	435-1465
Newsletter	Christy Utz	296-1184
Normandy UMC Rep.		
& Book Table	Margaret Tuttle	433-0511
Good Shepherd/Outreach	Joyce Zimmann	667-0337
Registrar/Sponsorship	Todd Lohse (M)	432-9137
	Carol Spahr (W)	291-1204
Secretary	Dene Wells	325-0979
Social	Lynn Combs	873-8198
Spiritual Director	Hazel Burns	433-2722
	Dave Tackett	294-3814
	Randy Daniel	847-0908
	Keith Weller	253-3439
Supply	Shelia Shade	698-4014
Treasurer	Duane Veley	237-1784
Worship	Andy Manvell	848-4611

Words About Share Groups

What Share Groups ARE:

- The backbone of our 4th day observances with Christian loved ones
 - A time to revisit, rekindle and rejoice in the Emmaus experience
 - A weekly opportunity to share our failures, victories and our hopes for a closer walk with Jesus in the week to come
 - ACCOUNTABILITY for our Worship, Study and Christian Action
 - An equal time for each person to share
 - Absolute confidentiality
 - A commitment of time and love
 - A requirement to participate on a live-in team
- All these things are a privilege and a very real blessing!

What Share Groups are NOT:

- A therapy session – we're not equipped to handle that!
- A place to spread gossip, couched in "Christian concern"
- A total social chat session
- A place to render judgment
- An advice giving session

We are currently hoping to get all Share Groups to register your group...the meeting day, time, place and membership. There are Share Group registry forms available on-line and at Gatherings. Please fill one out so that anyone looking for a Share Group might be placed!

De Colores,

Joyce Zimmann

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lives, DEEPENS their discipleship, and REKINDLES their gifts as Christian leaders in their churches and communities.” Stephen Bryant, *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*.

Yes, brothers and sisters – in the life of our Emmaus community sponsorship truly is “The most important job of all.”

De Colores,

Bob Hewitt

In His Hands

“I choose you...” (John 15:16)

Keep these words as a wonderful reminder in your theology. It is not that you have gotten God, but that He has gotten you. God is at work bending, breaking, molding, and doing exactly as He chooses. And why is He doing it? He is doing it for only one purpose - that he may be able to say “This is My man, this is My woman.” We have to be in God’s hand so that He can place others on the Rock, Jesus Christ, just as He has placed us.”

(Oswald Chambers “My Utmost for His Highest”).

As Kitchen Chair for the Dayton Emmaus community I feel that God has been bending, breaking, and molding me over the past 17 Walks. Doing exactly as He chooses. Words cannot describe the feeling. I have met many wonderful people, experienced much joy and growth, and there have been too many blessings too count. One of the greatest blessings, however, is coming to an understanding that service is what we *are* to Him, not what we *do* for Him. Through service we are His. We are where he needs us, in His hand so that He can place others on the Rock, Jesus Christ. Just as others were in His hand when He placed you and me on the Rock. And the most amazing thing is He chooses to use you and me.

Thank you Lord Jesus and thank your willing servants for making my role as Kitchen Chair an easy one, but more importantly, for making the Dayton Emmaus Community a conduit for His love.

Ken Wilson

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 www.daytonemmaus.org

De Colores!

*Hear oh Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
 Mark 12:29*

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