

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17 No. 1

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

January
2005

This month many of us will be making our annual New Year's resolutions. Resolutions that for the most part call for change, change that we believe is necessary, change that we hope will "improve who we are" or will improve our circumstances. For many years I have made resolutions to change something in my life, to lose weight, exercise more, show more love to my family, be more faithful doing my devotionals, etc. My list goes on and on. Sadly, I must admit that I have failed to be true to my resolutions. I don't often see the change to which I was so "committed", those things I thought I should stop doing I am still doing; those things I was convinced I should do, I am still not doing.

So it is with my walk with Jesus. As I look back over 2004, I ask myself: have I started doing something God has convicted me to do? Have I stopped doing something God has convicted me to not do? Bottom line, am I changing into the person God desires me to be? Am I letting God change me? Have I submitted myself to God's Will, or am I just paying lip service to God's Commands?

Romans 12:1-2

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, *in view of God's mercy*, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—*this is your spiritual act of worship*. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" NIV

Once again I'm committed to making some changes in my life. And even though I may fail, I will continue to resolve to let God change me, transform me, by renewing my mind. I truly desire to offer up myself as a living sacrifice to God, because of His mercy towards me; because of all He has done for me. My prayer is that you will join me in this spiritual act of worship.

Happy New Year and may you have a very Blessed 2005,
Sherry Kierce

HOW TO FIND US!

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

UPCOMING WALKS

Normandy UMC 2005

Men's Walk #36, Jan. 27-30

Woman's Walk #61, Feb, 17-20

Woman's Walk #62, April 14-17

Men's Walk #37, May 12-15

Christ UMC 2005

Woman's Walk #63, July 21-24

Men's Walk #38, Aug 18-21

Normandy UMC 2005

Woman's Walk #64, Sept 22-25

GATHERINGS & BOARD MEETING

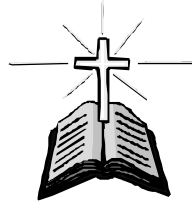
Normandy UMC	2 nd Mon	7:15
Christ UMC	3 rd Fri	7:00
Dayton Board	4 th Tues	7:00

CANDLELIGHT AND CLOSING

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

Pilgrims for MW #36

<u>Pilgrim</u>	<u>City</u>
Andrew Addy	Kettering
Gary Baggett	Beavercreek
Aram Bean	Miamisburg
George Brewer	Springboro
Wade Brower	Huber Heights
Larry Burton	Farmersville
John Chrisman	Dayton
Joseph Colon	Fairborn
Mike Copher, Jr.	Beavercreek
Mike Couchot	Englewood
Andy Courtice	Centerville
Greg Crabtree	Centerville
Bill Davidson	Dayton
Ken French	Beavercreek
Roger Godsey-Bell	Dayton
Raymond Goltz	Springboro
Ted Greenwood	Dayton
David Hesp	Centerville
Kevin Jackson	Miamisburg
Michael King	Somerville
Christian Kocmick	Centerville
Tim Laughlin	Bellbrook
David Lovely	Vandalia
Fred Main	Miamisburg
Chris Marshall	Dayton
Jerry McCluer	Beavercreek
Dan Minnix	Kettering
Mike Roberts	Huber Heights
Bill Ryan	Centerville
Greg Smith	Beavercreek
Richard Spitz	Xenia
Chris Staats	Englewood
Terry Stanard	Dayton
Jeremy Welfare	Miamisburg
Mark Wenzel	Vandalia



Team for MW #36

Joe Amend	LOG	
Louis Caldwell	TL	Priesthood Of All Believers
Howard Creek	ALD2	Fourth Day
Don Dameron	ATL	
Randy Daniel	ASD	Justifying Grace
Jerry Deisher	TL	Changing Our World
Steve Dow	ATL	
Doug Ellis	PS	
Walt Ferris	MD	
Virgil Gallagher	ALD	Priorities
Dave Garman	ATL	
Joe Garvey	TL	
Tom Harry	ASD	Prevenient Grace
Rich Hill	TL	Body Of Christ
Jim Horlacher	TL	Life In Piety
Palmer Jason	SD	Means Of Grace
Mamie Johnson	ASDL	Sanctifying Grace
Dennis Kaminski	LD	Perseverance
Kerry Kline	ATL	
Ron Kline	ATL	
Tim Macy	PS	
Steve Rohr	TL	Christian Action
Paul Salchak	AMD	
Bob Schneider	LOG	
Glenn Sweigart	ALD	Discipleship
Dave Tackett	ASD	Obstacles To Grace
Tommy Thompson	ATL	
Mark Trimble	LOG	
John Walker	TL	Growth Through Study
Paul Wilson	ATL	
John Wissinger	BR	



Kitchen Managers Needed

FYI
BY-LAWS CHANGE
Current By-Laws have been changed to make Documentation Chair a Board position.

Thursday Send-off 5:30-9:00 P.M.
Friday Lunch 11:00-3:00 P.M.
Sunday Breakfast 6:00-10:00 A.M.
Interested?
Contact: **Lori Gentry @698-0008**



From the SD's Office:

2005: Another Limp Year

This year marks my 30th year as a Christian. Thank God I'm not who I was, but I am still not the person He's called me to be. Perhaps you have discovered, as I have, that just because you become a Christian you do not all of a sudden have your marriage blossom into connubial bliss, have your physical health flourish, acne disappear and your career soar.

That's because Christianity is not a fairy tale about a frog becoming a handsome prince or a maid becoming Cinderella. Christianity is not about my accomplishments and successes; it's about what Jesus did on Calvary. Our victory march is more like a limp than a parade. As Brennan Manning has observed, "Buffeted by fickle winds of failure, battered by their own unruly emotions, and bruised by rejection and ridicule, authentic disciples may have stumbled and frequently fallen, endured lapses and relapses, and gotten handcuffed to the fleshpots and wandered into the far country. Yet, they keep coming back to Jesus."

So I am back again at the foot of the cross as we begin this New Year very aware of the "limp" in my "Christian walk". I am once again counting on the promise that where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. Sin is present but God's grace is sufficient to bring me and you back to Him. But unlike a hamster on a wheel spinning endless but going nowhere, God is changing us from one degree of glory to another (see II Cor. 3:18). Degrees are subtle things, barely noticeable or perceptible. It's hard to tell the change in temperature from 68 degrees to 69 degrees. Life is the same way, we change by degrees into the likeness of Christ, and it is sometimes only as we look back over a longer period of our lives that we can see the difference in our "spiritual temperature". I have also learned that Christian maturity comes when we learn to live "gracefully with our failures".

As Manning noted in his book, *Ragamuffin Gospel*, "Faithfulness requires the courage to risk everything on Jesus, the willingness to keep growing, and the readiness to risk failure throughout our lives...(this means that we) can risk everything on Jesus. We can't lose because we have nothing to lose.

Faithfulness to Jesus implies that with all our sins, scars, and insecurities, we stand with Him; that we are formed and informed by His Word...

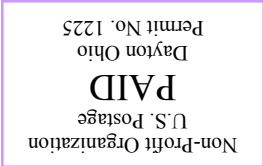
Unfaithfulness is a refusal to become, a rejection of grace and the refusal to be oneself".

Learning to live gracefully with our failures means that we are willing to risk failure. Our failures can haunt us like ghosts from the past; the grim specter reminds us of our sins, infidelities and failures. The truth is God expects more failure from us than we expect from ourselves. Winston Churchill said it well: "Success is never final; failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts".

The story is told about a southern slave auction where an athletic black man was on the block to be sold. The bidding was expected to be high, but then the black man started yelling, "I won't work", "I won't work", "You can kill me, but I won't work". The bidding was quickly over and the new owner approached the slave with a smile befitting someone who had gotten an unbelievably good deal. The slave repeated his defiant promise, "I won't work". The new owner simply said, "I didn't buy you because I want you to work for me, I bought you to set you free". He took off the man's chains and started to walk away. The slave followed behind the man and threw himself at the man's feet, "I'll serve you forever".

It is for freedom that Christ sets us free. He willingly gave Himself on the cross to die for us. His victory is our victory. He sets us free so that we might choose to serve Him freely out of gratitude and praise for what He has done, is doing and has promised to do for us. The ability to live victorious and free happens as we simply accept the freedom He offers.

Happy New 'Limp' Year!
Randy Daniel



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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GREATER DAYTON EMMANUS
450 West Alex-Bell Rd.
Dayton OH 45459
www.daytonemmaus.org

God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and He gave Himself to purchase our freedom.

1 Corinthians 1:30

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

Form with fields for: This is a: (Subscription or renewal, Address change), Total Enclosed \$, Name, Address, City, State, Zip. Includes pricing for One year \$8.00, Two Years \$14.00, Three Years \$20.00.