

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18 No. 2

Greater Dayton Walk to Emmaus

February
2006



February is a month traditionally known for Valentine's Day and expressions of Love (cards, flowers, candy, jewelry etc.) that over the years have been implanted into our lives by the merchants. These gifts and cards are meant to be given to those we Love and care about and sometimes to those we hope will love us back. Wouldn't it be nice to give Jesus a Valentine to let Him know you care?

It is also the month in which we celebrate the birthdays of two former Presidents. I wonder if Mr. Washington and Mr. Lincoln did the job for the salary and fame that they would receive, or the other "perks" that went with the job? I wonder if they thought about the physical risks? No, I believe that they did it for higher reasons. Back when the country was founded, it was based on biblical principles and ideals, including Love. The one underlying theme throughout the Bible is Love, whether between two people, a town or a nation. People did things out of Love and a sense of duty with no ulterior motives in mind. Isn't that what we should be doing more of today?

We can express our Love for others in many ways. We can tell someone and lift them up with words, or we can show our Love through our actions and interactions with others. Sometimes the smallest task done in Love makes the biggest impression, both with humans and with God. Let's all strive to show each other and God more of that Love as we go about our daily lives.

As the song lyrics say: "Will you love Jesus more? I pray for nothing less than for you to love Jesus more."

YBIC,
John Wissinger

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

HOW TO FIND US!

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

UPCOMING WALKS

Normandy UMC 2006

Women's Walk #65, February 16-19
Women's Walk #66, April 20-23

Christ UMC 2006

Women's Walk #67, June 8-11
Men's Walk #40, July 13-16
Women's Walk #68, August 17-20

GATHERINGS & BOARD MEETING

Normandy UMC	2 nd Mon	7:15
Dayton Board	4 th Tues	7:00

CANDLELIGHT AND CLOSING

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

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING

This is an open invitation for all to come to this 45 minute training session before the next Gathering.

Date: February 13, 2006

Place: Normandy UMC, Room #214

Time: 6:30 PM

Come and learn the best methods put forth by the National Emmaus Board.

SHARE GROUP ORIENTATION

For new members of the community to get connected to a share group.

Date: February 13, 2006

Place: Normandy UMC, Chapel

Time: 6:30 PM

Pilgrim List Women's Walk #65

Lorrie Bowsher	Medway OH
Gloria Brown	Oakwood OH
Janet Brown	Bellefontaine OH
Janis Combs	Waynesville OH
Robin Cox	Bethel OH
Kathy DeWeese	Beavercreek OH
Tamala Disney	Cedarville OH
Sarah Fulton	Beavercreek OH
Laura Grodrian	Centerville OH
Jennifer Guthrie	Beavercreek OH
Sara Hall	Huber Heights OH
Brett Hause	Franklin OH
Debbie Hayes	Dayton OH
Deanna Hinds	Centerville OH
Sherry Holderbaum	Lebanon OH
Carolyn Jackson	Dayton OH
Georgia Johnson	Kettering OH
Melissa Jones	Springboro OH
Michele Krile	Bellbrook OH
Melinda Krouskop	Dayton OH
Monna McCormick	Centerville OH
Kristi McKinney	Dayton KY
Jennifer McVay-Dyche	Dayton OH
Marcia Metivier	New Lebanon OH
Cheryl Miller	Huber Heights OH
Linda Pelfrey	Dayton OH
Julie Pitman	Centerville OH
Carolyn Pulos	Beavercreek OH
Buffy Reisinger	Bethel OH
Lorie Risner	Christiansburg OH
Christine Rodden	Centerville OH
Dorothy Rodgers	Wyoming OH
Tina Siemens	Miamisburg OH
Melanie Simpson	Beavercreek OH
Melisha Smith	Centerville OH
Robin Van Hoose	Worthington OH
Amy Watkins	Kettering OH
Tamara Wischer	New Carlisle OH

Community Help Needed:

If you can type, and would be interested in helping to type the photo roster during Walk Weekends, please contact Jean Jarusiewicz at: pauljarus@aol.com

Team Roster for Women's Walk # 65

Peggy Arnott	ALD	Fourth Day
Beverly Barrett	ATL	
Sue Benner	TL	
Debbie Beres	ATL	
Cathy Bromley	ATL	
Jane Butcher	ATL	
Julie Caldwell	ATL	
Leroy Chambliss	ASDL	Sanctifying Grace
Becky Cobb	ATL	
Pam Dean	ATL	
Carol Dondero	PS	
Vicki Engel	TL	Changing Our World
Dave Evans	ASD	Justifying Grace
JoAnn Floyd	ALD	Body Of Christ
Lynn Galioto	TL	Grow Through Study
Denise Haws	MD	
Dar Hensley	SD	Means of Grace
Wendy Kline	LOG	
Susan Lehneis	PS	
Brandi Minch	TL	Life of Piety
Nancy Phillips	LD	Perseverance
Cheryl Russell	TL	Priesthood of all Believers
Maribeth Schierling	LOG	
Beth Shilt	AMD	
Cheri Spencer	TL	Christian Action
Dave Tackett	ASD	Obstacles to Grace
Mary Kay Thomas	ALD	Priority
Debbie Tope	LOG	
Missy Trumbull	BR	
Merle Walters	ASD	Prevenient Grace
Pam Wantz	TL	Discipleship

To All Sponsors, Pilgrims from MW#39, and Those who love our Lord,

Please mark your calendars for the Pilgrim Orientation which precedes the Feb. 13th Gathering at 6:30 in the Chapel at Normandy. It is so vital to bring these new members of the GDE Community to this meeting, because it is, without doubt, the very most efficient way to join in a Share Group. These groups are the backbone of Emmaus, and are so important for staying connected to all of us in fellowship, and more importantly, to Christ Jesus.

This will also be an opportunity for any other men who are looking for a Share Group. The networking there is a wonderful chance to find time, place and other seekers!

The next Orientation will be for all women, following WW#65 on March 13. In the Service of Christ our Lord, Joyce Zimmann, Good Shepherd

PASTOR'S CORNER

***Let us love one
another, for love
comes from God.
1 John 4: 7***

I once received a letter that began, "Dear Chaplain Evans, you are a (Censored!)". I won't offend you by repeating the name the author used, but...think of the back end of a horse. Ahem.

This was not the greeting I expected, given that most letters to chaplains usually were a lot more gracious than this greeting. I was struck with a mixture of annoyance and curiosity. I wondered what was on this person's mind. Re-mustering my savior faire I thought, "Hmmp! Is this the best insult you can come up with? But as I read the rest of the letter—only one line more—I was bugged. "You are unworthy to be called a chaplain. Signed, The Watcher".

I was really bugged. I could deal with the name calling (I'm a Homo sapiens, not an equus caballus) but this one-liner got under my skin. Not knowing who it was from made it worse. Somebody out there had less than a glowing opinion of me. For the rest of the day I fretted about it and couldn't figure out why I couldn't let it go. I decided I'd better consult God about it...finally.

I poured out my frustration to God. "Why would someone think this about me?" I anxiously worried to Him. The heavens were as brass. I didn't get a response. The next day I got an answer. Another employee told me that a mentally ill young man was angry about a situation in which I had gotten involved to get him help (which he hadn't appreciated) and several people had received "strange letters". This was a relief, actually. A sane person wouldn't write such things...at least I hoped not. Even though I now knew what had happened, I still found it difficult to shake what had become a prophetic utterance, albeit by a sadly unhinged oracle.

I find prayer journaling is useful when I am dealing with difficult life situations. So I began to write to God in prayer. I was reminded of something someone once told me—that the best way to deal with unwanted feelings is to embrace them. So, fearfully but courageously I wrote to God in prayer, "God, I feel unworthy to be called a chaplain". I didn't like writing it, but almost immediately more poured out. "I often fail to be gracious to angry people. I can't always think of what to say to sad people that doesn't sound like hackneyed, overused phrases. I wrote more about my failures and limitations. I finished with, "Indeed, I do feel unworthy to be called a chaplain."

And then a truth hit me. When people call us names or revile us, it only hurts when it meets an answering response from within us, as though someone has spoken our secret thoughts. The truth is none of us is fully competent, capable, and selfless. It's the basic truth that establishes the next truth that occurred to me: that God's grace is made perfect in our weakness, but only when we admit it. When we do, God can use us in powerful ways to touch people with His love. It doesn't happen when we think we are wonderful examples of Homo sapiens. God can only use our witness when we tell others what wonderful things God has done for us sinners and how he has save us from our sins. (Mark 5:19)

The wonderful thing is that God is gracious to people who admit they are unworthy. I wonder what else God is trying to tell us through people who don't say nice things to us?

Pastor Dave Evans

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Dayton OH 45459
www.daytonemmanus.org

***But God
demonstrates
His own love for
us in this: While
we were still
sinners, Christ
died for us.
Romans 5:8***

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