

Elizabethtown Emmaus Newsletter April 2002

Chairpersons Corner

Psalm 84:5 Blessed are those who's strength is in you who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. The candlelight for Walk 80 was one of those unbelievably wonderful services. As I sat watching the faces of the community as they came forward for communion I realized again how many roads or at least how many different points on the road we pilgrims are. There were faces that reflected the joy of knowing the Lord and being there in that place of worship. There were faces etched with the pain of circumstances (illness, relationship failures and grief), but the knowledge that they were not walking that road alone. There were a few faces that were in total peace - they were so very attuned to our Savior's love and were just enjoying the presence of God at that moment.

All are on the journey that leads to an intensely personal relationship with Jesus. One that Sunday I met 60 men and the next Sunday an equal number of women who had just begun their 4th day journey from Emmaus. Our challenge, Emmaus community, is to keep them on their journey through our continuous prayers and encouragement. If you sponsored one of these special Christians now is the time to make sure they are in a reunion group preferably with you but certainly one that will hold them accountable.

Sponsors, now is also the time to encourage the habit of attending gatherings. Our April gathering is at Memorial United Methodist Church on April 6, 2002 at 7pm and on May 4, 2002 we will be back at College Heights. Also, sponsors how are our newest Emmaus members doing on their journey in their home church? Are you encouraging them to grow in piety, study, action, and discipleship? Are they saying yes to God's will in their life and are you supporting them in prayer? There are so many

questions on this journey - which is why sponsorship is such an important job.

This fall we will guide more new pilgrims on the pilgrimage to Emmaus. Those future walks bring up new questions. Have you planned agape for the 3 Fall walks? Each walk will need approximately 120 pieces for table or bed agape and snack agape or special agape for the walks are always appreciated. Have you begun praying about people you wish to sponsor? Remember you are limited to 2 persons per walk per sponsoring household and the sooner your applications are sent to the registrar the greater the chance of acceptance to the fall walks. If you are sponsoring someone with whom you attend church you probably are aware of his or her commitment to the church and to their spouses commitment if applicable. But, if you are sponsoring a work friend or other acquaintance make sure you learn of their journey in their home church setting and of their spouse's journey. Lastly, have you sent in your volunteer sheet to work on the fall walks? It is such a blessing to work and the way to let a lay director know you are willing to serve is to get those volunteer sheets mailed.

Our last question for this month is a request. Will you pray for our community this month? We will be welcoming 120 or so new members and we want them to feel at home especially at gatherings. The first way we can make them feel welcome is to lift up their 4th days and our community's 4th days in prayer. The second way is to be prepared in May for fellowship following gathering. I ask each of you to bring a bowl or tray of snacks and a 2 liter drink to the MAY GATHERING. Our community will furnish plates, cups, etc. but we are counting on all of you to furnish the fun and fellowship.

As we sing at church some Sundays "I'll pray for you, You pray for me. And we are promised a miracle if in faith we agree." I'm in this pilgrimage with all of you and have no plans to stop traveling until I meet my Savior.

DeColores!

Yours on the journey, Bonnie

Emmaus on the WorldWideWeb

The Elizabethtown Emmaus Community website address will be in next month's newsletter so stay tuned so you can see us on *The Web*.

The following are some sites that might be of interest to those in our Emmaus Community: Southeast Region Homepage:

www.upperroom.org/emmaus/communities/southeast.html

For Walk applications for Chrysalis and Emmaus and volunteer sheets for Walks and Residents Encounter Christ (REC) go to www.public-finance.com/emmaus.htm. This site will give you access to Acrobat files that can be printed, filled out and sent in for walks, Chrysalis and REC's.

EMMAUS CALENDAR

APR 7 Gathering – 7:00 PM MUMC
MAY 4 Gathering – 7:00 PM CHUMC
JUN 1 Gathering – 7:00 PM CHUMC
MAY REC # 9 May 17 - 19
OCT 5 – 7 Chrysalis #30 Campground
OCT 10 – 13 Men's Walk #82
OCT 17 – 20 Women's Walk #83
OCT 24 – 27 Women's Walk #84

VOLUNTEER SHEETS NEEDED

If you are new to our community or a member for years and interested in working one of the fall walks, we need you to fill out and send in an updated team volunteer sheet. You can print the form from the website in the above article or see a board member at a gathering and get one. Due to the unwieldy number of outdated volunteer forms we have experienced in the past we are requesting that community members interested in working upcoming walks fill out and send in a new volunteer form each year. This way we have the most current information and the best chance of contacting interested team members.

INSPIRATIONS FROM THE EDITOR

I got this as usual from one of my dear brothers or sisters in cyber-space. We can all learn from this one....Enjoy!

The Parable of the Butterfly

Walking down a path through some woods, I saw a water puddle ahead on the path. I angled my direction to go around it on the part of the path that wasn't covered by water and mud. As I reached the puddle, I was suddenly attacked!

Yet, I did nothing, for the attack was so unpredictable and from a source so totally unexpected. I was startled as well as unhurt, despite having been struck four or five times already. I backed up a foot and my attacker stopped attacking me. Instead of attacking more, he hovered in the air on graceful butterfly wings in front of me. Had I been hurt I wouldn't have found it amusing, but I was unhurt, it was funny, and I was laughing. After all, I was being attacked by a butterfly!

Having stopped laughing, I took a step forward. My attacker rushed me again. He rammed me in the chest with his head and body, striking me over and over again with all his might, still to no avail. For a second time, I retreated a step while my attacker relented in his attack. Yet again, I tried moving forward. My attacker charged me again. I was rammed in the chest over and over again. I wasn't sure what to do other than to retreat a third time. After all, it's just not everyday that one is attacked by a butterfly.

This time, though, I stepped back several paces to look the situation over. My attacker moved back as well to land on the ground. That's when I discovered why my attacker was charging me only moments earlier. He had a mate and she was dying. She was beside the puddle where he landed. Sitting close beside her, he opened and closed his wings as if to fan her. I could only admire the love and courage of that butterfly in his concern for his mate. He had

taken it upon himself to attack me for his mate's sake, even though she was clearly dying and I was so large.

He did so just to give her those extra few precious moments of life, should I have been careless enough to step on her. Now I knew why and what he was fighting for. There was really only one option left for me. I carefully made my way around the puddle to the other side of the path, though it was only inches wide and extremely muddy.

His courage in attacking something thousands of times larger and heavier than himself just for his mate's safety justified it. I couldn't do anything other than reward him by walking on the more difficult side of the puddle. He had truly earned those moments to be with her, undisturbed. I left them in peace for those last few moments, cleaning the mud from my boots when I later reached my car.

Since then, I've always tried to remember the courage of that butterfly whenever I see huge obstacles facing me. I use that butterfly's courage as an inspiration and to remind myself that good and loving things are worth fighting for.

-Author unknown

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