

**Elizabethtown Emmaus
Newsletter
July 2002**

DeColores,

Blessed are those whose strength is in you. Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. Psalm 84:5 Well, how is your pilgrimage? I hope your journey with the Lord is joyous and rewarding. How did you do last month with planning your trip with God? Was it as much fun (but ultimately even more rewarding) as planning a vacation? I pray you are enjoying every minute of plotting a journey with God. My journey with God has taken me to a study on holiness - becoming like God. I was so relieved when the author verified that this was a pursuit requiring effort and hard work. She went on to say that a pursuit implies a lifelong task and that though it demands discipline it will reward one with a different life. A life lived closer and more like our heavenly Father. Journey, pursue, strive for, seek, and work toward holiness. Our challenge as believers is to become more holy every day. That of course seems to be the stumbling block in my pursuit - the consistency. Like so many of you I plan to work at holiness every day but like a few of you some days I only get so far as my morning conversation with God and my plea that He guide me that day to become more holy. He never fails but I often fail to feel his guidance and will in my life and that evening confess I spent more of the day in worldly pursuits than in Godly pursuits. However, the walk to Emmaus has given me hope. I have a plan to grow closer to my Lord and I have a spiritual mentor so I am not doing this alone and I know God is with me all along the way. Those talks are so full of tips and guides for this journey with our Lord that maybe we should revisit them sometimes. Remember "Priority"? Have you looked lately at how you are using your time, spending your money and what you are thinking about? Then there was that talk on "Priesthood". Have you been a priest lately? Remember you belong to a holy priesthood and have been called apart to be a bridge of grace

between God and a needful world. OK, so there are our first two lay talks from our walks - revisit those talks this month and see if they will enrich your journey and lead you to be more holy.

My prayers are for our journeys,

Bonnie

Notice: Just 4 months give or take a few weeks until our fall walks. Don't forget we will need agape for 3 Walks and Chrysalis. Mitzi Lynch, our Chrysalis Community Lay Director, says about 150 pieces for Chrysalis and 120 pieces for each of our Emmaus walks. Please keep the Lay Directors Sean Redding, Peggy Salmon, Randy Allen, Kim Strange and Collette Starks in prayer as they prepare their teams to do God's work this fall.

EMMAUS CALENDAR

JUL 6 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC
AUG 3 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC
SEP 7 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC
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

Inspirations from the Editor

I got this prayer from a dear brother in Christ. It is a blessing and inspiration please read and enjoy. God Bless – Ed.

Please take a moment to relax your mind and humble your heart to focus on Christ. Allow God, to be the only person on your mind while you read this prayer. Let us pray...

"Dear Lord,

I thank You for this day and for my being able to see and to hear today. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Please forgive me this day for everything I have done, said, or thought that was not pleasing to You. I ask now for Your forgiveness.

Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. I would ask You to please help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day; to clear my mind, so that I can hear You speaking to me. Let me continue to see sin through Your eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, help me see it that I may repent, and confess with my mouth my wrong doing, and receive Your forgiveness.

And when this world closes in on me, please help me to remember Jesus' example, to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits, but not beyond Your limits. I know that when I can't pray, Father, You listen to my heart. Please continue to use me to do Your Will. May I continue to be blessed, so that I may be a blessing to others.

Keep me strong, that I may help the weak. Keep me uplifted, that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way.

I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood, and for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who don't believe, but I thank You, Father, that I believe and know Your Son, Jesus Christ, as my Lord and Savior.

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I believe that You change people and change things.
I pray for all my Sisters and Brothers who have been
changed and have received Your Forgiveness; and
for each and every family member in their
households. I pray for Your Peace, Love, and Joy in
their homes.

I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no
problem, circumstance, or situation greater than
You, Father. Every battle we may face is in Your
hands, and we would praise You that the battle
belongs to the Lord.

I pray that these words be received into the hearts of
every eye that sees them and every mouth that
confesses them willingly."

This is my prayer.

In Jesus' Holy Name I pray, Amen.