

**Elizabethtown Emmaus
Newsletter
December 2002**

DeColores,

From the Chairperson

Psalm 84:5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

This newsletter is a bit of a bittersweet one since it is my last as the community chairperson. I will admit there have been months that writing it was a struggle and there have been months that God wrote it and I just applauded his faithfulness. However, in all of these monthly ramblings I have been trying to address subjects that would either increase the depths of your journey with our Lord or improve your journey within the Emmaus community. Some have been great successes and others have just filled space but in all your reading of them at least made you think about where your journey was going since your walk and since the last month. My journey is about to take a small change. For this next year I will have the pleasure of remaining on the Board of Directors and conducting the business of our community and that is a blessing. I will miss the joy of starting the Walks to Emmaus on Thursday nights in March and October and will miss the joy of officially welcoming new members at Sunday night closings. I won't however miss the send-offs or closings because in themselves they draw my heart continually closer to the Lord.

At this time I wish to thank all of you who have made this past year a blessing and there are a lot of you. Thank you to the Board of Directors who work diligently each month of the year and perform their assigned jobs without recognition or accolades.

Thank you to every member of the community who attended a gathering, served at a walk in any way or just greeted me in the Lord

throughout this past year. Thank you to all the special committees who selected Lay Directors for Walks 80 thru 86 and to the Team Advisory Committee that gave extra direction to those wonderful individuals. Thank you to each pilgrim over the past year who blessed me at their candlelight and closing.

A special thank you goes to Larry, my spouse, who covered for me at the pharmacy so I could do Emmaus business. He has been my support in so many ways and I could not have done this job nor enjoyed it nearly as much without his encouragement.

My journey like yours will have its narrow paths and its sunny meadows to traverse but each new segment is a joy if it gets my heart, mind and spirit closer to my Lord. My constant prayer is that your journey is fueled by worship, study and action and that your church is the recipient of your desire to serve the Lord. I look forward to traveling Walk 86 with a number of you and with the ladies that you will sponsor on that walk and I look forward to hearing of your journey at gatherings, candle-lights, reunion groups or whenever 2 or more of us gather.

Yours in the journey, Bonnie

Sponsors Wanted!

Sponsor, sponsor, sponsor! We have just finished walks 82,83 and 84 but already the registrar has opened the notebooks for walks 85 and 86. You might even consider sponsorship as a Christmas gift for some of those Christian friends who deserve a gift that keeps on giving. Can you imagine a better gift for someone who is working on walking closer with Christ? We have room for lots of special Christian men and women and we are counting on you to sponsor them on one of the events of their lives. If you need forms for candidates they are available at any gathering, at some of our local churches, on the web at www.etownemmaus.org – just click on the “forms” link and print one up, or at The Medicine Shoppe in Governor's Manor in Elizabethtown.

Our community will be better for all the new members you sponsor during the next years.

Also, A Note on Sponsorship

The *Fourth Day* book that many received at the end of their Emmaus walks also has a bit to say about being a sponsor. The key to a healthy Emmaus Community and a successful Walk is **sponsorship**. Remember these three keys:

1. Our sole purpose in recruiting Pilgrims should be the strengthening of our own congregations; **not** to get them saved or fix their emotional problems.
2. Each person is different. There are no expected results from the Walk other than experiencing God's love.
3. **Sponsorship requires a COMMITMENT;** before, during and after the Walk. Be prepared to disciple your Pilgrim during their Fourth Days.

Emmaus Calendar

DEC 7 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ MUMC

JAN 4 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC

FEB 1 – 7:p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC

FEB 15-17 2003 Chrysalis #31

MAR 13–16 2003 Men's Walk # 85

MAR 20–23 2003 Women's Walk # 86

CHUMC = College Heights United Methodist

MUMC = Memorial United Methodist Church

Inspirations from the editor

I got this some time ago and it was "right on time," – God's time. It blessed me indeed I pray it blesses you also – ed.

Your Hut Is Burning

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions. But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky.

The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him.

"How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers.

"We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

Moral: It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground -- it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer, try these on for size...

You say: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: "I'm too tired"

God says: I will give you rest (Matt 11:28-20)

You say: "Nobody really loves me"

God says: I love you (John 3:16 & John 13:34)

You say: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient (II Cor.12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: "I can't figure things out"

God says: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: "I can't do it"

God says: You can do all things (Phil 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able"

God says: I am able (II Cor.9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it"

God says: It will be worth it (Romans 8:28)

You say: "I can't forgive myself"

God says: I forgive you (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage."

God says: I will supply all your needs (Phil 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid"

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Tim. 1:7)

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"

God says: Cast all your cares on ME (I Peter 5:7)

You say: "I don't have enough faith"

God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith (Romans 12:3)

You say: "I'm not smart enough"

God says: I give you wisdom (I Cor 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Heb. 13:5)

There are some weeks when we all feel our huts are burning

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