

**Elizabethtown Emmaus
Newsletter
MARCH 2003**

DeColores,

From the Chairperson

We had another memorable Gathering in February. The Lord blessed us with an awesome music team leading us in worship and the Chrysalis team was dedicated to His glory. If you have not attended a Gathering recently, please join us on the first Saturday of the month for fellowship and worship. March is a special time as the community comes together to form teams, sponsor pilgrims and be witness to God's anointing of the Walks to Emmaus. The Lord works through so many during the Walks. We watch in awe as pilgrims come hesitantly on Thursday nights and are transformed by His Spirit over the weekends. For many pilgrims the acts of Christian love shown by the team and the community are truly where they see Jesus "up close and personal" for the first time in their lives. Please plan on being part of that experience through your presence, through your service and through your prayers.

Larry McKenzie and Bonnie Russell, the Walk Lay Directors for walks 85 & 86, are in the midst of team formations as this is written. A listing of team members for each walk has been placed on the web site at www.ETownEmmaus.org.

Please pray for the team members and all the members of the community who have been chosen by God to act as servants over the Walk weekend. Pray that God's will be done in all their acts of service.

Please pray for the pilgrims. They will be coming to the campground in anticipation, with excitement and with unease. Pray that God give them peace from all distractions as they begin their journey and walk with God on the weekend.

Pray that that all have good health and strength. Pray for a hedge of protection around all the activities of the weekend and thank God for all the blessings He has given us.

Your brother in Christ,
Ron Smith, Walk # 67, Table of John

Servers Not Eaters.

The Emmaus Board would like to remind those people who volunteer to serve meals during the Walk that they should not plan to eat the meal after serving. The kitchen prepares enough food for the team and the pilgrims. If servers eat the meal it is the kitchen that goes hungry and nobody wants to see the kitchen go hungry. So please, plan ahead, eat before you come to serve, or plan on eating at your favorite restaurant afterward.

Volunteer for Emmaus, Chrysalis and REC walks!

If you are interested in working on an Emmaus, Chrysalis or REC team you must fill out and send in a volunteer sheet. For the Emmaus Walks the volunteer sheets are held for three years. If you have not filled out a volunteer sheet within the last couple of years, you need to send in a new sheet. All the volunteer forms are available at the web site at www.ETownEmmaus.org – just click on the "forms" link and print the form on your printer.

Walk Campground Clean-Up Volunteers Needed!

We are asking for volunteers to assist the Agape team in the clean-up of the Campground on the Sunday afternoon from 2:00pm until the 5:00pm Closing of each Emmaus Walk. Sign-up sheets will be available at Send-Off of each walk. If you are unable to attend Send-Off and wish to participate in this act of agape, please come to the Campground at 2:00pm.

Emmaus Calendar

FEB 15-17 2003 Chrysalis #31
MAR 1 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC
MAR 13–16 2003 Men's Walk # 85
MAR 20–23 2003 Women's Walk # 86
APR 5 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ MUMC
MAY 3 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering @ CHUMC
CHUMC = College Heights United Methodist
MUMC = Memorial United Methodist Church

Inspirations from the editor

I got this some time ago and have tried to get it to fit on these pages a time or two before. This is truly a wonderful story and holds so much truth. I pray it blesses you as it did me – Enjoy- ed.

A Perfect Heart

One day a young man was standing in the middle of the town proclaiming that he had the most beautiful heart in the whole valley. A large crowd gathered and they all admired his heart for it was perfect. There was not a mark or a flaw in it.

Yes, they all agreed it truly was the most beautiful heart they had ever seen. The young man was very proud and boasted more loudly about his beautiful heart. Suddenly, an old man appeared at the front of the crowd and said, "Why your heart is not nearly as beautiful as mine."

The crowd and the young man looked at the old man's heart. It was beating strongly, but it was full of scars, it had places where pieces had been removed and other pieces put in, but they didn't fit quite right and there were several jagged edges. In fact, in some places there were deep gouges where whole pieces were missing.

The people stared - how can he say his heart is more beautiful, they thought? The young man looked at the old man's heart and saw its state and laughed. "You must be joking," he scoffed. "Compare your heart with mine, mine is perfect and yours is a mess of scars and tears."

"Yes," said the old man, "yours is perfect looking but I would never trade with you. You see, every scar represents a person to whom I have given my love. I tear out a piece of my heart and give it to them, and often they give me a piece of their heart which fits into the empty place in my heart, but because the pieces aren't exact, I have some rough edges, which I cherish, because they remind me of the love we shared." He went on, "Sometimes I have given pieces of my heart away, and the other person hasn't returned a piece of his heart

to me. These are the empty gouges - giving love is taking a chance. Although these gouges are painful, they stay open, reminding me of the love I have for these people too, and I hope someday they may return and fill the space I have waiting. So now do you see what true beauty is?"

The young man stood silently with tears running down his cheeks. He walked up to the old man, reached into his perfect young and beautiful heart, and ripped a piece out. He offered it to the old man with trembling hands.

The old man took his offering, placed it in his heart and then took a piece from his old scarred heart and placed it in the wound in the young man's heart. It fit, but not perfectly, and there were some jagged edges. The young man looked at his heart, not perfect anymore but more beautiful than ever, since love from the old man's heart flowed into his.

They embraced and walked away side by side.

Be blessed as you bless others.

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