

## Elizabethtown Emmaus Newsletter May 2003

DeColores,

### From the Chairperson

As I write this the April Gathering is still fresh in my mind. A few special moments stand out.

First was the invitation given by our music team led by Jon Urey for the teams and pilgrims of Walks 85 and 86 to come forward and sing their theme songs. Seeing these communities of faith arm in arm at the altar rail singing of God's glory was a blessing for all.

Second, were the testimonies of the new members of the community talking about their Fourth Days. Each testimony was an affirmation of the gospel message of God's love and an affirmation of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

A third moment was Brother Darland's message. Chuck's message reminded us of the background of the Passover meal and how Jesus used that meal to communicate His role as the Lamb of God to be sacrificed for our sins. And finally as that message was still fresh in our minds and we came to the Lord's Table we sang "It is well with my Soul":

*"My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul."*

Praise the Lord for the blessing of that evening. Thank you to the new members of the community who blessed us by your presence and thank you to the community for being faithful servants in the Lord's service.

As we enter May the Residents Encounter Christ (R.E.C.) team is in formation for the walk on the weekend of May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please raise Steve Cutter and his team up in prayer and join us at the May Gathering to dedicate the R.E.C. team. The May Gathering will be at College Heights United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please come and share in the blessings.

Our new walk lay directors are also in prayer over the selection of team members. Please raise up Mitzi Lynch and Scott Turner in prayer for wisdom and discernment as they begin the selection of the Chrysalis teams. Jim Murray, Wanda Jean Elliott and Angela Brown also covet your prayers as they begin the team selection process for the October Walks to Emmaus.

Your brother in Christ,

Ron Smith, Walk # 67, Table of John

### **NO MORE SECRETS!**

The Upper Room is communicating changes in the Walk to Emmaus model through its newsletter and training which will be offered at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The following is taken from the newsletter addresses the issue of "secrets".

"We want every sponsor and community member to answer every question asked by a pastor or a lay person. There was a time that we thought secrecy was essential in order to keep from "spoiling the surprises" like the personal agape letters or the candlelight service. Painful experience in the USA and around the world has taught us that this is not the case. In fact, more

harm has been caused by responses like "I cannot tell you but I know you will like it;" or "don't worry"; or, you are not supposed to anticipate." We have found that it is possible to answer every question and not "spoil" anything for the pilgrim. It is far better to respond to every question honestly and factually. This can be done *without telling every detail* of the Walk. Pilgrims can be told that there will be numerous talks given by both clergy and lay speakers, there will be special times of worship and letters of spiritual encouragement. If they ask about a candlelight service, it is appropriate to say that there is a candlelight service during the weekend. Why? Because it is true and because by the time they come to these events in the weekend, they will experience them in the unique and beautiful manner that God intends for them, within the context of a 72-hour prayer vigil and the sacrificial love of a community that is offering them unconditional love and acceptance."

### **Volunteer for Emmaus and Chrysalis walks!**

If you are interested in working on an Emmaus or Chrysalis teams you must fill out and send in a volunteer sheet. 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.etaownemmaus.org](http://www.etaownemmaus.org) – just click on the "forms" link and print the form on your printer.

### **Walk to Emmaus 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The Walk to Emmaus 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be taking place July 24-27, 2003 in Nashville. Please consider attending the Celebration. Information about the Celebration is available at each of the Gatherings and at the Upper Room web site [www.upperroom.org/emmaus/25th/](http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/25th/).

### **EMMAUS CALENDAR**

May 3 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering - CHUMC  
May 17 - 19 R.E.C. #9 Northpoint Tng. Ctr.  
June 7 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering - CHUMC  
July 5 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering - CHUMC  
July 24 - 27 Emmaus 25TH Anniversary Celebration  
Nashville TN

### **Inspirations from the Editor**

I got this from a Dear sister a while back. It touched and blessed me. Pay close attention to the last paragraph and enjoy - ed.

Heaven's Gate

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that his faithful dog had been dead for many years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. As he reached the wall, he saw a magnificent gate in the arch, and the street that led to the gate made from pure gold.

He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out, "Excuse me, where are we?"

"This is heaven, sir," the man answered.

"Wow! Would you happen to have some water? We have traveled far," the man said.

"Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up."

The man gestured, and the gate began to open. "Can my friend," gesturing toward his dog, "come in, too?" the traveler asked.

"I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets."

The man thought a moment, remembering all the years this dog remained loyal to him and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going. After another long walk he came to a plain dirt road, which led through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed.

There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book. "Excuse me!" he called to the reader. "Do you have any water? We have traveled far."

"Yes, sure, there's a faucet over there." The man pointed to a place that couldn't be seen from outside the gate. "Come on in and help yourself."

"How about my friend here?" the traveler gestured to his dog.

"There should be a bowl by the faucet; he is welcome to share." They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned faucet with a bowl beside it.

The traveler filled the bowl and took a long drink himself, and then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree waiting for them.

"What do you call this place?" the traveler asked.

"This is heaven," was the answer.

"Well, that's confusing," the traveler said. "The man down the road said that was heaven, too."

"Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell."

"Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?"

"No. We're just happy that they screen out the folks who'd leave their best friends behind in exchange for material things."

Remember who your true friends are! "A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words."