

## Elizabethtown Emmaus Newsletter June 2003

### From the Chairperson Decolores,

As we enter the month of June it is time again to prayerfully consider sponsoring someone you may know for Chrysalis or the Emmaus Walk. The Upper Room provides valuable advice to potential sponsors. Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the participants in Chrysalis and in the Walk to Emmaus, for the Chrysalis and Emmaus communities, and for the church. As an act of agape love, it is important that a sponsor:

One, pray for the participant's openness to God's call to discipleship. Sponsors should remember when considering a potential participant that the purpose of the Emmaus Walk is for spiritual renewal of existing church members to assist the Holy Spirit in growing more active members in the local church.

Two, make an appointment with the participant (or participating couple) to discuss his or her participation in Chrysalis or Emmaus. Invite the participant to take part in Chrysalis or Emmaus for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ. The sponsor should share his or her own faith; explain the basic purpose, elements, and follow-up dimensions of the Walk.

As was noted in the last newsletter, there are no secrets that can not be shared about the Walk with a potential candidate. "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.

Three, ask the participant to make a commitment by filling out a registration form. If the participant is married, the sponsor should speak with both partners and encourage an equal commitment by both spouses. Registration forms are available on the Elizabethtown Emmaus Community web site at [www.etonemmaus.org](http://www.etonemmaus.org) for both Chrysalis and the Emmaus Walk.

Four, support the participant's Walk through prayer and otherwise. The sponsor should also support the participant's family by house-sitting, baby-sitting, watering plants, picking up the mail, feeding pets, or just checking in with a spouse to see if any help or support is needed.

Five, encourage the participant in his/her continued journey and take the participant to Emmaus Gatherings and Reunion Groups after the Walk is completed.

Six, help the participant re-enter his or her church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.

Seven, help the participant sponsor others.

Please continue to lift Mitzi Lynch and Scott Turner to our Father in prayer for wisdom and discernment as they continue the selection of the Chrysalis teams. Jim Murray, Wanda Jean Elliott and Angela Brown also covet your prayers as they continue the team selection process for the October Walks to Emmaus.

Please plan on attending the June Gathering. It will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at College Heights United Methodist Church. In addition, please be aware that Gatherings will be held throughout the summer. Our July Gathering will be July 5<sup>th</sup> of the Fourth of July weekend.

Your brother in Christ,

Ron Smith, Walk # 67, Table of John

### 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.etonemmaus.org](http://www.etonemmaus.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

JUN 7 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering - CHUMC

JUL 5 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering – CHUMC  
JUL 24 – 27 Emmaus 25<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Nashville TN

AUG 2 @ 7:00p.m Gathering - CHUMC

## Inspirations from the Editor

Here is a little something I found and enjoyed. It brought into focus the more important and simpler things. I present it here only for your enjoyment. – ed.

### REMEMBER ME

Remember me, God?  
I come every day  
Just to talk with You, Lord,  
And to learn how to pray.

You make me feel welcome,  
You reach out Your hand,  
I need never explain  
For You understand.

I come to You frightened  
And burdened with care  
So lonely and lost  
And so filled with despair,

And suddenly, Lord,  
I'm no longer afraid,  
My burden is lighter  
And the dark shadows fade.

Oh, God, what a comfort  
To know that You care  
And to know when I seek You  
You will always be there

(Whatever happens to me today, let me react in a manner that is pleasing to You, God.)

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