

**Elizabethtown Emmaus
Newsletter
JULY 2003**

**From the Chairperson
Decolores,**

As some of you may know, my being the Lay Director of this community is an example of God's grace and a result of my wife getting out of the way and letting God smack me along side of the head (in a loving way). My wife, Donna, went on Walk #37 and I went on Walk #67 – evidence enough that I was not receptive to going on the Walk for a long time. Donna prayed for seven years that God would bring me closer to Him and His word. When I finally agreed to go on the Walk I did it with reluctance. My walk was great, I enjoyed the talks and the special services and at Closing I told the community that Donna had been right and I should have gone on the Walk sooner. But I left the Walk and within the week I felt that something was missing. I had experienced Christian fellowship at my table in a way that I had never experienced it before. What had been superficial in the past I now knew could have great value. Donna encouraged me to join a reunion group but that old resistance started to reemerge. If it had not been for a member of the community that I barely knew (one of those God things) who invited me to Reunion group I would have missed out on the part of Emmaus that is one of the "great treasures" of Emmaus.

The Day Four book puts it so well – we learned on the Walk that we cannot achieve a Christian life on our own – we must have the right kind of support and fellowship to accomplish it. Every Thursday morning I now get up earlier than normal to meet with my reunion group and now, nearly four years after my Walk, I still go, looking forward to the sharing and fellowship with men with whom I can share my love of

Christ. I can not tell you how much my Reunion Group means to me.

If you are not in a Reunion Group or a similar type of group in your church please consider starting a group on your own or joining an existing group. If you are in a Reunion Group and know members of the community who are "between" groups, encourage them to join one. Remember also that Reunion Groups are not just for members of the Emmaus Community. If you believe someone is a candidate for the Walk consider inviting them to attend your group. Two members of our Reunion Group attended the group for months before they went on the Walk – they were able to tell members of their tables how much they enjoyed the Group Reunion when they were still on their Walks!

For those of you that have recently come off the Walk and are not involved in a Reunion Group please take a look at the Elizabethtown Emmaus web site at www.etownemmaus.org. It lists almost all the active groups within our community. If those groups do not fit into your schedule, start one at a time that does.

Your brother in Christ,

Ron Smith, Walk # 67, Table of John

Can you believe it – it's July!!

Only three months to go for Chrysalis and the Fall Emmaus Walks!

To celebrate the Fourth of July as a community we are having a July 5th Gathering at College Heights United Methodist Church. Come and join us at 7:00pm for worship!

Prayer Requests for Lay Leaders

Please continue to raise up Mitzi Lynch and Scott Turner 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.

**Walk to Emmaus 25th Anniversary
Celebration**

The Walk to Emmaus 25th 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/.

EMMAUS CALENDAR

JUL 5 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering - CHUMC

JUL 24 – 27 Emmaus 25TH Anniversary Celebration
Nashville TN

AUG 2 @ 7:00p.m Gathering – CHUMC

SEP 6 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering – CHUMC

Inspirations from the Editor

I get a Devotion every day and this was in today's. It touched my heart and I pray it will touch yours also. Enjoy & GBYA – ed.

RANSOMED BY BLOOD"

Before the Father,
because of the Son,
I am forgiven,
for all that I've done.

My earthly endeavors,
for flesh and for sin,
no longer a hindrance,
God's Grace tumbles in.

A babe in Christ,
I crawl on my knees,
ransomed by blood,
I struggle to please.

My master, my servant,
the great "I AM"
I promise to serve Him,
any way that I can.

My time on this Earth,
measured in years,
Jesus answers my questions,
calms all my fears.

He takes me in hand,
and shows me the way,
I study His teachings,
learning more each new day.

Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit,
help me spread Good News,
to all who will hear it.

Let me stand firm,
for all to see,
so faced off with evil,
evil will flee.