

**Elizabethtown Emmaus  
Newsletter  
August 2003**

**From the Chairperson  
Decolores,**

As I write this I am sitting in a hotel room outside of Chicago. I am here because I am, at the tender age of 49, a graduate student working on a Masters degree in Biblical and Theological Studies. I am here, as I told you in the last newsletter, because of my wife Donna. It has to be her fault (and God's) because there is no way I should be here. Until my Emmaus Walk I didn't care about reading God's word. In fact, the only Bible I owned was my old King James Version that my parents bought me when I was very young. I didn't even know where it was but I was sure it was covered in dust.

What happened to me? All I know is that I was wandering a Barnes and Noble in San Diego three weeks after I went on my Walk and I found myself in the Religion section of the book store. All of a sudden I had this strong urge to read a Bible. I walked out of the store an hour later with a new NIV and a book titled "The Idiot's Guide to the Bible". I spent the night reading "The Idiot's Guide". By the end of the evening I was hooked on the Bible. I started buying commentaries of the Bible for leisure reading. My wife thought I was nuts. She liked the idea I loved reading Christian material, but she thought reading commentaries for fun was odd. I told her it was her fault after she confessed to praying for seven years that I be brought closer to God and His word.

I love studying the Bible. I love teaching the Bible. And it's all because God used the Walk to Emmaus to renew me spiritually in a way that goes way beyond any understanding. I am not unique. Each of us has a story. Each of us can attest to God using the Walk to Emmaus as a vehicle to touch our lives and to bring us closer to Him. That is what the Walk to Emmaus was designed for, to be a vehicle for spiritual renewal.

Unfortunately the Walk to Emmaus has been used, at times, outside its intended purposes and the

consequences have been hurtful and at times tragic. As we move closer to the October Walks it is important to remember that God uses the Walk to Emmaus, we are not to use the Walk to Emmaus for our own purposes. We are to be His servants. If you are working a Walk, being a servant means that you approach formations and the weekend itself with a servant's heart. It means that you leave your expectations at the door and submit to Walk leadership with a joyful heart.

If you come out to the campground to serve a meal, being a servant means you serve the meal as directed by the dining room coordinator, you stay to clean up and to reset the dining room. And it means you don't come expecting to eat.

If you are a member of the community, being a servant means you leave your agendas at the door. Emmaus has no secrets. We must insure that our candidates are informed of the true nature of the Walk and that candidates are not sent in hopes of a salvation experience.

My prayer is that as the October Walks draw near, that each of us will prepare our hearts in service to the Lord, that we will ask God that His will, not ours, be done and that we ask that we be seen as the ultimate servant, our Lord Jesus Christ, by the pilgrims with which we have been entrusted.

Team formations will begin shortly. Please continue to lift up Mitzi Lynch and Scott Turner in prayer as they prepare their teams for Chrysalis. Jim Murray, Wanda Jean Elliott and Angela Brown are in final stages of preparing for formations and they also covet your prayers. And please raise up to God all the sponsors that are working with candidates or potential candidates for the fall Walks.

Your brother in Christ,

Ron Smith, Walk # 67, Table of John

## **EMMAUS CALENDAR**

JUL 24 – 27 Emmaus 25<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Nashville TN

AUG 2 @ 7:00p.m. Gathering – CHUMC  
SEP 6 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering – CHUMC  
OCT 4 @ 9:0 a.m. Chrysalis 32 Sendoff – Campground  
OCT 4 @ 7:00 p.m. Gathering – CHUMC  
OCT 5 @ 8:00 p.m. Chrysalis 32 Candlelight MUMC  
OCT 6 @ 5:00 p.m. Chrysalis Closing Grace Heartland  
OCT 9 @ 7:00 p.m. Walk #87 Sendoff Campground  
OCT 11 @ 8:00 p.m. Walk #87 Candlelight MUMC  
OCT 12 @ 5:00 :p.m. Walk #87 Closing Campground  
OCT 16 @ 7:00 p.m. Walk #88 Sendoff Campground  
OCT 18 @ 8:00 p.m. Walk #88 Candlelight MUMC  
OCT 19 @ 5:00 :p.m. Walk #88 Closing Campground  
OCT 23 @ 7:00 p.m. Walk #89 Sendoff Campground  
OCT 25 @ 8:00 p.m. Walk #89 Candlelight MUMC  
OCT 26 @ 5:00 :p.m. Walk #89 Closing Campground

## **Agape Needed**

Dear Emmaus Brothers and Sisters, as an Emmaus community we need to support each other and every walk that takes place within our community. We can all do this by providing Agape for both Chrysalis and Emmaus walks. Anybody can do it, and we all need to do our parts so each caterpillar and pilgrim feels the true unselfish Christ-like love that we all felt on our walks. For the Chrysalis, which is almost always in need of Agape – Table, Bed and snack (if you can imagine that!?!). We fall short; it seems at times to provide this love to our younger members. For a Chrysalis please provide 150 pieces of agape. For men's and women's walks 100 pieces of agape is enough. Thank you for your love and support in this effort.

## **Inspirations from the Editor**

I got this in my e-mail just the other day. It really opened my eyes and my heart. I pray it does the same for you – look to Him and keep walking – ed.

### **STILL HE WALKED**

He could hear the crowds screaming "crucify"  
"crucify"... He could hear the hatred in their voices,  
These were his chosen people. He loved them, and  
they were going to crucify him. He was beaten,  
bleeding and weakened... his heart was broken,  
But still He walked.

He could see the crowd as he came from the palace. He  
knew each of the faces so well. He had created them.  
He knew every smile, laugh, and shed tear, But now  
they were contorted with rage and anger...his heart  
broke,

But still He walked.

Was he scared? You and I would have been, so his  
humanness would have mandated that he was. He felt  
alone. His disciples had left, denied and even betrayed  
him. He searched the crowd for a loving face and he  
saw very few. Then he turned his eyes to the only one  
that mattered and he knew that he would never be  
alone. He looked back at the crowd, at the people who  
were spitting at him, throwing rocks at him and  
mocking him and he knew that because of him, they  
would never be alone.

So for them, He walked.

The sounds of the hammer striking the spikes echoed  
through the crowd. The sounds of his cries echoed  
even louder. The cheers of the crowd as his hands and  
feet were nailed to the cross intensified with each blow.  
Loudest of all was the still small voice inside His heart  
that whispered "I am with you, my son", and God's  
heart broke.

He had let his son walk.

Jesus could have asked God to end his suffering, but  
instead he asked God to forgive. Not to forgive him,  
but to forgive the ones who were persecuting him. As  
he hung on that cross, dying an unimaginable death, He  
looked out and saw, not only the faces in the crowd, but  
also, the face of every person yet to be, and his heart  
filled with love. As his body was dying, his heart was  
alive. Alive with the limitless, unconditional love he  
feels for each of us.

That is why He walked.

When I forget how much My God loves me, I  
remember his walk.

When I wonder if I can be forgiven, I remember his  
walk.

When I need reminded of how to live like Christ, I  
think of his walk.

And to show him how much I love him, I wake up each  
morning, turn my eyes to him,

And I walk.

Elizabethtown EMMAUS Community  
P.O. BOX 2070  
Elizabethtown, KY 42702  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED