



Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

January 2004

A New Year....a time of new beginnings. From the Community Lay Director

We often consider and make new resolutions to better ourselves as part of a new year.

God recognized a need for people to have a sense of a 'new beginning' at times. This is reflected in the Old Testament as each week ended with the Sabbath and the day after the Sabbath was the beginning of a new week. He provided a Jubilee year in which all inheritances were restored, all slaves freed and a new beginning obtained. God commanded a yearly Day of Atonement in which one could 'start over again' freed from sin until the next year.

Christ offers the ultimate new beginning.

From Galatians 6: 3-10 we get a guide in making and keeping New Year's Resolutions.

Don't deceive ourselves. Be realistic. *From Verse 3*

Set resolutions requiring our best without comparison to others. *From Verse 4*

Don't blame others if resolutions aren't completed. *From Verse 5*

Let us who are taught share our good things with those who teach us. *From Verse 6*

Recognize that what we sow, we will reap. *From Verse 7 & 8*

Don't become discouraged and lose heart. *From Verse 9*

Prayerfully identify resolutions of benefit to others. *From Verse 10*

What do you think--does God want us to have a new beginning and make a difference this year?

If your New Year's resolutions are like many, they may have already come and gone or perhaps you didn't set any! Start over, using and relying on God's plan for new beginnings.

My plan for being the new Community Lay Director for 2004 is to rely more fully on God, deepening my personal relationship with him. In my strength, this job is well beyond me. In God's strength, we can have a wonderful year advancing the Lord's work within our community.

Rolen Burnette TRWE Walk #27 Table of Abraham

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

1. To all Community members--Please read the SPONSORSHIP ARTICLE on page 6.
2. We are continuing the practice of identifying the "makers/givers" of agape as we have done in the past.

IMPORTANT DATES

GATHERINGS
February 13, March 26, April 16, 2004

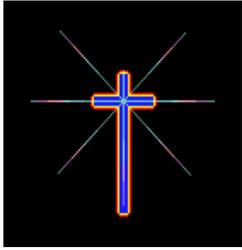
SPRING WALKS 2004
Men's Walk March 11-14, 2004
Women's Walk March 18-21, 2004

FALL WALKS 2004
Men's Walk November 4-7, 2004
Women's Walk November 11-14, 2004

To renew your subscription, please mail a check made to the order of TRWE for \$8 per year to Lynne Johnson 251 Portman Lane Bridgeville, PA. 15017 Questions?? 412-257-2727

From Your Spiritual Director

As we begin a new year we have an opportunity to reflect on the previous year and think about what we have done and what we have left undone. But more importantly we have the opportunity to decide what we will do in the coming year.



all

Now I know that we make New Year's resolutions and if you are like I am, they might last the

first week of the New Year. So

my thought for this year is to make a plan of at least one thing I intend to do and then do it.

One of the things I intend to do is sponsor at least two pilgrims on each walk. Is it possible that you too might be able to sponsor someone? Or if that isn't possible maybe you could volunteer to be a Thursday or Sunday Angel for the walks and help set up or take down! Our community works because we have many dedicated people and we continually need more people to become involved and enjoy the fun of fellowship and friendship as we work together.

My prayer for this year is that we all enjoy the Emmaus movement and the fellowship we find with one another. **DeColores, Barb Moore**

Outgoing Community Lay Director

And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Matthew 14:33

John Ortberg wrote the book *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. In the last chapter he states:

When human beings get out of the boat, they are never quite the same. Their worship is never quite the same. Their world is never quite the same. Whatever the results, whether they sink or swim, something will have changed.

This is true for you. From this point on, for the rest of your life, every time you walk on the water, each time you trust God and seek to discern and obey his calling on your life, your God will get bigger, and your worship will grow deeper, richer, and stronger.

That is because Jesus is not finished yet.

In the January 2003 newsletter I invited you to join me on the water so that we as individuals and as a community could experience the power and presence of God as we worked to serve Him.

My prayer is that the above words by Ortberg might be ones to which you can relate – that your God has been made bigger, that your worship has grown deeper and richer because of the experiences in the TRWE Community this past year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Him through serving you. **DeColores!**

Lill Griffith TRWE #28 Table of Sarah



The Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus extends a very warm THANK YOU to Dave Claypool, Olivia Graham, Jack Gusew, and Betty Scott for their years of service on the Board of Directors. They spent many hours working for the glory of God through their tireless efforts and attitude of servanthood in their service to our community and the Walks. They exercised good stewardship of our resources at all times.

The TRWE MEMORIAL FUND was created to support ongoing TRWE projects (e.g. Music books, banner poles, team books, board books, and other items deemed necessary by the Board). Many of the members felt the need to recognize loved ones in a tangible manner. If you would like to make a donation to that fund, please make your check payable to TRWE with MEMORIAL FUND in the memo, place it in an envelope labeled **"In memory of..." "From"** and give or send it to Mike Wild 1605 Shadow Ridge Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed a happy and safe Christmas Season. Now that we have entered into a New Year and the holiday hustle and bustle has ended, don't let those winter blues get you down! Now is the time to start thinking about Walks #49 and 50. What can you do to help make these Walks as successful as your walk was? As you know, these walks would not be possible if it weren't for people like you.

Once again, I am asking for Fourth Day Help to serve meals. On Friday and Saturday we need people for breakfast,



lunch, and dinner. On Sunday helpers are needed for breakfast and lunch.

I also need people to bake. We need Plum Cake, gingerbread, brownies and homemade cookies (peanut butter



chocolate chip, oatmeal, molasses, and sugar).

We need bathroom angels. There are three bathrooms in the cabins, and the restrooms in the



spots for helpers every morning to clean the Conference Room and the dining hall area.

The last but most important place is the 72 Hour Prayer Vigil. You can sign the clipboards at Gatherings or visit www.trwe.org. Just click on the Prayer Vigil that you want (Men's, Women's or visit both). Choose the time that you want, click on "sign up" and follow the directions. It's that simple.



Jesus is the reason for the season (Christmas), which we just enjoyed. Let's now start thinking about how we can make God's Walks' 49 and 50 a complete success. WE NEED YOUR HELP! May God the Father bless you now and always.

DeColores John Turnbull, Community Fourth Day Coordinator

TRWE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Three Rivers Emmaus Community has scholarships available for Pilgrims and for Team Members. The Board has set the policy that each person applying for a scholarship must pay the \$25.00 registration fee and then we would like them to pay 1/2 of the balance if possible.

Knowing that there are always extenuating circumstances we are always willing to provide the balance for any Pilgrim or Team Member. The decision is left to the Community Spiritual Director.

If you need a scholarship for a Pilgrim or Team Member please contact:

Barbara J. Moore – pbixoye@yahoo.com or 724-654-3390.

To all our friends at Emmaus,
We thank the Three Rivers Emmaus community for such an amazing outpouring of compassion and support after our tragic loss. Thanks for letting God's love shine so brightly and so warmly and know that His presence was felt by more than just us. Naturally, other's lives can't help but be changed when they get to encounter God's love in such a personal way. We are thankful for each and every act of kindness that we received and especially for all the prayers! And, we were thankful for the opportunity to be around so many of you during the Fall Walks. DeColores!
Mike and Heidi Varner (TRWE #43 & 44) and Christopher Amodeo (NEOC Flight #19

To the Emmaus Community, We are most grateful for the many cards, phone calls, prayers, and concern extended to us during our time of grief and sadness. It was and still is very comforting to know that a whole community of God's people cares, especially when one needs it the most. We thank you. Lynne Johnson, Kellie and Mike Wild



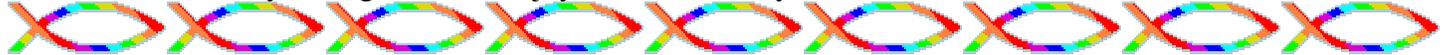
Contributions to the Three Rivers Memorial Fund were made in memory of Mike Varner Jr. and Kathryn B. Johnson.

DeColores

Fourth Day Corner

There was urgency in my approach to my fourth days following the incredible experience of God's love offered to me through the agency of the Emmaus community. My epiphany was understanding more deeply that we Christians are indeed the body of Christ here on earth. It is up to us to represent Him to the world, to show the world how He loves each and every one of us. I wanted to do SOMETHING!! That's my typical experience: huge reaction and desire to act followed by inevitable letdown.

But this time, the letdown was followed by insight and joy. I belong to a Covenant Discipleship Group at my church, which is much like a reunion group, so I was already committed to devotions, worship, action, study. My personal study led me to readings that brought home to me again and again that God loves me just the way I am. He made me to be exactly who I am with all my faults and weaknesses, my skills and talents, my quirks, my dreams, my interests. He wants to and does use me just as I am. We can't all do SOMETHING, but we are all called to fulfill the specific purpose for which we were created. I learned that the desires of my heart are also God's desires for me. My desires (which I never felt were worthy) have always been to perform - sing, act, tell stories, make music. Since the Walk last April, I have joined my church's drama team, taken acting lessons, and begun playing the guitar again for the first time in 30 years. I've been asked to serve on the music team for the women's walk this spring. God has placed these opportunities in my path in ways that they could not be overlooked. I finally believe Him. And it has made me happier in all the other parts of my life. Not the result I expected from the Walk to Emmaus, but how grateful I am to be asked to serve in ways that give me such joy. **DeColores Joyce Miller TRWE #46 Table of Elizabeth**



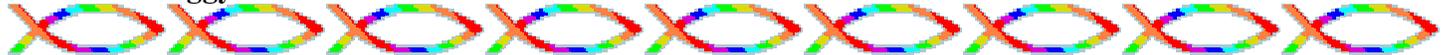
Walking Billboard

I have become a Fourth Day "walking billboard" advertising my love for the Lord by the glow on my face. I went on the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus # 38 and kept right on walking into a Fourth Day of wonderful new experiences. What a delightful reward it had been to be surrounded by others on the Walk who also love the Lord. At a certain point while on the Walk I started "smiling". I couldn't stop smiling. The Lord had blessed me with an inner glow that continued on into the Fourth Day. Confusion and problems seemed to dissipate into thin air, and I was now on a mission for the Lord. There can be no greater feeling than knowing your life is on the right path.

It was as I walked into the Fourth Day with the Lord close at my side that I came to the realization that all of us who care to be are the "Lord's Billboards". It is true that our faces are not posted on billboards along the road. They do not have to be. Yet, our faces and our actions speak louder than any billboard could. Our faces reflect whether or not there is a light of Jesus shining within us, and with His light we become "walking billboards".

After being on a Walk to Emmaus, I could almost hear the Lord saying to me, "You are my walking billboard." Wow! If I am the Lord's walking billboard then I must be careful how I act. People can read me. They are always looking at me. I would hope that they could see by the smile on my face that I love the Lord.

How nice it is that after being on a Walk you will not enter the Fourth Day alone. There are many other billboard faces to be found at Gatherings and Reunions. You, too, can become a "walking billboard" for the Lord. **DeColores Peggy Strain TRWE # 38 Table of Ruth**



In thinking of my Fourth Days what immediately comes to mind is how important it is to keep your focus in His Word -- not your own -- and on His plan -- not yours. God's love and grace and mercy overwhelm me. (Oh, how I love you, my Father and my Lord!) You see, last year had me down on my knees in sorrow, despair and worry. Having been part of the church my entire life I knew to turn to the Lord and to give thanks in "all" things, even that which you don't understand. How faithful He is! His promises are kept over and over. It's not about me. It is all about Him.

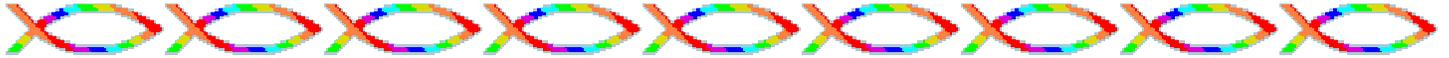
Somewhere along the line in these fourth days of mine that light bulb went off. Everything I had been schooled on or heard of or believed about God became real for me, not just imagined.

For me, this past year has also been one of great spiritual growth. Through my suffering I felt, and continue to feel, His Holy Spirit within me, and it is a constant support and comfort. I live my life for Jesus now, not for me. My way matters not. His way leads me closer to my true home. So you can count on the fact that I'm spending my

fourth days working for Jesus, sharing His promises, keeping my heart wide open to God's purpose for my life. I'm working my way back to you, Lord (Hmm. Wasn't that a song way back when?).

I want to be the best wife my husband could have. A Godly wife. I want to be the best mother my children could have. A Godly mother. However, first and foremost, I want to be God's humble and ever faithful servant.

DeColores! **Luann Walton TRWE #42 Table of Esther**



Hockey is Life; Christ is Eternity!



Hockey? Christianity? At the worst, some might see these as complete opposites. Or perhaps more often, folks would just not see any connection at all. But for those who know hockey and know Christ -- well, they know better! Of course there is a connection! And with the grace of God, that connection will come into focus for up to 100 youth hockey players this summer in the North Hills, as Hockey Ministries International sponsors its first Christian Hockey Camp at the Warrendale

Bladerunners.

Last summer, a group of Christian parents from a local youth hockey team began a search for a Christian hockey camp for their players. They found several camps – but for older kids – and the camps were several hours away. So they began to trade emails and to pray about the possibilities of creating the right camp for younger players right here in Pittsburgh. In the early fall, they connected with Hockey Ministries International – a non-profit ministry to connect hockey players, coaches and parents with Christ. HMI has existed for 27 years, and last year ran 27 camps across the world.

With the help and support of HMI, the original group of parents (now the “planning board”!), has created a unique Christian experience for the young hockey players of Western Pennsylvania. The Pittsburgh Christian Hockey Camp is focused on hockey players age 6 to 13. The camp will take place July 26 through July 30, 2004. There is room for nearly 100 players. The camp is primarily a day camp, with one overnight stay per age group (the players will be divided into three age groups). The camp will feature 3 hours of ice time per day, coached by professional, trained Christian coaches – some of whom will be former NHL and NCAA players. Off-ice activities will occur at the Family Retreat Center in Warrendale (a 5 minute ride from the rink) and will include arts & crafts, canoeing, hiking, other sports, bonfires, etc. And of course there will be a full spiritual program throughout, including prayer, devotion time, small group discussions, worship and witness from positive Christian mentors.

The Emmaus community can help this camp in several ways. The camp needs churches to pray for, and perhaps even financially support the camp. They also accept tax-deductible private and corporate donations. In fact, to date they have received almost \$10,000 in corporate sponsorships.

Counselors are also needed. Counselors should be age 15 and up, be practicing Christians and be able to donate their time to the camp. Several churches are considering donating a summer intern or seminarian to the camp to act as a counselor for the week. The counselors do not have to know or play hockey.

And of course, campers are needed! The camp is filling quickly, so if you know youth hockey players who are interested, please have them contact the camp hotline right away.

Here is the key information for the camp.

Date: July 26 through July 30

Location: Warrendale Bladerunners/Family Retreat Center

Price: \$299 per camper, including meals

Camp Hotline (for more information): 724-444-4427

Emmaus Community Contacts: Scott Robinette or Joe Pajer

HMI Website: <http://www.gospelcom.net/hmi/>

Everyone has heard the joke: “I went to a boxing match and a hockey game broke out!” Well, with God’s help this summer, you might just hear about “some kids who went to a hockey camp and a worship service broke out!” Please keep this camp and the campers in your prayers – and remember the motto of the camp: “Hockey is life; Christ is Eternity.”



Sponsorship – The most important job of all

The Walk to Emmaus is a wonderful renewing spiritual experience, which is made possible through the faithful efforts of sponsors who would like to share the joy that came from their weekend experience.

The strength of any Emmaus Community is a direct result of that community's sponsoring practices. The whole experience of a pilgrim is impacted by how they first hear about a Walk to Emmaus and how they experience the agape acts that bring them to register for and ultimately attend an Emmaus weekend.

Recruiting

The purpose of an Emmaus walk is to equip Christian disciples who will help change the world. It is designed for spiritual renewal, for learning and sharing in an atmosphere of ecumenical Christian community. Understanding the central purpose of the Walk to Emmaus will help you as you select candidates you wish to sponsor. Keep in mind that a walk is not intended to be a converting experience but rather a confirming/reaffirming time.

Ten Steps of Sponsorship

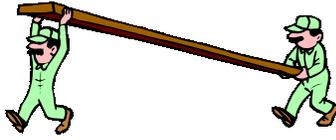
- 1) Pray – Your prayers should focus on how God's kingdom can become a greater reality in your candidate's lives (not how you can persuade them to attend a weekend).
- 2) Make an appointment – In the case of a married couple, be sure to talk with both husband and wife. Explain the Emmaus program, including events of the weekend and also the ongoing nature of Emmaus through group reunions and community gatherings. You will want to mention the singing, times of fun and worship, and the talks on Christian life.
- 3) Extend the invitation – This is an invitation to a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just to a weekend event.
- 4) Seek a commitment – Accept their commitment by having them fill out the registration form in your presence. Complete the sponsor's section on the back including the signature of the candidate's pastor, then return the registration forms and deposit to the community registrar, Peg Nicholas.
- 5) Continue to pray, prepare agape, enlist pastoral support – Your job is just beginning. Stay in touch, be available to answer questions, collect Agape letters, speak to candidate's pastor to ask for support through prayers.
- 6) Support the walk – You will want to provide transportation, plan to arrive before 7:00 pm. You may wish to provide supper before arriving. Help your candidate through registration, carry luggage to their sleeping quarters and familiarize them with the facilities. Attend sponsor's hour to support your candidate in prayer or have someone to fill in for you if you are on team. Remember, minimal contact during the walk, if you should encounter them while serving. You have a responsibility to your pilgrim's family as well – call them to see if they need help during your candidate's absence. Show support by participating in the prayer vigil, attending Candlelight, and Closing. These things are a witness to the love of God through Christian community. Following Closing, you are responsible to help gather your candidate's belongings and transport them home. Invite them to attend the upcoming Mini-Gathering or Community Gathering with you.
- 7) Keep in contact, help pilgrim on their Fourth Day – Soon after the walk, ask how their Fourth Day is going. Give them a chance to talk – be a good listener. Get them off to the right start by taking them to the first gathering or two and help them to find and join a reunion group.
- 8) Help your pilgrim re-enter their church – Help them to properly channel their newfound enthusiasm about being a disciple.
- 9) Help your pilgrim serve the Emmaus community – They may want to sign up for the 72-hour prayer vigil, make agape gifts, or offer fourth-day service for the next set of walks. Encourage them to fill out the Fourth Day Participation Sheet they received in their Sunday packets.
- 10) Help your pilgrim to sponsor others – Sponsoring comes full circle when you help the person you sponsored sponsor their first pilgrims. Help them with the Ten Steps of Sponsorship the first time through.

Yes, sponsoring comes with a great deal of responsibility; you need to be sure that you are prepared before you begin the process. Sponsorship also has great rewards. You can share God's love with people you know by sponsoring them for an Emmaus weekend.

BOARD NEWS!

At the December 2003 Board meeting the following people were elected to be officers of the Board for 2004:

Lay Director	Rolen Burnette	Asst Lay Director	Bonnie Wiegand
Secretary	Mary Sickles	Treasurer	Mike Wild



Coordinators for 2004 are:

Agape	Jamie Zacour	Communications	Lynne Johnson
Facilities	Scott Robinette	Fellowship	Linda Claypool
Fourth Day	John Turnbull	Kitchen	Glenn Brooks
Music	Lori Slagle	Outreach	John Phillips
Purchasing	Lill Griffith	Registration	Peggy Nicholas, ex-officio
Reunion	Ed Young	Spiritual Director	Barb Moore



PRAYER CHAIN If you have a joy or concern that you would like lifted in prayer by the Emmaus Community, please email your request to botrwe@aol.com.

Do you know someone who would like to go on the Walk To Emmaus? Contact Peg Nicholas at PJNich@bellatlantic.net or 412-264-3458.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE WALKS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.TRWE.ORG



Attention musicians!!

I am humbled by the amount of musical gifts that God has bestowed on this community. At January's Gathering we started a new program using **YOUR** musical talents. Please consider volunteering your talents to the community. If you would like to coordinate the music for the next Gathering, (February 13), or any future gatherings please contact me by phone @ 724-772-1705, or by e-mail @ LJSSING@ZOOMINTERNET.NET. I look forward to hearing from you. Again, Thanks In His Love, Lori Slagle Music Coordinator

WHAT'S YOUR PASSION!!

Would you be willing to share your passion for Christ with the Community as a Fourth Day Speaker at Gatherings in 2004? There is also a need for people to take responsibility for the refreshments served after Gatherings. This responsibility includes setting up and tearing down for one Gathering. Please contact Linda Claypool at 724-443-5627 or angel_lady48@hotmail.com. (Yes that is an underline after angel.)

We are starting an Emmaus Reunion group for people who live East of Pittsburgh. If you are interested it will be the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7:30 at the Union Methodist Church of East McKeesport. It will include people from the McKeesport, East McKeesport, East Pittsburgh, North Huntingdon as well as Penn Township areas and anywhere in between. If all goes well our hope is that this group can stay together or break out into smaller more local groups. For more information you can contact us at bandbwiegand@AOL.com or 412-824-4061.

Also if you know anyone else in our area who might be interested, could you help spread the word. Thanks.
Bill and Bonnie Wiegand