



Three Rivers Walk To Emmaus

May 2003

Did not our hearts feel strangely warm as He talked with us on the road to Emmaus?"

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.’ *Jeremiah 29:11-12*

Dave and I are part of a small group studying the book *God is My CEO – Following God’s Principles in a Bottom-Line World* by Larry Julian. Though its focus is for those in the business community, much of its message could be applied to us as individuals and even to us as an Emmaus Community.

Julian says that a successful personal business plan is a partnership with God, a daily walk with God one decision at a time, one day at a time. He says he was profoundly affected by a CEO who taught him to make the most out of each day by asking, “Are you willing to put your signature on this day?”

Isn’t that good advice for us – are we living a life in partnership with God and making the most of the gift of each day He gives us? Likewise, isn’t this good advice for our Community – are we in partnership with God to make the most of the gift of each Emmaus event He gives us?

On page 249 of the book, Julian gives four attitudes that will help make each day a signature day.

Appreciation – Lord, thank you for the gift of this day. Regardless of circumstances, good or bad, I thankfully accept all that is in this day.

Availability – I’m totally available to You and, therefore, available to others.

Awareness – I understand You communicate through the people and circumstances that surround me. I further recognize that the closer I come to You, the more I can hear Your whisper through people and circumstances. Therefore, I commit to my awareness of Your presence over the busyness of life.

Alignment – My goal is to be one with You. Every decision I make and all I do reflects your nature.

I believe that as we pray for strength to incorporate these attitudes into our individual lives, they will transfer collectively as we partner with God to fulfill the plans He has for the TRWE Community. God Bless, Lill Griffith TRWE #28 Table of Sarah

An anonymous donation to the Memorial Fund was made in memory of and honor of all in the Emmaus Community. We thank you from our hearts for this gift.

Changes to the TRWE By-Laws (which were circulated throughout the Community and read at Gatherings) were passed at the May 2003 Board Meeting.

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This newsletter may be viewed at WWW.TRWE.ORG

THOUGHTS FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

I have discovered one of the most precious things we have in our lives is time. But we never use it as well as we should. As I was looking for a devotion on patience for the May Gathering I discovered this poem that gives us all an idea of how we could better spend our time.

TAKE TIME

*Take time to think – it is the source of power.
Take time to read – it is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to play – it is the secret of staying young.
Take time to be quiet – it is the moment to seek God.
Take time to be aware – it is the opportunity to help others.
Take time to love and be loved – it is God’s gift.
Take time to laugh – it is the music of the soul.
Take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness.
Take time to dream – it is what the future is made of.
Take time to pray – it is the greatest power on earth.*

Hopefully we will all take time to spend more time doing what God wants us to do.
DeColores, Barb Moore



UPCOMING

EVENTS!

GATHERINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2003

June 13 July 11 August 8 September 12
October 10 November 21 December 12

TRIENNIAL TRAINING DAY FOR TRWE OCTOBER 4

(Watch for news in a July newsflash)

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE AT SEPTEMBER GATHERING

NOVEMBER WALKS

MEN’S WALK November 6-9

WOMEN’S WALK November 13-16

At our January Board of Directors’ meeting it was decided to initiate a TRWE Memorial Fund. The purpose of this fund is 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



THREE RIVERS TEE-SHIRTS

June 13th will find the youth pages and youth delegates of Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference wearing our tee – shirts. The Board of Directors of Three Rivers has agreed to provide 120 shirts for the youth in the hopes that as we become better known we will be able to share the spirit of Emmaus with more people and churches.

Blessed are those who bless the blessed of God.

So, what kind of double-speak is this? Does this say nothing or does it say everything? Certainly it applies to Walk #46. It was a time of blessings. God moved among us and through us—a blessing, blessed another, which blessed another—till all were blessed. A dedicated Team of faithful servants prepared their hearts for service to bless. Prayer from around the corner and around the world blessed. Chains of sin, despair and loneliness were broken, hearts were opened to see, feel and experience the delight of a blessing God. Can God possibly love me this much? Blessed by rain and sunshine, blessed by tears and laughter, blessed by birds and bears, blessed by voices raised in the harmony of worship, blessed by banjo and bagpipes, and a song about a violin; blessed by humble servants serving meals, cleaning bathrooms, blessed by Agape Love . . . blessed by blessings of The Bread and Cup . . . Patience, Love, Peace, Kindness, Tenderheartedness and Gentleness—blessed these days and the fruit of the blessing was evident in the faces of all who were there. So who are the blessed of God? A small circle of women away from the world for three days? No, I don't think so—from many places I hear of ripples of blessings that continue into these days, till all of creation becomes the blessed of God as we continue to experience the blessings of those who are blessed by those who are blessed. So, everything? Ah, how the cup overflows! Blessings! Pat Mould

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Sponsorship: The Most Important Job of All From the *Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*:

Most communities take sponsorship for granted; we assume that everyone knows the how and why of sponsorship. Yet sponsorship is the most important job in the Emmaus community. It is more than "signing up people." The value of being educated about the value of good sponsorship cannot be over emphasized. The quality of sponsorship influences pilgrims, our community, the health of the Emmaus movement and the churches affected by the movement.

Good sponsorship is the first act of agape before a Walk ever begins; the experience of the Walk for a Pilgrim really begins with how we handle sponsorship.

Good sponsorship undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each Pilgrim. Sponsors are to use discernment in recruiting Pilgrims. A sponsor embodies the personal commitment of the community to their Pilgrim and provides personal acts of agape during the three days for their Pilgrim. These acts of agape include, prayer, agape letters, presence at Candlelight and Closing and follow up. Follow up is needed for activities such as finding a Reunion group and attendance at gathering.

Good sponsorship becomes the foundation for a healthy effective Emmaus Movement that is fulfilling its true purpose; the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry. Wood and Roy write in *Day Four; The Pilgrim's Continued Journey*, "The strength of any Emmaus Community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices. If the community is committed to recruiting strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church, then the community will be a strong, vital force in the renewal movement."

Why do we sponsor? What is our aim? The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all my friends to go" to fill up the three day event, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians, who in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ. In our next newsletter - **Whom Do We Sponsor?**

Rolen Burnette Assistant Community LD TRWE #27

DeColores

Fourth Day Corner

We participated in the Three Rivers Walk to Emmaus this spring. We feel we are doubly blessed since we were both able to do the walk. Feeling God's love as well as the love and prayers of all those who prayed for us was just incredible. . Sharing our experience together as husband and wife was equally as awesome. This is very important to us as we will be married two years in November. We met at Christ United Methodist Church through the Single Adult Ministry (SAM). We each came to that Ministry as divorced people looking to build a new life. Through the love and understanding we received we become active in Council and in giving classes.

We felt the need to give back to this Ministry and help other people the way we were helped. We dated four years, and married before God, family and friends. When Mike and Heidi Varner approached us to go on the Emmaus Walk, we thought it would be nice, but were not ready to commit. We finally agreed to go. (The prayers of everyone again were working on us.)

As for the entire weekend the best comment is **WOW!** What a powerful weekend! It was the most amazing experience either of us has ever had.

Our Fourth Days find us looking at life, God and even people differently. We now try to see the face of God in everyone. We look at nature and see the beauty. We count our blessings and realize how much we have, and what love we share in each other, our families and friends, especially our friends at Christ Church. We are trusting in God more. We are learning to let go and let God lead us. We are learning to listen. We may not accomplish great things; we just want to be proud to say we are Christians and give witness to God by how we live. We want to give back to the Emmaus Walk however we can. We would love to be part of the next walk by helping in the kitchen, attending the Saturday Night Candle Service, or anywhere we are needed.

We are looking forward to renewing our walk with future pilgrims. We both participated in the prayer vigil on April 25th and felt very uplifted. The great feeling we got when we did our Walk together is overwhelming. **DE COLORES!**
Maureen Schaltenbrand TRWE #46 Table of Lydia
Walt Schaltenbrand #45 Table of Moses



I used to be a big time "worry wart" until Emmaus taught me the fine art of turning my worries over to God. Let me tell you about my awesome Easter 2003 Weekend☺

My children are always bringing friends home and this Easter was no exception. While I love to entertain, I'm always a little apprehensive when guests spend the night as our house is small. My youngest daughter (Meghan), who is a junior in college, called on Maudy Thursday to see if she could bring two friends home for the Easter Holiday. Concerned about the lack of beds, lack of money to feed everyone, lack of time to prepare for Easter dinner (which I was hosting for 20 people) and lack of quality time to spend with my own children, I agreed-hesitantly. All I asked of Meghan was that everyone attend church on Easter morning. Meghan then proceeded to tell me that one of the girls

is not a regular church attendee and the other is Hindu, so she's not sure how successful she'll be at granting my requirement.

Well, Good Friday Service came and we had to write our sin on a piece of paper and nail it to the cross. While I was sitting in the pew thinking, "Which sin do I nail?" it hit me. Why was I being so selfish? I have so much more than many others in this world and while we may not be wealthy, we are a family rich in love with plenty to share. I nailed my sin of selfishness to the cross that night.

Meghan and her friends arrived home about an hour after the Good Friday Service. God forgave my sin and slid kindness in its place. He gave me what seemed like extra hours in the day on Saturday and Sunday to prepare the

house and food for Easter Dinner. Everyone had a bed for their heads, there was more than enough food for all and we all had the most relaxing, enjoyable weekend. EVERYONE went to church on Sunday morning! The sermon was great; the church was full of smiling faces, wonderful music and beautiful blooming flowers. God kissed us with his warm sunshine all day long. The friends took pictures of themselves holding the church bulletin and posing in prayer afterward. When they arrived back at school, they were asked how their weekend was. Meghan said their response was “We had a great Christian Easter!”

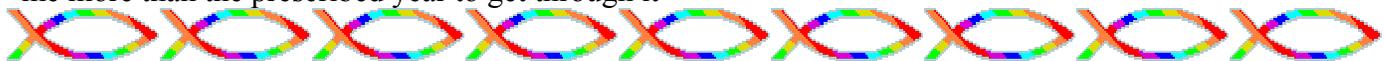
My favorite part of the weekend was when I overheard the Hindu friend say to my daughter, “I



9500+ 4th Days

What has the Walk meant to me since I did my Walk 16 years ago. Kay and I immediately began attending a couples’ sharing group with our sponsors and several others from our church, attending sendoff, candlelight, and closing for the walks for a fully established community in Tulsa, OK. Before we could get involved with teaming I was transferred to Pittsburgh to work on covering an 800-phone line system for all Westinghouse regular Oklahoma customers. My Emmaus sponsor told me that when I got to Pittsburgh, I would be doing missionary work. Missing the Emmaus community sparked the idea in the minds of 7 people who had done the walk in various cities that Emmaus was needed here in Pittsburgh. Ah! Maybe that’s what he meant by missionary work!

I am supported in Emmaus endeavors by three sharing groups which meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. They have encouraged me in my Christian life over many years through the *Bible in a Year* reading program (took me more than the prescribed year to get through it



Dave and I want to extend our thanks for the cards and support given to us due to the recent death of my youngest brother Eric. He was only 38 and leaves behind his wife, two beautiful children (7 and 8) and his family who struggle to comprehend our loss. I can not begin to put to words the grief we are feeling. I can put to words the magnificent increase and power of my faith in our heavenly Father, a truer comprehension and comfort felt of the Holy Spirit within me, and the promise that we will be together again one day. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, TRWE. Dave (#41) and Luann (#42) Walton.

just love your house. It feels like a home.” To me, this was the ultimate compliment. Philippians 2:3-4 says “Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don’t think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.” I pray that the sin of selfishness never creeps back in my life because “I” had the BEST CHRISTIAN EASTER and am looking forward to our next overnight guests.☺

DeColores Judy Grice TRWE #40 Table of Elizabeth

the first time) and the regular reporting program which is part of the sharing group program.

Our sponsors are coming to visit us to celebrate our mutual 50th wedding anniversaries next month.

The truth about the Walk experience in which I have been totally involved for the last 9500 4th days is this. Each aspect of the experience, whether it is within the conference room which we all have gone through or outside (the background activities) involves personal experiences with fellow Christians that are under the direct guidance of Christ our Lord. The instructions for each and every job or activity are filled with the need for prayer. At the beginning of each task, praise God and ask Christ to guide us toward a less self centered attitude. Pray to be more like Christ in all that we do. W.W.J.D. He became the Lamb of God sacrificed for all of our sins. Repent and follow him. You all were given a cross or a fish with your agape to remind you that with Christ each day gets better and better. I can promise you that is absolutely true.

DeColores Bill Harvey, Green Country Oklahoma, Walk to Emmaus #21, Table of Thomas (No Doubt)



WELCOME NEW PILGRIMS!!

PILGRIMS FROM WALK #45

Denny Cupp	Mt. Pisgah Presby	Colin McRoberts	Bellevue Central
Gary Elder	1 st UMC	Frank Miller	Fairmont UMC
John Ellis	Ingomar UMC	Wayne Pierce	Christ Community
George Fickley	Mt. Pisgah Presby	Ed Porter	Mt Pisgah Presby
Pat Garvey	Ingomar UMC	Roger Saunders	1 st UM Carmichaels
Mark Gensheimer	Sewickley Presby	Walt Schaltenbrand	Christ UMC Bethel
Mark Gasparin	Christ Community	Dan Smith	Ingomar UMC
Marty Johnson	1 st Pres Greenville	William Young	Rice's Landing UM
Tom McElravy	Bruin UMC	John Waxter	Bellevue Central

PILGRIMS FROM WALK #46

Brenda Cole	Christ UM Butler	Teresa Pierce	Christ Community
Mary Lou Cupp	Mt Pisgah Presby	Laurie Porter	Mt Pisgah Presby
Laura Forsyth	Anne Ashley UMC	Suzanne Printz	Community UMC
Kim Fickley	Mt. Pisgah Presby	Carla Rizzi	Liberty Presby
Sue Garvey	Ingomar UMC	Jan Roberts	Christ UMC Bethel
Annie Gensheimer	Sewickley Presby	Beverly Saunders	1 st UM Carmichaels
Sandy Hachmeister	Memorial Park Presby	Barbara Scandrol	Dutilh UMC
Kathy Hinckley	1 st UM Ellwood City	Maureen Schaltenbrand	Christ UMC Bethel
Lota Jones	Pine Run UMC	Lois Slocum	Christ UMC Bethel
Tish Keogh	Pleasant Hills Presby	Robyn Smith	Ingomar UMC
Jenny Lockwood	John McMillian Presb	Janet Stewart	Manor UMC
Emma Logue	St. Bernards RC	Lita Strom	Cornerstone Min.
Susan Lomicka	Community UMC	Andrea Tremblay	Warren 1 st UM
Irene Mains	Community UMC	Kim Verardi	West Alex. Pres
Joyce Miller	Christ UMC Bethel	Betty Walter	Balm UMC
Beth Mulholland	Liberty Presby	Debra Young	Rice's Landing UM
Pat Over	Ingomar UMC	Terri Young	River of God
Tracy Pasek	Community UM	Carol Zollars	Rice's Landing UM

GRAND ULTREYA

The North Hills Ultreya of the Catholic Cursillo movement, along with representatives of the Walk to Emmaus, Via de Cristo and Episcopal Cursillo movements, have planned a "Grand Ultreya" or "gathering" for Sunday, August 3, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Richard Church on Dickey Road in Gibsonia. This event will begin with an ecumenical prayer service in the church, followed by a witness talk and small group sharing, and ending with a potluck dinner in the church social hall. Our witness speakers will be Dick and Janet

Cronin. The Catholic Cursillo will be providing chicken, hot dogs, and drinks. Members of each movement are asked to bring the following: Catholic Cursillo, salads and side dishes; Walk to Emmaus, desserts; and the Episcopal Cursillo and Via de Cristo, snack foods and appetizers that will be served after the ecumenical prayer service and before the witness talk. Please RSVP to Patti Deschamps at 724-443-7894 or decolores@zoominternet.net by July 23 if you are planning to attend. Babysitting will be provided as needed so please respond if

you will also need babysitting for your children.

GATHERINGS

Interested in helping with set-up and clean-up at Fellowship Time? Need childcare at Gatherings? Contact Ernie DeLuca at 724-883-2165 or ernreb@helicon. **TRWE is now providing paid sitters for Childcare at Gatherings. Donation (which may be offering) are gratefully (and graciously) accepted.**

Community, please email your request to botrwe@aol.com.

Pjnich@bellatlantic.net 412-264-3458



If you know people in our Community who DO NOT have email, please share this Newsletter and all other Emmaus news with them! Changing your Email address??? Send the new one to emmauskj@aol.com Thanks.

Dear Friends in the Emmaus Community,
I want to give my utmost gratitude for prayers, cards and concerns during the recent loss of my mother. There aren't words to express the comfort and the love that was felt from my friends in the Emmaus Community. It's the place where Our Lord is represented in flesh and bone--in all of you. There was a supernatural covering and strength that I never thought possible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I knew when I signed on to work on Women's Walk #46 that it felt like too much to take on. But the Lord is faithful and will strengthen and be our help in all trials. "For when faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow..."James 1:3-4 (a) NLT A great big HUG to all of you. DeColores Barb Robinette

WHO TOOK YOUR PLACE?

One day a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School found an empty seat and sat down. A young woman from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!"

The visitor was very troubled visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet.

Someone from the congregation noticed him and called by this treatment but still he said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied as his hat became a crown of thorns, "I took your place."

DeColores