



August 2011 Newsletter

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Dear Emmaus Family,

The lesson of Emmaus is a life in Grace. Before my walk I thought that my salvation was merely an event to be followed by a life of doing things for God. My Christian life was black, white, and shades of gray. I knew that I was saved, what was on the "to do" and "not to do" list. I knew I was to study, pray, do spiritual disciplines, do church, and serve by doing; yet, I was bugged instead of blessed. I studied the Bible to try to understand why I was bugged, to figure out what God wanted me to do, to find the answers to all my questions, and to find reassurance of my salvation. I studied for information and scholarship, but, I did not study with a surrendered heart. This was not a life in grace.

Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* John 10:10. To borrow a quote from the Youth Minister in my church, "We come to Christ not because it makes life better, easier, or problem free; we come to Christ because He is better than life." Jesus prayed, "This is eternal life; that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17:3. Solomon proclaimed God's call, *"For whoever finds me, finds life..."* Proverb 8:35. Moses implored the nation of Israel to "Choose Life". *"The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live."* Deut.30:6,19.

Did Emmaus teach you, as it did me, that God's word is His tool of circumcision? that He uses it to cut my heart so that I will bleed for Him, so I may Love Him with all my heart and soul, **and live**? Did you discover that it is God who works in you To Do, and To Will according to His purpose, and that He accomplishes that continuing work of salvation in you through study, prayer, and action? See: Phil. 2:13.

We are to give our minds, hearts, and hands and feet to God so that we will be transformed, not informed. See: Romans 12:1,2; Phil.2:5-13 Psalm 51:17; John 17:17.

Before my walk, although I had heard a lot of the Word taught, I had not experienced a lot of the Word caught. There were people in my life, particularly my mother, who clearly caught the Word, and lived a life in grace. Unfortunately, my children would not have evidenced that degree of love and life in me, and I did not experience that level of divine peculiarity, or set apartness, in the life of my local church. I am not saying that my Emmaus experience trumped the word of God, or that one must know the Word AND have an experience. In fact, it was just the opposite. My Emmaus experience was the Word lived out, and it produced a hunger and thirst for Righteousness that was ravenous.

Matthew 6:33. *I stayed in the Word, in Him, in prayer, in Love, and in Life. The word of God poured God's sanctifying grace in and through my life, keeping my life pure,* Psalm 119: 9-16; *looking intently at his perfect law exposed my heart and liberated me to live for and in Him.* James 1:23-25. To put it in the words of John Piper, I discovered, "God is the Gospel". *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...In him was life, and that life was the light of men."* John 1:1,2,4.

The single purpose that unites all spiritual disciplines is “Godliness”. Romans 8:29. Even the most iron-willed self discipline will not make us more holy, for growth in holiness is a gift from God. See: John 17:17, !Thess.5:23, and Hebrews 2:11. When we are truly God centered, even the desire to do things that please God come from God’s initiative in your life. George Mueller wrote, “Before this time; my practice had been... to pray after having dressed in the morning. Now, I saw that the most important thing was to get myself reading God’s word, and to meditate on it, and thus my heart might be conformed, encouraged, warmed, reproved, instructed and... brought into experiential communion with the Lord.” Spiritual disciplines are the God given means we are to use in the spiritual pursuit of Godliness. We can live a life in His light, a life in grace, when we give our minds to God in study, our hearts to God in prayer, and our lives to God in action.

On my walk, I experienced a community of faith that had caught the word. These were not people engaged in momentary pious acts and religious routines, rather people whose whole life reflected a present continuous tense relationship with God maintained in prayer, study, and action. Everyone was a doer of the word. I saw lives of faith in living color. De Colores! In James 1:22 we are instructed to "BE DOERS of the word." The NIV version is: "Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourself, Do what it says." I like the King James language better, because it emphasizes BEING, not DOING. A DOER is not someone that merely does what he is taught; he/she is a believer that lives what they've caught. "[T]he man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25. Why? Because, he becomes Christ like in order to do it. He has allowed the word and prayer to change his mind and heart, and that causes his faith to be expressed in Love. "*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom... The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*" James 3:13, 17.

We must continue to run the good race, live by the Spirit, and sow to please the Spirit. "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" Galatians 6:9. Are you continuing in your fourth days to live your life in the color of his grace? Is His Word circumcising your heart, so that you "Love your neighbor as yourself"? Gal. 5:14. Do you want to express your faith in His love? Gal. 5:6. Have you caught his Word?

Please PRAYERFULLY consider who God would have you sponsor on the upcoming High School age Chrysalis and Young Adult Chrysalis. Have you served on a Chrysalis Flight or a REC? Volunteer to serve in these areas of Emmaus; be the lesson of God's love, bearing the fruit of the Spirit at his Table of Grace.

Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before, and every day the color of life is brighter.

De Colores,
Wesley Durham
Campbellsville Emmaus CLD

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Greetings In the name of the Lord Jesus!!!!!!

I have been thinking about Peter sinking in the water (Mt. 14:30). I'm proud of Peter and that he got to walk on water!!! Peter’s story sounds so much like my own that I can not help but to write a little about it. The story goes that Jesus asked Peter to come out of the

boat and to join Him walking on water. God calls all of His people to get out of the boat.

Here is how the story goes for me. I'm nested safely in the boat holding on to the edge as tightly as I can, when Jesus comes by and asks me to do something I really don't want to do or feel I'm inadequate to do. Slowly I throw one foot over board and then the other. I'm looking at Jesus as if to say "here I am... you better do something " when all of the sudden a gust of wind hits me in the face. I look to see where that come from and when I do I see the waves and knowing I can't swim I'm over taken by fear. I make a rash decision without following Jesus and I'm going down for the second time and I can't do anything about it.

I know that the devil wants to change our focus and take our minds from Jesus. As I have thought about this I have begin to realize some of the ways that He attacks me. I believe that becoming aware of the tools that the devil uses it will help us to overcome him. One of those things he brings up is "THE PAST"???? I know that the devil wants me to worry about the past, but I can not change the past. Why should I dwell in the past? I should not!!! I should dwell on Jesus.

The next one is not so obvious; it is the "FUTURE." I worry sometimes about what the future holds and what may happen. You see it is not about what the future holds it is about who holds my future. Again I should look to Jesus!!! In the "NOW" there are several tricks the old slew foot uses to attack me. Circumstances; the events going on around me at the present time are meant to drag my focus off of Jesus.

Another one is "BLESSINGS." I take my eyes off Jesus when I look at what everyone else is doing and I fail to look at what God has done and is doing for me.

I'm sure as you have read this tidbit about my life you may be thinking about some ways that the devil tries to steal your focus and joy. When we recognize them it makes us aware of what to look for and helps us overcome the devil. Because Jesus over came the world, we can over come the world!!!!!!!!!!

Walk in God's Grace,

Marvin Janes

Community Spiritual Director



## WE STAY INVOLVED BY SERVING

It is nearly time for the Fall 2011 Walks to begin and many in the community may be wondering what to do or how to serve during this time if we're not a part of the team.

When we look at our community with the thousands of people who have been through our many walks compared to the very limited number of members able to serve on each team we begin to realize that we must find other ways to serve and support the community than simply working in a team position; (about 1.3% of our community actually serves on the team at each walk, less than that on our REC'S).

Our Lord's program involves spiritual transformation and this is a process... **not** an event. God handcrafts each of us; He doesn't mass-produce all to be the same. The walk affects each one differently however one common element for those who have been on a walk is to grow through serving Him... by service to others. The Lord has provided many ways to serve on the walks and we must be faithful to Him to find where the need is and allow ourselves to be used there.

What keeps us from the joy of serving? Often it's a preoccupation with our own agenda and a "myself" attitude that gets in the way. Revisit the lesson on priorities, and find time to focus on the needs of others.

Consider using this season to extend your growth through the joy of serving by:

1. **Prayer** is something that we sometimes take for granted. Our teams, the Pilgrims, and our entire Community are in need of prayer and that is one place we can all start in our service to Him.
2. **Seek out a new member and encourage them** to become involved, invite them to gatherings and events, show them how to participate and become an integral part of our community.
3. **Take advantage of every opportunity to share God's love** to the Pilgrims by serving meals, being present at send-off, attending special service, and celebrating the closing service.
4. Let's be faithful to insure that new pilgrims are just as blessed as we were by an **abundance of agape acts**, both snack & table agape. We want each Pilgrim on any of our walks to feel special and loved, just as we did when we attended our own walk weekend.

For your information, the following numbers of agape items are needed for our walks.

Emmaus walks normally have 40 Pilgrims and a common number for a team is 55 members. About 95 total are at the walk and you can see that much snack agape is needed. Table agape is usually distributed at meals, on beds, and in the conference room at each table. Agape needed on Emmaus Walks is 95.

REC's at St. Mary's (minimum security prison) have 40 Residents on each walk and usually there are about 10 prior residents that will be serving on the wheat team. We usually give all residents wheat. Needed wheat items would be 50. Snack agape (purchased items only – no homemade snacks) should be figured for 90 people.

REC's at Bluegrass unit (medium security prison) have 20 Residents with 4 prior residents serving on the wheat team. Team is smaller as well. Table wheat items needed are 25. Snacks should be figured for 55 people (purchased items only – no homemade snacks).

Additional information concerning acceptable wheat items is available on the website at [www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org](http://www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org) and click on the REC tab from the tool bar on the left.

## **CAMPBELLSVILLE EMMAUS**

### *Dates to Remember*

**August 20**                      **Gathering @ 7:00pm Elk Horn Baptist Church**  
**Board meeting at 5:00pm**

**\*\*No September Gathering due to Fall Emmaus Walks taking place\*\***

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**                      **Emmaus Picnic 5:00pm Board meeting 3:00pm**  
**Acton Retreat Center**

### **UPCOMING WALKS**

**August 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**              **REC #24 Gary Gilpin, LD**  
**September 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**        **Men's Emmaus Walk #68 Randy Durham, LD**  
**September 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**      **Women's Emmaus Walk #69 Lisa Wilkerson, LD**

### **FUTURE DATES**

**October 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**              **REC #25 Keith McMahan, LD**  
**November 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>**              **YAC #11 (19-24 year olds )Amy & Kenny Lawson LDs**  
**January 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2012**      **Girl's Chrysalis Flight #24 Holly Wilson, LD**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2012**      **Boy's Chrysalis Flight #25 Jim Ward, LD**

**\*\*NOTE: Chrysalis Flights are for high school age. Candidates must be 15 years old and already in their sophomore year in school to attend Chrysalis.**

### **Visit the website often ! !**

Please remember to check the website [www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org](http://www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org) frequently to stay abreast of the happenings and events in our community.

It's a great source for news, prayer requests, events, dates to remember, as well as a place to get up-to-date information concerning walks such as pilgrim and team lists. Thanks to our webmaster, Jerry, **you can now sign up on the prayer charts**

**and speaker charts via the website. So spread the word and tell all your Emmaus friends.**

You can also download and print out applications to Emmaus and Chrysalis, as well as volunteer sheets etc.

Wouldn't it be a great act of agape if you printed out a copy to place on the bulletin board at your church or give a copy of this newsletter to a friend without internet access.

**If you know of someone who does not get the newsletter via email, Please encourage them to go to the website and sign up with their current contact information (email address). We want everyone to stay connected to the Campbellsville Emmaus Community and become involved in its ministry.**