



Campbellsville Emmaus Newsletter

February, 2011

Contents Include:

1. Letter from Lay Director
2. Letter from Spiritual Director
3. Training Article : Things To Do
4. Upcoming Events

PASS THIS AROUND! Share with your friends and church family. Encourage them to go to the website and sign up for the newsletter, prayer concerns, etc. Keep up with what's going on at www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org

DeColores ! Emmaus Friends

The affirmation of God's love is the most healing and nurturing message you will ever receive in your lifetime. It seems that the reality of God's love for us is brought to out very plainly through the many ministries of Emmaus. That unconditional love, we call agape, is given to us and it's totally unrelated to our deserving it or earning it in some way.

For most of us though we understand that agape love means much more than the sacrificial love shown to one only on a Walk. That daily sacrificial love, the life in grace, is what the Walk to Emmaus is all about. Agape is truly laying down our lives for others.

Agape is the love God has for each of us and most experience it during their Walk. The love we feel on the Walk moves us toward accepting God's love for us personally. We begin to catch a glimpse of how much God must love us. That is the purpose of the whole 72 hours, to help you begin to accept how very much God loves you and move you closer in your relationship with Him.

As we recall our personal experience, we note how the various acts shared by the Team and the Community moved us closer in relationship to Jesus Christ. Now our calling is to share with the many Pilgrims in our world that great message, "**God loves you**"! How do we do it? "*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us*" (2Cor. 5:20, NIV).

This scripture doesn't say we are "going to be" or that "we are striving toward that goal to be" Christ's ambassadors. The Bible says **we ARE!** Now it also says that it's as if God was making His appeal through us.

Think for a moment about the calling the Lord has for you. Some of us think that this calling is just for certain people, but if you visit the Word, you'll find God calls us ALL. God has gifted this Community to do His will, now let us rise up as a Community and do it.

I read an article the other day and this Christian author suggested we change our thoughts about serving Him. Most will say something like, I've "**GOT**" to go to church, I've "**GOT**" to go to Send-off, I've "**GOT**" to go to team formation, or some other way you can serve Him, they'll say I've "**GOT**" to

But what if we stop and think about the blessing we all here share from Him. If we will only change 1 letter in our thinking, change the "o" to an "e"... We are so blessed that we "**GET**" to go to church, we "**GET**" to go to Send-off, and we "**GET**" to go to formations, or we "**GET**" to serve **Him in any way!**

We must only look around our world today and we begin to understand the many blessings God has bestowed to us. Is it really inconvenient to go to church? Remember our brothers & sisters in foreign lands that travel many miles just to worship Him. How about the ones that don't have the freedoms we take for granted; the ones who suffer ridicule and persecution for the privilege of holding onto their Christian beliefs.

We **get** to be involved this month in the Boy's High School Chrysalis #23, whether you are actually serving on the Team or not. We can still take additional applications (download from the website and mail to Lisa Benningfield, along with any donations you might wish to make, as soon as possible.) The Chrysalis community is ALWAYS in need of scholarship money for young people who want to attend the flights, so please continue to pray and seek out young men that God may be directing you to sponsor on this next flight. We should be prepared for the challenges necessary to insure that these young men move closer to our Lord. We should show up at Send-off, serve meals, make table & snack agape, offer letters on encouragement, be at Special Service, and attend the Closing.

Your experience gleaned from being a Pilgrim has prepared you to go forth and be that Pilgrim walking not ahead of, but beside of the current Pilgrims on any of our Walks. It takes commitment. We **are** Christ's ambassadors; the Bible claims it.

Each of us needs to find our area of service within the Campbellsville Emmaus Community. There are so many needs with so few people involved. Emmaus should infuse new levels of energy, vision, and commitment throughout those who participate.

So, how is it with you? Has your willingness increased, or have you narrowed yourself to the point where you wish to serve God only in an advisory capacity? That's what happens when you have your mind made up about the opportunities He brings before you.

In March, we will be selecting new members to serve Him on the Emmaus Board. This year, like previous years, many GREAT people are being asked to seek God's will as to if they should serve on the Board. However most will quickly decide that this is not their calling... all the time knowing that SOMEONE must do it if we are to have a required governing Board.

This reminds me of the statement, "We all have as much of God as we want." We have as much of Emmaus as we want and it seems that most want Emmaus to continue but they only want to be involved with it during the fun and exciting times of actual Walk events, rather than desiring to help with the behind-the-scenes "routine maintenance" that is required all year long.

God has given this program to us and we must do some things to insure that it runs smoothly, which means that **someone** is giving their time to see to it. Please be in prayer over those seeking God's will concerning serving on the Board.

Remember to keep God's chosen leader Jr. Higdon and God's team in your prayers as well as the upcoming young men that will be caterpillars that will surely be butterflies by the time the Walk is over. The Boy's Chrysalis Flight #23 is February 19-21. Send-off at Living Grace begins at 8:40 with check starting at 8:00am. Special Service will be at 8:00pm at Campbellsville Baptist Church on **Sunday night** February 20th. Closing will be **Monday** afternoon at Living Grace around 4:30pm.

Also **REMEMBER THE HOOT!** Saturday night February 26th 6:30pm for the Butterflies that are just coming off Chrysalis' # 22 & 23 being held at Living Grace Church in Campbellsville. Fun! Food! And Christian Fellowship! Bring your youth to this event!

The powers of darkness are no match for the power of the Gospel that "opens their eyes and turns them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins." (Acts 26:18)

Thank you all for your prayerful support of all that we do. Thank you for your prayers for our many Teams, and for the Board as we seek God's will in serving Him through this program. Prayer is absolutely vital to the advance of the Kingdom, and it is a mighty weapon before God for the destruction of the devil's strongholds.

Thad Prince

Community Lay Director



Worth the Wait by Bro Melvin Mills

Lamentation 3:22-25

When the storms of life hit, we are often tempted to run for cover. When they continue indefinitely, we struggle to find encouragement. When the rain and the wind gather strength until they turn into what seems to be a hurricane, we find ourselves saying, "I can't do this any longer," The truth is this: we can't, but God can.

He is the only One who can help us victoriously fight through the battles of life. Nothing can provide the type of strength that He provides, especially when we feel overwhelmed and discouraged. He stands beside us, and He never retreats.

Daniel never worried about being cast into the lion's den. He knew that the Lord would provide the help and protection he needed to make it through the night. Some of the people who read these words are fighting a battle with a life-threatening disease. It is an unseen enemy from a human standpoint but not from God's. He knows exactly what we are facing and how it is affecting our lives.

There is an incredible sense of peace that comes from learning how to rest in the Lord and allow Him to take care of your troubles. This does not mean that you abandon the fight and just give up trying. It means that you shift the focus of your effort from yourself to God. This is where the true victory is gained.

http://www.tonyevans.org/site/c.feIKLOOpGIF/b.3752515/k.F202/General_Donation_Pg.htm

The apostle Paul faced many life-threatening situations. At one point, he debated whether it was better to ask God to allow him to go home to heaven where he would have unending peace and glory in the presence of Christ or to continue living the earthly life God had given him. Paul chose the latter. As much as he longed to see the Lord in heaven, he loved having the opportunity here to tell others about God's unending, unconditional love and forgiveness.

How should we respond when our situation seems hopeless? What should we do when God appears silent or allows us to endure suffering? Trusting God means looking beyond what we can see to what God sees. If we want to honor Him as God, we must continue to have faith in Him and glorify Him in all we say and do, regardless of the circumstances. Yet we should also call this to mind and have hope: "The Lord's loving kindness indeed never cease, for His compassion never fail, they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is good to those who wait for Him."

To God Be The Glory
 Bro. Melvin Mills
 Community Spiritual Director

February 2011: THINGS TO DO !



Instead of taking this time for emphasizing places we need to improve on, this month let's think about some **things we need TO DO !**

#1. Let's look around...do some spring cleaning... check to see if you have ONE or maybe more Emmaus Manuals in your household. Bring them to the next gathering and turn them in!

We need to get them back in so we can continue to train our Teams. Each Walk will be made up of 1/3 experienced, 1/3 intermediates, & 1/3 new. The 1/3 new are first timers and need the manuals in order to learn about the program from the ground floor. The intermediates could be serving in a new team position and need the manual to learn about those responsibilities.... and the experienced need a manual to remind them that they don't know everything! Our manuals are very important regarding Team development for every program we have SO PLEASE check to see if you have one and make the effort to return it. **February is FORGIVENESS month !** ☺ ...so help us out!

#2 Let's all BECOME more ACCOUNTABLE!

Take the First Steps now !! We are not required to belong to an “Emmaus” reunion (accountability) group... your small group doesn't even have to have anyone else in the group that has previously been on a Walk to Emmaus. An accountability group is anyone with whom you meet on a regular basis...and can be made up of members from your church, your Bible study group, your school, your community.

A small accountability group can be defined as those who want to continue their pursuit of a life lived wholly in the grace of God. They help each other translate the message of a daily walk with Christ. With the regular support of a few faithful friends, the gift of God's love in Jesus Christ becomes a lifestyle of Christian discipleship. The important thing is that you are being held accountable and that you have Christian support and friends you trust to help you along the way. **If not involved in a small Christian support group, please consider moving in that direction.**

This concept of accountability must hold fast in our lives since we all know that from time to time we will deceive ourselves about just how we are doing in our relationship with Him.

The common purpose of the “Christian support group” is to help us in our desire to persevere in grace and to carry out those aspects that most value and that are fundamental to our formation as faithful disciples into our everyday lives.

It's not that we want groups for the sake of groups. Our keys are regular contact with Christ and with other Christians who share the vision of life lived wholly in the grace of God. This group then becomes the means of support and helps maintain meaningful contact with Christ for the long haul.

Are you being held accountable to the way of life you are claiming to live? An accountability group can help you to fulfill your claim. This concept is similar to your Walk in that each receives from God an urgent need to grow in relationship with Him. By being held accountable, you can and will continue to grow in relationship with Him, if your group stays true to the meaning of **holding each accountable.**

We all have the need to be held accountable. It's all about moving closer in relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Your group can help you to keep from falling away from Him, but only if they love you enough to tell you the truth.

If you and a few Christian friends wish to start an accountability group please contact your Emmaus Board. We'd love to help you through the process !! We are all continually learning on our walk with Him, seeking His call in our lives and a group can help you along your path.

Titus 3:14, *"Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives."*

More on the subject of reunion groups...I apologize for any confusion on this matter, and I would like to clarify:

To follow the Emmaus program in full participation as it was meant to be, and in line with our agreement with the Upper Room that we would follow the program as it was meant to be... The program requires that each of us in the Campbellsville Emmaus Community to be willing to allow ourselves to be held accountable by others to living our lives according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The importance of reunion groups has not been greatly stressed until recently when emphasis was again placed on group accountability. We all know people who went on their walks and then, for various reasons, fell away and were no longer active in the community, suffered difficulties in their marriages or hardships in other parts of their lives. It is felt that if these persons had belonged to accountability groups that perhaps things could have turned out differently for them, if they could have had support from their Christian brothers and sisters who were willing to walk along side them during these difficult times. It can make a tremendous difference if you have a group of people who care about you, willing to share the burden and lighten the load.

The Emmaus program recommends belonging to what it calls "reunion groups" made up of persons who have already been on Walks and Flights and Journeys to be support for everyone in their fourth days. Someone who has also shared your Emmaus experience can deeply enrich your life. These people can become lifelong friends to help you through the bad times and the good ones and we highly recommend that you would consider belonging to this type of accountability group, to renew the commitments that were made on your Walk, and keep the fire in your heart burning for Him.

However, there are other types of Christian accountability groups which meet weekly and other ways of being held accountable such as groups that meet at church, in private homes, and in schools etc and these accountability groups are no less viable or significant than regular Emmaus Reunion Groups. It is perfectly okay if you choose to belong to this type accountability group.

THE IMPORTANT PART OF THIS MESSAGE IS: Please be part of some kind of accountability group. It does not have to be an "exclusive" "Emmaus" reunion group, nor does every member of your accountability group have to have attended a walk, flight or journey.

Part of walking the walk is not just talking the talk... and a group of people who care about you can give you the support and strength that will help you to keep your priorities in focus and your feet on the right path.

DeColores !
Thad Prince
Community Lay Director

Upcoming Events:

February 19th-21st. Boy's Chrysalis #23 Jr. Higdon L.D.



February 26th “**HOOG**” **event** FOR Butterflies - Living Grace @ 6:30pm

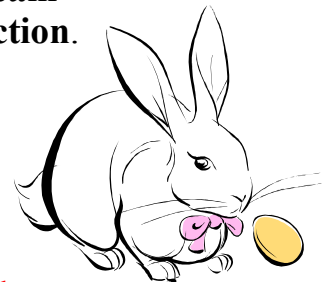
REC Reunion Dates to visit Marion Adjustment Center:

REC #23 Feb.20th

REC #22 Feb. 27th.

**March 19th GATHERING @ Lebanon Baptist at 7:00pm Team
DON'T MISS IT! Team Dedications and Board Member Selection.**

April 14th-17th Men's Walk#65 Tommy Corbin LD;
April 28th-May1st Women's Walk #66 Debbie Bailey LD;
May 12th-15th Women's Walk #67 Dana Rafferty LD.



For more info VISIT THE WEBSITE OFTEN at www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org