



January 2011 Newsletter

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Greetings Emmaus Family,

Well it's here again, the start of a New Year. Hope each of you had a glorious Christmas in celebration of our Savior's birth. As we start this new year and set our hopes and dreams for 2011, wouldn't it be a great time to spend some time in prayer and consideration of our Father's will?

Consider this, how have you been spending your time? Has the secular world got you caught up in its trap of materialism? Do the words **me** and **mine** mean too much to you? During this time of year it's sometimes easy to resort to what someone once called "stinking thinking". Thinking like this world is here for me and it's all about me. The time is ripe for a reality check; this is God's and all that's in it including me and mine. You are, indeed, special! but guess what... we ALL are special in God's eyes. This New Year is the time for serious consideration of God's calling in the life of our Community. How is this community spending its time? Are we kingdom building? Are we using our gifts given to us from Him to help make disciples? Are we **really** serving Him like we think we are or are we wasting time?

Jesus didn't waste His short time here on Earth; He spent His time here involved in two avenues: **evangelism** and **servant hood**. Jesus modeled for us what's important in eternity. As we begin again this year let's all consider what our Father wishes of us. Evangelism really scares some of us, but remember this... it is not as important that we *preach* the message of God's love as it is that we LIVE IT and DO IT. St. Francis of Assisi said, "**Preach always—if necessary use words.**" We are preaching some kind of message at all times by the way we are really living not just the way we want everyone to think we are living. We serve a God "who desires all persons to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" according to 1 Timothy 2:4. Time spent in His presence begins the transformation process in our lives where we understand that we do really preach always. What message are you preaching to the world on a daily basis? Is it one that truly represents Him? You are evangelizing the world by the way you really are, by what the world sees from you each and every moment of your life.

Servant hood is our calling. Jesus' gospel is as concerned with **doing** something as it is with **being** something. Good works won't get you into heaven, however the transforming spirit of God allows us to view life through His eyes and we learn that He expects us to do what He did **for the rest of our lives**. Sometimes we can think that servant hood is nothing but work and we grudgingly do what we think is required of us. But think about the people we read about in the Bible, who all considered it an honor to serve because servant hood rightly done is not a curse. It is a dignity and a delight. Let's look at what David Cape says the word "Servant" stands for.

S—the letter "s" stands for the way true servants **speak love** to all they meet and in every situation.

E—the letter "e" stands for the **effective** way true servants' plan, prepares, and facilitates serving others.

R—the letter "r" stands for the responsibility of God's servants to **Reveal Jesus** to the world.

V—the letter "v" stands for the need to **verify** things with the person you serve. The most important **verification** of all is **verify** with the Lord that your plan is a "God idea," not just a good idea.

A—the letter "a" in servant reminds us to always **act in love**.

N—the letter "n" in servant signifies our call to serve others for **Nothing in return**,

T—the letter "t" in servant signifies **tarry**, or wait, on the Lord. Spend time allowing the Lord to show you whom you should serve next, because you should already be serving now.

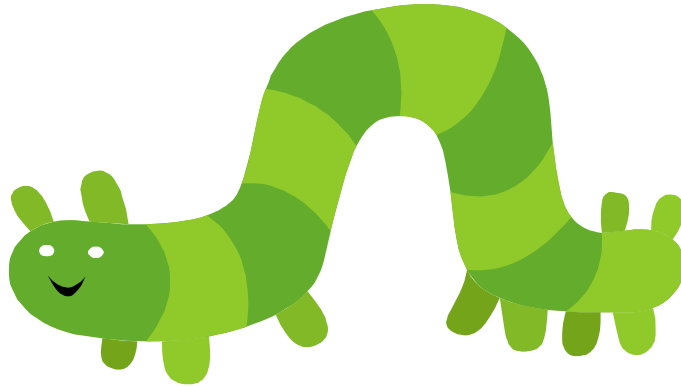
The Lord has many opportunities for you to help in evangelizing and serving this world right now. He is sending His Team and His chosen leader Roger Sharpe into the prison to share His gospel. Your help is needed. Prayer and supporting through acts of agape (wheat) help move the Residents to closer relationship to Him. The very next week (Jan. 15) He has planned a Girl's Chrysalis with His Team and chosen leader Bethany Shively that also offers you an opportunity to become what He calls us all to do: active kingdom builders through various acts of agape. In this mission you're asked by Him to be His representative to the Butterflies to help move those young ladies to closer relationship to Him.

Please take some time now and listen for His call to be that servant He is calling you to be. Simple acts of love like you were shown on your Walk are what is needed for our upcoming events. What is your plan of involvement?

This New Year let's start in prayer and try to imagine what a revival of servant hood would do for our families, our churches, and our world. Revival always begins in the heart and spreads one heart at a time. Allow the Lord to change you and make "**servant hood**" **something that you ARE, rather than just something that you DO**.

Thad Prince
Community Lay Director

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Needed: Candidates -- Girl's Chrysalis #22

High School Young Ladies --- 15 years at older must be at least in sophomore year of high school.

Lay Director Bethany Shively and Team are ready and looking forward with God's leading to share Him with a group of young ladies. There is still room for more Butterflies. The Chrysalis begins January 15th and runs through Jan 17th.

We Need Candidates!!

Snack & Table Agape also will be needed!

Get your Candidates in as quickly as possible to the Chrysalis Registrar:

***Lisa Benningfield
103 DeChaunac Circle
Campbellsville KY 42718***

We will accept Candidates as late as possible to give ALL a chance to be blessed.



Remembering

Psalm 103:1-5

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I trust that you had a blessed Christmas as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior. As I think of the birth of Jesus in Matthew 1:21 when the angel spoke to Joseph saying, "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." And then you drop down to verse 23 and it says, "and they shall call His name Immanuel, "which translated to mean, God with us.

As we get ready to depart from the 2010 and prepare to enter into 2011, we should take some time to reflect on the many blessings that God has rained down on us and I know that as I write this I am not the only one who can reflect on the goodness of the Lord. When you look at the verse one in Psalm 103 where it says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, Bless His Holy name"... you have to understand that God wants every part of our body, soul, and spirit to grow close to Him and to enter into a joyful relationship with Him... to be thankful for all that He has brought us through in 2010.

I realize that for some of us there have been days that our spirits have been down and we have wondered how we can shake it off to make it through another day. But like David, we must try lifting up our thanks to God. To use our mind and memory to rekindle thankfulness for all of God's benefits and then our gratefulness will lead to joy.

Verse 3 in this Psalm says that He forgives all our iniquities, so we can thank Him for His forgiveness. Thank Him for healing our diseases (v.3). God uses infirmity and disorder to draw us more deeply into His love and care and one day when the Lord comes He will heal all of our diseases. Thank Him for redeeming our life from destruction (v.4). This is more than a rescue from a premature death. It is redemption from death itself. Thank Him for crowning our life with loving-kindness and tender mercies (.4). Thank the One who satisfies our desires (v.5) He is our satisfaction and each day He renews our strength so that our spirits can rise up and soar like the eagle.

So when you get ready to enter into the New Year take time out to remember and to say like David did "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

**Dear Lord, give us a spirit of thankfulness for numberless blessings given;
Blessings that daily come to us, like dewdrops falling from heaven.**

In Jesus name!

**Remember, gratitude is the memory of a glad heart!
Happy New Year!**

**Bro. Melvin Mills
Community Spiritual Director**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 7th-9th REC #23 @ MAC Roger Sharpe, Lay Director
January 8th Special Service @ MAC

Check out Team list (on the website) and any Team Member can pick up your wheat (agape) for the Residents. Don't forget the Residents! One way to serve the Residents is to shower them with God's love through Wheat (Acts of AGAPE)

January 15th-17th Girl's Chrysalis #22 Bethany Shively L.D.
Sat. January 15th Send-off @ Living Grace Church @8:00am
Sun January 16th Special Service @ Campbellsville Baptist 8:00pm
Mon Jan 17th **Closing @ Living Grace Church@ 4:30pm

****Parents may come to Closing whether they have been on a Walk or not.**

Community support, shown through the various acts of Agape for these young ladies, has a far-reaching affect. Do not forget the mission of showing God to the Butterflies. Show up at Send-off, serve meals, make table and snack agape, come to Special Service, and support the Closing. This also is being a servant.

Community Training Article: Special Services

One of the greatest gifts you can give during the Walks is to come to the Special Service. Just recalling the blessing of your own Special Service should be reminder enough of just how much value one places on this special time during the weekend.

We need to review some things.

First is, the **Special Service starts promptly at 8:00pm**. It's a time where we have the honor to pray and cry out to our Father the name of each Pilgrim. We have a time of prayer for community concerns as well as a time of offers praise to God for how blessed we are. Some are arriving late -- just in time to take Communion and await the arrival of the Pilgrims. Remember that the first thing the Spiritual Director of the walk says to the Pilgrims is **"this group has been here praying for each of you by name"**. So make every effort to get to the service promptly at 8:00 so that you can participate in the entire worship experience on behalf of those pilgrims.

We then have a short devotion (not a sermon) followed by Holy Communion. This prepares our hearts for the blessed opportunity the Lord gives us to represent His love to the arriving Pilgrims.

PLEASE don't bring children into the sanctuary during these special services but take advantage of some kind of alternative childcare during these special times. We need volunteers to help in this ministry. Pray about this... This is an act of agape the same as many other things you can do. We have some wonderful young couples with children that have just entered into our community that wish to attend the Special Service that need not to worry about their children. To those that are bringing their children in, the question arises how much of an effect will Special Service be in your child's life when they go on their Walk later if they have already witnessed so much? Do your child a favor... Do not rob them of a blessing. Save the special beauty of that experience for when they are older and mature enough to fully appreciate its impact on their own spiritual life.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NOT EVERY PILGRIM HAS THE SAME "SUPPORT". We realize there are team members and close friends there, but we should be careful that we do not show them more attention or more love than anybody else. In our enthusiasm we forget that there are Pilgrims coming to the service who do not know other people, who do not have family or close friends who will be present. We want to honor and respect their feelings and help them to feel that they are all being treated the same way. It may hurt them to see others at their table who are being embraced and sharing intimacy with those who attend the special service, while they are not treated in the same manner.

PLEASE BE REVERENT. We are getting so loud with our talking and laughing among ourselves that sometimes that this special time is becoming like a county fair. There is a time for high-fives and laughing, but it is NOT appropriate during the special

service time when pilgrims are present. In our excitement and enthusiasm we are forgetting that THIS IS A TIME TO BE REVERENT and is part of the most memorable and special worship experience of the entire walk event. Some of the holiness of that moment is lost due to our insensitivity, and we must not take this away from the pilgrim. PLEASE help us maintain REVERENCE for Christ and His mission in the lives of these Pilgrims by showing your attitude of worship during ALL of the special service time.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU ARE THERE FOR THE PILGRIMS. This is also true when we leave the service. You have made many new friends and it's hard not to visit, to talk and laugh with others in the Emmaus Community. By hanging out, talking and laughing in front of the church we create problems for the AGAPE TEAM and others trying to get everyone out of the church. PLEASE... DON'T STOP AT THE STEPS !!!!! Keep moving!

An even greater is the problem that the Pilgrims inside are left wondering what is happening outside because of the distraction and the noise we are creating. Once we leave the Spiritual Director will offer a time of quiet reflection but it's hard to quietly reflect with a party going on outside. So please be mindful that this is a worship time for those inside; a time to reflect and draw near to Christ.

SO... What can we do to help make Special Services more meaningful?

1. Arriving on time 8:00pm; remember that **all Pilgrims are children of God** not just your Pilgrim; give them the love and honor they deserve.
2. Maintain a spirit of worship and reverence during the services.
3. Leave in reverence and go all the way to the parking lot away from the front door. Plan with your friends to go somewhere else and fellowship, not out front of the church.
4. If you are so motivated go to the web-site and get in contact with the Board Member in charge of Special Service Clean-up and offer your help, much help is needed in this area as well as in Child-care during the services. The burden is easy when shared by many. What can you do to help?

We are serving God through this movement and we must look constantly to improve the ways we carry out His work and not to become complacent.
