



## June 2011 Newsletter

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Greetings Emmaus Family,

As your Community Lay Director, I want to express, in this my first letter, what a blessing this Emmaus family has been to Marilyn and me over the past thirteen years. I also want to share with you what I have learned and/or experienced about Emmaus in that time.

Before I went on Walk 1, like many of you, I thought I had all I needed to live, and all there was, to the Christian life. I had been a Christian for many years, having been wooed by God's power and love to repent, and believe, and receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior at age 6. I had been raised in church, and continued in my adult life, marriage and family trying my best to serve the Lord. I was active in my church. I taught Sunday School, served in the choir, and was a deacon. I wanted to be in a church where I could be fed and taught; where there was "good preaching"; where my children would be involved; where through "good teaching" I could get all the right answers. I studied to show myself approved and believed that the more informed I was in scripture and doctrine the closer to God I would be.

Then in April of 1998, I went on Walk 1 at Acton Campground in Campbellsville. I was there with 30+ other men from different churches, including Methodist, Nazarenes, Catholics, Baptist, and I'm sure others, to learn more about God and to appease our sponsors. How could I learn anything I didn't already know, especially with all this doctrinal diversity? These preachers had really better be very great teachers! But, I had heard this was a lay led ministry, how could this benefit me? In spite of all of that, because of my sponsor's life (witness), I knew it would be good for me.

### **What I did not experience...**

- (1) I did not experience the most charismatic preachers or hear a great revival preached. Nor did I experience a tremendous crusade led by a spiritual giant. I did not hear a seminary professor, who answered all my questions, and explained the antinomies that confound the wisdom of this world. I simply heard fifteen talks, averaging 20 minutes each, ten of which were given by laity. In fact, although the preacher's talks were about the different facets of God's grace (prevenient, justifying and sanctifying), and obstacles to grace, and means of experiencing grace, those talks seemed to fit with all of the preceding and following talks just in the right place, as if it was an outline for one long talk.
- (2) I did not experience a group of accomplished public speakers who were all accustomed to teaching.

- (3) Nor did I experience the best accommodations, facilities, food, or service that money could buy.

**What I did experience (not necessarily, but maybe in order of importance)...**

- (1) **PRAYER**: “For their prayers reached heaven (2 Ch 30:27)...for He hears the prayers of the righteous”. (Pr 15:38). “In everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your request to God”. Phil 4:6 So much prayer! A Life of Prayer. The power of prayer and the purpose of prayer became more apparent than ever before. God wanted to change my heart, to His heart, and he used prayer to do that. See: Psalm 51:17
- (2) **WORSHIP AND FREEDOM TO WORSHIP**: Team members who continuously gave themselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God as their spiritual act of worship. Romans 12:1 Their cooking was worship, their serving was worship, their cleaning toilets was worship, their making beds was worship, their praying was worship, playing was worship, studying was worship, laughing was worship, crying was worship, our life became worship. Everyone was expressing their faith in His love, (Gal 5:6), and loving God and loving each other, (Matt 22:37:39). The pilgrims worshipped freely, in spirit and truth. Some like Baptist, some like Methodist, some like Catholic, some with hands in the air, others with clasped hands in prayer, some on knees, some unable to move, others unable to be still; but all loving, worshipping and glorifying the one true God, for what he had done, was doing and would continue to do.
- (3) **AGAPE LOVE**. My theme verse for Emmaus soon became Gal 5:6. Rick Warren adopted this as his theme verse for “40 Days of Community”. That study is based on 1 Cor. 13, the love chapter, and focuses on what we, the body of Christ, are here for. I experienced that Great Truth in Emmaus long before I heard it taught in Warren’s study. Before, I sought to know all the truths of scripture, now I just want to know THE TRUTH. I want to know LOVE. 1 John 4:8 “If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...but have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Cor 13:2 I’m not talking about getting lost in Love with a little “L”, but found in the God of Agape, our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (4) **HUMILITY** In Emmaus, I experienced God humbling my pride, and exalting the humble. Matt 23:12 I realized for the first time in my life, that a life in piety, was a life in grace. People were open, vulnerable, confessing their sins one to another, loving one another, bearing one another’s burdens, praying for one another, all with the attitude of Christ. (Phil 2:1-9) Service was hidden. Jesus was exalted. People who were uncomfortable speaking at tables (Pilgrims) and/or giving talks (team members) were stepping out of the boat and walking on God’s eternal sea of love in His power. I experienced God’s power perfected in our weakness, (1 Cor. 12-9), not in great preaching. The body of Christ, the team, become the lesson, they did not merely teach it. They truly were doers of the word. (James 1:22) They kept the whole law, which is summed up in Matt 22:37:39.

Who impressed me most? The least of these, none of these, all of these! ALL I SAW WAS JESUS! I EXPERIENCED THE BEST OF EVERYTHING HIS BLOOD COULD BUY!

It’s hard to put into words what God has done and is doing by this instrument called Emmaus. Maybe he uses it because it has no head, but Christ; because all the talks are outlined so no laity or clergy will try to own it for their own; because the program and each talk is built and based on scripture and bathed in prayer. It’s an instrument that only God can play. We who serve should never try to change its keys to fit our traditions, or denominations. God used it as

designed on Walk 1, he will keep using it as designed without our help. Who can improve on what God has done?

Marilyn and I love every one of you and covet your prayers. I remain your servant in Christ.

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Wesley Durham, Community Lay Director

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## Time for God

### Psalm 116:1-2

You know you should spend time with God each day, but have you ever really considered what God wants to give you during those daily times with Him? In Galatians 5: 22-23, Paul writes, *“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”* These, along with guidance, wisdom, hope and a deeper knowledge of Him are what God wants to give us, His children. Think about each item in Paul’s list. Which of us doesn’t need a touch of God’s love, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control in our life?

“But,” you say, “Who has time? My ‘To Do’ list is always longer than my day. I run from the time the alarm goes off in the morning until I fall into bed at night. How can I possibly find time to do one more thing? When could I find even a few minutes to read the Bible or pray?” Let me answer your question with a question. Are you doing what’s important in your day or only what is urgent?

People do what they want to do. All of us make choices, and when we don’t make time for God in our day, when we don’t make time for the most important relationship in our life, we are probably not making the best choices. God greatly desires to spend time alone with us; after all we are His children. He created us, He loves us, and He gave His only Son for our salvation. Our heavenly Father wants to know us and He wants us to know Him. The Creator of the universe wants to meet us alone daily, so how can you say no to an opportunity like that.

I find the morning hours to be the best for me, before the telephone starts ringing or I get involved in the days activities, it’s the best time for me to be alone with God. Although the times and places where we meet God will vary, meeting alone with God each day should be a constant in our life. After all, we are God’s children and like any good father, He wants to spend time with us.

“Okay,” you say. “You’ve convinced me. I need to be more regular in my time with God, but what exactly what should I do when I’m alone with Him?” I suggest that you read and meditate on God’s Word for a while and then spend some time in prayer. Talk to God as you would to your earthly parents or a special friend who loves you, who desires the best for you, and wants to help you in every way possible.

The time with your heavenly Father is never time wasted. If you spend time alone with God in the morning, you’ll start your day refreshed and ready for whatever comes your way. If you spend time alone with Him in the evening, you’ll go to sleep relaxed, resting in His care, and wake up ready for a new day to serve Him.

Remember, too, that you can talk to Him anytime, and anywhere, in school, at work, while you are traveling, at home and you can talk to Him about anything. God is interested in everything that happens to you. **“God is behind the scenes and controls the scenes He stands behind.”**

To the Emmaus Community as I write my last monthly article I just want to thank God and you for the privilege of being your Community Spiritual Director. It has been an awesome experience and a blessed opportunity to be part of such a great community. I pray that the monthly devotionals that I have submitted have been an inspiration to you. Let keep our next Spiritual Director (Bro. Marvin Janes) in our prayers and that God will use him for His glory. Again words cannot express my feelings toward everyone that has been so gracious to me.

**Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen**

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

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## **TRAINING ARTICLE: First Act of Agape--- *SPONSORSHIP***

So you want to be a sponsor? The role of a sponsor bears much responsibility and should be viewed as such by those wishing to sponsor a participant on an upcoming event.

### **Prior to approaching a Potential Participant**

1. Evaluate his/her Christian journey; are they serious about making a deeper commitment to our Lord? Have they been through some unsettling times recently (deaths, divorce, etc.)? Trying times can get in their way—it may be best to wait until things settle down.
2. Talk to the participant and explain what happens on a walk in as much detail as needed. Keep in mind that it is TOTALLY different to hear about it than it is to experience it. There are no secrets. Advise the participant of the timing, costs, and answer all questions they may have.
3. Help the participant complete the application form. Be sure the form is completed fully, including the medical portion and addressing any special needs they may have such as sleep arrangements and special dietary requirements, medicines, etc.
4. Mail completed application to the address on the application: Campbellsville Emmaus, P.O. Box 4155, Campbellsville, KY. 42718
5. When speaking to a married person, we suggest you speak with both husband & wife. We want them to make the decision together. Their application should be turned in together.

## **Prior to the Event**

1. Confirm that your candidate has been accepted.
2. Request agape letters from family and friends.
3. Make agape for the event, check with agape coordinator for the amount.
4. Make sure your candidate has all the personal items recommended in the letter from the registrar.
5. Do not assume the person you are sponsoring will experience things the same way you did. Each of us is at a different place in our spiritual journey. For some, the Emmaus experience will be a mountaintop, a new beginning. For others, it will be strengthening for the journey they are already on. We must not pre-judge our candidate or set them up with unreal expectations.

## **The Day before the Event Begins**

1. Pick up your candidate and drive them to the campground —Do NOT BE LATE.
2. On arriving, take candidate to check in. Upon checking in take him/her to their room and help them get settled make their bed as an act of agape. Introduce your candidate to others to others you know and stay with them until Send-off.
3. Remain in Chapel for Sponsor's Hour, where you will be given an opportunity to pray for your candidate and deposit agape letters and general agape (snack/table).
4. Depart from the site quietly so as not to disturb the program in progress.

## **During the Event**

1. Pray for your candidate, that they may truly benefit from the event.
2. Attend Special Service on the evening of day 2, and Closing at the end on day 3.
3. After closing make sure your candidate has gathered ALL their belongings and takes them home.

## **Next Steps/Fourth Days**

1. Remind them of our web-site, which keeps all informed of all activities of our Community.
2. Remind them of Community activities and offer to take them with you. Invite and offer to take them to at least their first 3 Gathering opportunities. Introduce them to your friends.
3. Help them become involved in accountability/reunion groups.
4. Be supportive and help them sponsor others.

**Whom then do you sponsor?** Consider sponsoring those persons who are committed to living a life that is pleasing to God, those who want to grow and increase their knowledge and understanding of God and God's will. You should pray about this decision and have a strong sense of God's leading when considering whom to sponsor.

**Other factors for consideration:** the comfort level of the Pilgrim, things like health conditions, people facing surgery or recovering from surgery, or those with health related conditions that don't allow them to sit in the conference room for several hours at a time. Consider stressful personal situations such as recent death of a loved one, divorce proceedings, work downsizing, and recent changes in employment status. While the sponsored individual may benefit from the

experience, it is not intended to be a tool for resolving personal distress or for the resolution of an emotional situation. Stressful situations may absorb these candidates completely and they would have a difficult time concentrating on Jesus Christ and their relationship with Him for 72 hours and would benefit more by attending a Walk after the situation has been resolved.

Thad Prince

## **CAMPBELLSVILLE EMMAUS**

### *Dates to Remember*

June Gathering ----- June 18 @ 7:00pm Living Grace Church Campbellsville KY  
 July Gathering ----- July 16 @ 7:00pm Abundant Life Church in Lebanon, KY

### *Upcoming Walks*

August 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	REC #24 Gary Gilpen
September 8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Emmaus Walk #68 Randy Durham
September 15 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Emmaus Walk #69 Lisa Wilkerson
October 28 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	REC #25 Keith McMahan
November 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	YAC #11 (19-24 year olds) Amy & Kenny Lawson
January 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> 2012	*Girl's Chrysalis Flight #24 Holly Wilson
February 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> 2012	*Boy's Chrysalis Flight #25 Jim Ward

**\*\*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.**

### **Don't forget the website ! !**

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

It's a great resource for news, prayer requests, events, dates to remember, as well as up to date information concerning walks, prayer charts, speaker charts, pilgrim lists, team lists, etc.

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

If you know of someone who does not get the newsletter via email, they can go to the website and sign up with their current contact information.