



## March 2011 Newsletter

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Greetings Emmuas Family!

"Thanks!"...what more can be said? The "yes" that Jr. Higdon & each Team member said to serving the Lord was confirmed by how our Lord moved throughout Chrysalis #23. It's amazing what God does when "we" get out of the way and allow Him to shine though. Hopefully each person in our Community realizes just how blessed we are and many of you were able to see first hand the Father's love for His children. Chrysalis #23 was a glorious event in the lives of all that attended. Team and the Butterflies were brought to new levels in their relationships with Jesus Christ.

With each walk and flight, God continually shows us so much more about His love for His children. If we want to see God, we need to get out of the way. We need to stop trying to manipulate our faith into a shape that suits our preferences.

We need to learn to cooperate with God as He transforms our lives, according to a biblical pattern for following Christ. The Bible teaches us to surrender ourselves to God, which means everything not just the aspects of our lives that we can release without disrupting our plans.

Our view of God must change. We must not view God as some divine assistant whose role is to see that our life is made easier according to life going as we have planned it ourselves. We need to view ourselves as being in His service and for His pleasure to undertake the work that He wants accomplished.

We need to stop viewing our lives as *our* lives. Our lives belong to Him. We need to view God and His purposes, not our own agendas. Sometimes the things we selfishly consider important amount to nothing more than distractions that divert our view of God. The more we remove ourselves from view, the more of God we will see.

If we are to be mirrors that reflect Him to the world and to the Pilgrims on our walks, we must then be active in accountability and team formations. An active accountability group can help us see our shortcomings and help us to improve our view of God. Once we realize through honest accountability how selfish we really are, how concerned we are with our own life, how really unconcerned we are with the lives of others, we'll see the needed changes that God is moving us toward.

Whoever it is that will honestly hold you accountable is a blessing from God. What we do really does matter. Once we examine our lives with someone watching our blind spots with us, then we'll begin to understand how committed we really are to Jesus Christ and His teachings.

In order to Honor God by who we are, we need to conscientiously model a lifestyle directly opposed to the typical secular standard. Most will agree that's one reason that serving on a walk is such a blessing. We actually get, if only for 72 hours, a glimpse of Christian Community. A glimpse of what the world could be like if we practiced the behaviors of meeting together, worshipping together, praising together, without the distractions of the secular world coming between us and God. And what a glorious thing it is!

Our spring Walks are just around the corner and all of us should be reminded that there's an enemy out there who is miserable with what God has planned for those Pilgrims. Anything that can cause us to change our focus off of Him and His will must be eliminated from our thoughts. Be very careful...every voice or notion you hear might not be from God. There are reasons why time guidelines and outlines must be followed, talks must be delivered in a timely fashion according to the program (this includes pastors), and ALL things must be done according to the manual.

There has been dialogue, particularly among the spiritual leaders in our community, about the walks being "spirit led" and following the manual is often likened to trying to "put God in a box" or that in doing so somehow "limits" God in some way. We should be reminded that it was the SPIRIT who LED the founders of the Emmaus program over 34 years ago to put together these teachings in such a way as to have profound impact on the lives of ALL people from every walk of life, every background, every denomination, to address every heart ache, every pain, every need, and fill every heart, and to draw ALL people closer to Jesus and to each other. It was designed for ALL people, with a SINGLE purpose in mind... and the SPIRIT approved of it then...and now... because it WORKS !

The question is: How much of "US" are we trying to put into this program? Have we lost respect for this program and is that why we feel things need to be added or changed?

The true guideline and answer to most of the questions that arise pre-walk is this: "It doesn't matter how good an idea seems to be, or who came up with it...if it's not in the manual and it doesn't glorify God, then it should not be done". May we seek Him and renew our commitment to His program while it's still recognizable.

It's simple... Jesus was revealed when He broke the bread and we all realized our hearts were burning within us while He talked with us on the road to Emmaus and He also opened the Scripture to us.

Please be in prayer for the upcoming spring walks and get your candidate's applications in. **All Walks need Candidates! Space is still available!**

Our March 19<sup>th</sup> Gathering will be held at Lebanon Baptist church at 7:00pm. It's a very important meeting that you will not want to miss out on. We will be dedicating the teams working the spring walks, and also be holding our annual Board elections. This is critical to our Community as we'll be selecting 6 new lay persons and 1 new Clergy to serve on our Board. Decisions are being made now by the nominees so please keep them in your prayers and pray for God's direction to keep our community strong by electing strong leadership on the Board.

Thad Prince  
Community Lay Director

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## **God Seldom Does Great Things In A Hurry**

Psalm 130

Children want things now: They will say "are we there yet?" "Now can we open our presents?" "But I want dessert now!" In contrast, as we get older we learn to wait. Medical students wait through training. Parents wait in hopes that the prodigal will return. We wait for what is worth waiting for, and in the process we learn patience.

God, who is timeless, requires of us a mature faith that may involve delays that seems like trials and patience is one of the signs of maturity, a quality that can develop only through the passing of time.

Many prayers in the Bible come out of the act of waiting. In Genesis 29:15-20, Jacob waited 7 years for a wife and then 7 more after being tricked by her father. The Israelites waited 4 centuries for deliverance; Moses waited 4 decades for the call to lead them, then 4 more decades for a Promised Land that he would not get to enter.

Isaiah 40:31 says, "Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

In Psalm 130:6, the psalmist wrote, "My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchman for the morning (NASB). Focused as we are with our immediate situations, we may be shocked by God's answer. Yet we know that the answer will be for His glory, His answers to our prayers may exceed our expectations, for it says in Ephesians 3:20, "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and I Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever Amen."

To God Be The Glory

Bro. Melvin Mills

Community Spiritual Director

## Dates to remember

March 19 7:00pm **DON'T MISS THIS** Gathering at Lebanon Bapt Church  
 Team Dedications & Selection of New Board Members  
 5:00pm Board meeting prior to Gathering

**Saturday March 26th "HOOT" Living Grace 6:30 pm**

**NO APRIL GATHERING DUE TO WALKS in April**

April 14-17 Men's Walk #65 Tommy Corbin, LD

**Saturday April 23 "HOOT" at Living Grace 6:30pm**

April 28-May 1 Women's Walk #66 Debbie Bailey, LD  
 May 12-15 Women's Walk #67 Dana Rafferty LD

Sept 8-11 Men's Walk #68  
 Sept 15-18 Women's Walk #69  
 Nov 4-6 YAC #11 Amy & Kenny Lawson

Lots of folks are no longer connected to their Emmaus community friends. Forward this newsletter to them and remind them to visit the website at [www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org](http://www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org) and sign up for news, prayer chain and stay informed. Print this out, take a copy to your friends at church and at your workplace. Make sure all our Emmaus brothers and sisters know how to stay connected and informed. Invite them to come to the March gathering with you! **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**