



Campbellsville Emmaus Community  
November 2010 Newsletter

Included in this issue: Letter from Lay Director  
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Greetings Emmaus Family,

This year is rapidly coming to an end. It doesn't seem possible that it's already November. This is the month that our country has traditionally set aside a day for all to recall how thankful we are. Do we really need a *special* day to do this? It's great that we take a special day just to spend with family and recall how thankful we are for all we have. But, shouldn't we be living thankful lives every minute of every day?

Take a moment of quiet reflection right now and just think about how you are doing. Are you living a thankful life or are you living an unthankful life? Our Lord blessed us each with free will, so it's your choice. No matter what you have or don't have in your personal life we should be thankful for the grace and mercy of God. Our culture is ruining us. It seems we can't be thankful without an "*if only*" added to our thankfulness. What I mean by that is often time you'll hear a response to the mention of thankfulness by those two little words added; "*Yes, I'm thankful for how the Lord has blessed me and if only He would do this I could be really thankful.*"

We live in a "me-first" world and it takes much effort for us to keep this "me-first" monster at bay. We see it in the Emmaus movement many times through well-intended actions by our teams and community during our Walks. Many times during our Walks we will see things that shouldn't be –things that could be traced back to the "**ME**" problem. Our prep time before the Walks should be spent in earnest prayer seeking God's will, however we've grown lazy and wait for God to "reveal His will" during the Walk. That's the excuse usually given when someone does something they shouldn't have during the events.

Our pre-walk time should be a time that we as a Community and Team spend getting ready for the battle. God reveals to the speakers what He has chosen for them to say. After spending time with the Father, they should reveal that word in the talks they preview to the team; however many seem to give in to their own thoughts by changing what God has revealed to them and by changing the talk that they present in the conference room during the Walk event.

Maybe I'm simple in my thinking but I believe that through their preparation God has given the speakers their talks. After the speakers have spent many weeks with God preparing His talk for the Walk shouldn't they give the talk God has given them? Whatever talk you preview is the exact same talk you are expected to present during the walk, and this applies to all lay speakers and all clergy.

Many years of prayers and successful Walks should remind us that this is **Gods walk**. We are so into this "me-first" culture that we forget that this belongs to God, not us. Let's go back to the basics and grab our towels of servant-hood and serve our Lord as He wishes. Our greatest honor is to serve Him. He is calling us to serve Him by being His hands and feet by serving the Pilgrims, and by these actions His love for them comes shining through. Let's be thankful for God coming to earth to save us and for His continued blessings.

We must remember what is taught to us in Matthew 16:24 when Jesus said, ***"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."***

Thank God that He still blesses the Pilgrims in spite of our selfish acts. We are thankful for the great work He did in the lives of the Residents of REC#22 just last month. Thanks to Wesley Durham and God's team for answering His call and being His hands and feet. We are thankful for the dedication and the perseverance of Mike Richerson and Jessica Farmer and God's team as they are heading into the battle this month in YAC #10.

We are thankful for leaders stepping up to serve our Lord as He calls them. Coming up in January we have the Girls Chrysalis Flight led by Bethany Shively and in February the Boy's Chrysalis Flight led by JR Higdon that needs our attention right now to ensure we have candidates for these events. Our regular Residents Encounter Christ is held in January is yet another blessing we are thankful for. Roger Sharpe and God's team is preparing for REC #23. There are so many ways God has blessed this Community and we should be forever thankful. Let us pick up the towel of servant-hood and follow Him for great are the rewards!

In His Service,  
Thad Prince

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## **NEIGHBORLY KINDNESS**

### **Luke 10:25-37**

One of the major obstacles to showing compassion is making prejudgments about who we think is worthy of our compassion. Jesus told a parable to answer the question: "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). Or, who qualifies as worthy of our neighborly Acts?

Jesus tells of a man who traveled on the notoriously dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho. As he traveled, he fell among thieves and was robbed, beaten, and left for dead. Religious Jews (a priest and a Levite) passed him, but they walked by on the other side,

probably for fear of being religiously defiled. But a Samaritan came along and had unconditional compassion on the wounded stranger.

Jesus' audience would have gasped at this because Jews despised Samaritans. The Samaritan could have limited or qualified his compassion because the man was a Jew. But he did not limit his neighborly kindness to those he thought were worthy. Instead, he saw a human being in need and resolved to help him.

We should ask ourselves, "Are we limiting our kindness to the ones we deemed worthy?" As followers of Christ, let us find ways to show neighborly kindness (unconditional love) to all people, especially to those we have judged as unworthy.

*How many lives shall I touch today?  
How many neighbors will pass my way?  
I can bless so many and help so much,  
If I meet each one with a Christ like touch*

Our love for Christ is only as real as our love for our neighbor

This excerpt was taken from Our Daily Bread and I pray that it will help us to focus our attention on those that are less fortunate as we prepare for the holiday seasons ahead.

God Bless  
Bro. Melvin Mills  
Community Spiritual Director

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### **Training Article November 2011** by Thad Prince **Progressive Servant-hood & Accountability Groups**

As we are preparing for the upcoming Walks there is something we need to work on. We must decide: **Do we really believe that the Walks are built on prayer?** Prayer is the foundation of all the Emmaus events, let's make **NO** mistake about this. We are slipping into some habits that need to be addressed.

God chooses the Lay Director of the Walks by a process called **PROGRESSIVE SERVANT-HOOD**. This means that whatever trials or tribulations you have been through, God has allowed you to get through them, only to glorify Him and to share with others that they too are able through Him to get through these struggles as well. He puts these people in the places He wants them to serve and they are faithful to His calling to lead Emmaus walks. This process has worked for many years in the Emmaus movement, but now some would try to help the process along by continually seeking out the appointed Lay Directors and questioning their leadership; even suggesting to them how they should be making team selections or who should be serving in certain capacities. We all should be reminded that God is in control of His Walk, no one else should be or should try to be in control, except those whom He has appointed for this time. We need to allow the process to work...and allow the Lay Directors to serve the way God has given it to them because only He knows best.

It is, indeed, a true honor to “work” on an Emmaus Walk event and some brothers and sisters only want to be active in the community when they are invited to “work the walk”-- however, a more appropriate term would be “to serve” on the walk. Your community needs your involvement in ALL phases of the ministry. By your active participation in ALL community events; Gatherings, Praying on both the 72 hour & Speakers chart, serving meals, serving on a committee, these are the many ways people see your commitment to Emmaus.

The Walk to Emmaus is not about the actual 72 hour weekend. It is really all about your relationship with GOD for your remaining time here on earth. Relationship with GOD and OTHERS is the focal point. We are teaching others that the way to remain in that strong relationship with Him that started to build or re-build during their weekend is by constant accountability. One cannot be a lone- ranger Christian. We all know we need someone to watch our blind spots. We have simply grown too accustomed to lying to ourselves. It is human nature that we tell ourselves that we are better than we really are ...so we must have someone else who love us enough to keep us on track. Do you have someone close to you? Is this something that interests you?

During the Walk to Emmaus we teach about accountability groups (reunion groups), however upon closer examination our track record indicates that many in the community have not chosen to become involved in an accountability group after the walk. This is unfortunate, because we are called to lead by example. If you are leading a table and have just spent the 72 hours of an Emmaus weekend building relationship with the Pilgrims; what does it really say about YOUR commitment when they hear a talk about being held accountable and discover that their table leaders are not in a group being held accountable? Should we not practice what we teach ?

We have been an Emmaus Community for a long time and many people have participated in the Walk to Emmaus who are no longer involved in the Community or active in a Church. Could this loss of our brothers and sisters falling to the wayside be because we have not actively promoted accountability or taken seriously this part of the Emmaus program? We can no longer defend this lack of commitment. In the future we must become more focused on and embrace the concept of personal accountability. **As of January 2011, in order to serve in the conference room you will be required to belong to and participate in an active accountability group.** I know some will not fully appreciate this ruling that has come down to us from The Upper Room, but we will be a stronger community because of it.

As we pray for our community we should include in our prayers our desire to be held accountable. God answers prayer and we must ask Him for the courage to really want to be held accountable. Thankfully we can start praying and actively pursuing an accountability program for all in the community. The time to do this is NOW.

If you need help to establish and organize a reunion group, you can contact Jimmy Bault on the 4<sup>th</sup> days committee or any Board member; names and contact information is listed on the website at [www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org](http://www.campbellsvilleemmaus.org)