

# CAMPBELLSVILLE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

## OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from the Community Lay Director!

Grace and Peace to you all! As our fall Walks have just ended there is a tendency for our thoughts to drift away from the purposes God has revealed to us. The Pilgrims just coming off the Walk, the Team, and Community that served so graciously should continue to focus on our Lord and follow His leading.

Our Community is so richly blessed with members that have answered His call to be a servant leader by leading the Fall walks. Thanks to Lannie Pierce, Tresa Ratliff, and Betty Wayne for being faithful to God's call. You were truly blessed by serving Him and the Pilgrims were just beaming with God's love that He brought forth through the Team and the entire Community. We appreciate you.

The past few weeks maybe God has brought many thought provoking things to mind, and now is the time for action. We need to think about our personal commitment to the Emmaus movement and how we can serve.

Residents Encounter Christ REC # 22 is coming up on October 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> led by Wesley Durham. Wesley and God's Chosen Team is focused and ready to serve Him. All members of the Campbellsville Emmaus Community may serve by:

1. Praying
2. Signing up to come to the Special Service (see Tobe Yankey)
3. Supplying Wheat items (table agape). A list of acceptable items can be found on the website, or you may bring some store bought snack agape items to any Team member.

God shows His love in all we do during any Walks, however the Residents are forever moved by the outpouring of God's love shown through the kind acts that our Community feels moved to do. Please be prayerful concerning the REC and following God's leading.

We are at “crunch time” concerning YAC #10 scheduled for Nov 5-7th. To say that “We **need candidates**” would be an understatement. We are careful to remind everyone that Emmaus is not a church and never meant to be or take the place of your church, however we are allowing some of the propensities of the church to filter into our actions. You know, the ones were we all get excited about something or a door the Lord opens for His will to be done and then we let a little time pass and we aren’t as excited as we once were and we all think we’ll let ... **Somebody Else...** do it. I’ve checked our rosters from all our Walks and so far ...**Mr./Mrs. Somebody Else...** has yet to attend the Walk to Emmaus. ☺

What does this mean? It means that if God’s work here is to be done that “**WE**” must do it...not somebody else.

God has so richly blessed us all and we are comfortable with accepting His love but now is the time to go and let His light shine through the world! Your Emmaus Community needs your prayers. The Community needs your support in service to Him. There are so many ways to serve.

If God is moving you to get more involved in your Emmaus Community, please go to the website and check the listing of the Board Members and pray about serving Him on one of the many committees. There are hundreds of large and small acts of Agape and acts of service provided to the community throughout the year that most do not even stop to realize or acknowledge.

Each Board Member is in charge of overseeing a specific area of service to the entire community. A misconception and assumption is that this is a solo adventure that the Board Members agree to take for 3 years. But that could not be further from the intent. Each Board member is not expected to do the work alone; they each need help with their area of service, and they depend on the rest of us to come along side them to help take care of the business of the community.

With the numbers of people that have been through the Walks over the past years, it would seem that there should be more than enough volunteers for each Board member to have ample help and assistance carrying out the responsibilities asked of him/her. Unfortunately, few people step up to assist and the Board members try to manage the full responsibility on their own. Maybe they are hesitant to ask for help; or maybe help has been denied. For whatever reason, when their three years of service on the Board are up they are tired and “burned-out”; some to the point that they “drop off the radar” for a while. Let’s keep that from happening by stepping up to lend a helping hand so that they do not become over burdened.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Paul writes, *“Therefore my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”*

Hope to see you all at the gathering at Living Grace Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> (see the website for directions). Don't forget the **Sponsorship Class** at 6:00pm prior to the gathering at 7:00pm– This would be a great time for our newest members to learn about sponsorship and a good review for all old timers, too.

In His Service,  
Thad Prince, Community Lay Director

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## **Keeping One Another Accountable by Bro.Melvin Mills**

### **Galatians 6:1-5**

Many believers object to the idea of accountability because they don't see how other people's actions are any of their business and they refuse to allow anyone into theirs.

Others mistakenly believe that the personal nature of their relationship with God excludes the need for mutual accountability. Although it is true that our relationship with the Lord is personal in nature, it is not true that it is completely private. The Bible teaches that we are accountable to God first and then to one another when it comes to our conducts and characters.

Accountability is defined as a relationship between believers wherein one has invited the other to observe the development of character in one or more areas. For example, it could be as simple as asking a friend to check with you from time to time about the consistency of your quiet time and prayer. You may want to ask

someone to check with you on how often you share your faith or how much time you are devoting to your family or a friend.

An area where accountability can really make a difference is that of recurring temptation. Paul taught that if a believer is caught in sin, the strong members of the church are to work with that person to help him or her get back on track. Sometimes people become trapped in activities or attitudes that are too powerful for them to overcome on their own, and they don't know how to break free. We may not be able to save them from their circumstances or situations, but we can remind them of God's promises and pray for them, share scriptures with them, and listen when they are struggling. We can offer support and compassion when they are trying to do what is right, confront them with the truth when they drift in their faith, and always encourage them to live in a manner that is pleasing to God.

Remember, in an accountability relationship you are not answerable for how the other person reacts to you. But you are responsible to be available for the Lord to use you in their life, telling the truth and loving that person through the process. As an Emmaus community let's hold ourselves accountable to those that will coming off of the walks by showing them how much that we love and support and to encourage them.

**“GOD’S LOVE CANNOT BE EXPLAINED, IT CAN ONLY BE EXPERIENCED”**

DeColores! Bro. Melvin Mills Community Spiritual Director

WINNING THE BATTLE by Thad Prince  
Training Article - October 2010

One of the many blessings that happens when you serve as a Community Lay Director is you get many first hand accounts of the happenings on each walk; reports of all the good and wonderful things and unfortunately, sometimes comes details of the things that were not so good.

I would remind each of you that there is a battle is going on in this world. The Walks are so successful that we sometimes forget about the on-going battle behind the scenes. What better way for the enemy to disrupt us than to catch us with our guard down; to cause diversions and divisions so that he can take full advantage of us at our weakest places; and keep the community from experiencing complete fulfillment in His Walk To Emmaus Movement. LETS AGREE NOT TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN !

There are many things that as a group we need to correct – some in our personal lives as well as some things we see happening during the actual Walks. This should challenge us to seek Him in everything, and train our Community and Team Members to be their very best at each Walk; to avoid mistakes and avoid giving in to self...to stretch ourselves outside our comfort zones and learn to put others first for 72 hours.

As we go forth in our 4<sup>th</sup> days sometimes it's easy to feel all alone as we serve the Lord and that's one of the reasons we all love to serve Him on Emmaus teams. Serving on the teams, we re-experience the width and breadth of the body of Christ. This re-charges us so we don't grow weary in serving Him. Serving on a team helps us in our place in this body of believers to understand that all should serve Him. Experience from serving on a team is not necessary to faith, but it helps boost our faith when we take the opportunity to serve Him on an Emmaus Team.

One of our constant problems, however, is in the fact that we really don't understand the formation process and how that time is crucial to the strength of the team and the success of the walks. We are operating

under the mistaken impression that team formations are only for getting in the 15 talks and going home. Some may think they already know it all and are so knowledgeable that it is not even necessary for them to attend the formations.

I cannot emphasize to you strongly enough that a Team Member is nothing more than a servant. Servants always look up to those around them. To be a servant means “I put me DOWN” and I put “the other person UP”. Our purpose, as followers of Christ being used as his instrument on the Walk to Emmaus, is to put others on the throne instead of insisting on being there ourselves.

This is one the things that changes when we become a follower of Christ; you get a different viewpoint—a different set of values, and with a different set of values comes another way of looking at things.

In thinking about serving let’s be reminded that in John 13:15 Jesus plainly tells us that He is our example. Jesus makes it quite clear to His disciples that His position as the Father’s Son includes being a servant, not just the divine privilege of power and glory.

The sacrifice of giving of your time should be seriously considered when agreeing to serve on a team. If you are not able to put in the time; in prayer, in attending ALL FORMATIONS, and in giving 100 percent of yourself at the Walk Event for the entire 72 hour weekend, maybe you should remove yourself from the team.

When a Team Member says “YES” to serving on a team, they are promising to God and other Team members that they’ll spend the necessary time and effort to come to the Walk 100 percent PREPARED: 1) mentality, 2) physically and 3) spiritually; each one to be used by God as an instrument of His love and grace.

A Team Member should not come to the Walk seeking to be served, or expecting to be served. As a team member, you should be willing to put aside anything and everything in your life for the sake of the Pilgrims for 72 hours.

This includes your work, your church responsibilities, your family, your children, and anything else that may distract you from the purpose at hand.

The personal problems, worries, and concerns of all Team Members are to be handled BEFORE THE WALK WEEKEND...during your team formations and during your team's dying moments or privately with your own pastor or counselor. Team members should not bring their problems with them to the Walk Weekend, nor air them publicly during the Walk weekend. The Walk is for the pilgrims; it is their time for 72 hours and it is NOT about the TEAM members.

Can we begin to understand the importance of becoming PREPARED prior to the Walk... Can we see the importance of the team formations? To have a solid, strong, cohesive, spiritually prepared team takes time, commitment, work and effort. And there is far more to serving on a team than simply showing up on Thursday night and leaving as soon as possible on Sunday afternoon. It's about becoming a part of an awesome Holy tool, and developing in our own character a heart to serve others and put others first.

The Walk to Emmaus is a specific program with a specific purpose that has been tested over time and proved to work. Do we really dare to presume to think that God needs our help in any way to change His program and make improvements to it?

The previewing of TALKS is critically important. For over 30 years now, God has used these TALKS as a catalyst to move us all to closer relationship with Him. Emmaus talks are really ONE big lesson given in 15 smaller pieces. Each portion is necessary; and built upon the teachings presented in the one which precedes it. We must come to learn and understand that ALL TALKS are equally important and the ALL material contained in ALL TALKS is a necessary part of the whole and must be presented to the pilgrim as outlined so that we do not rob them of any crucial information.

Our community has grown into some habits that we must change. Let us go back to the model with 20-25 minute talks just as the program is written. This goes for both laity and clergy talks. In our zeal to evangelize the world, we have forgotten our purpose in this ministry. The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders.

Our aim is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and communities. Emmaus is not intended to be an evangelistic outreach to non-Christians. It was intended for persons who simply want to understand the Christian faith more fully and to mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. Emmaus is for fostering unity in Christ, not for theological debate and arguments about denominational differences.

The talks are not set aside as a time for preaching sermons or evangelizing; nor is it a time for healing services or baptisms. These types of services are beautiful, exciting, and wonderful and there is a place and time for those things to take place within your individual churches, but they are not a part of the 72 hours of the Walk to Emmaus weekend.

Following the model and staying within the suggested time frame provides the Pilgrims with much needed time to reflect and mediate on the information presented; time to relax, and time to think about what God has for them through this process. The team should not presume that the program should be altered in any way.

God has blessed us with a re-vitalizing tool called the Walk to Emmaus. The Walk to Emmaus would never get off the drawing board if left only to us! But when we go to Him, follow Him, follow His program that He has blessed for 30 years, and allow His spirit to use us and move us in appropriate ways..... OH! what a blessed instrument it becomes!

Being faithful to His program, The Campbellsville Emmaus Community should review the events of the past Walks and see how we can improve, how we can move closer to the model and enable ourselves to be used in an even greater way in the future. May our hearts be burning from within with a desire to do His will.

I'm reminded of the song "*It's all about you.*" The words are, "I'm sorry for the thing I've made it; It's all about you, all about you Jesus." Let's remember this as we prepare our hearts for service to the Lord and to others. Praise the Lord ! Keep up the good fight; we are winning the battle !

Thad Prince CLD