



Vol. 11, Issue 26
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Kairos and Emmaus – A Partnership

People have asked, what is after involvement in Emmaus, and the appropriate answer is the church and God's mission in the world. The purpose of Emmaus is to develop leaders for the church and thus the proper place to serve is the church and active participation in Christ's mission to the least, the lost and the lonely.

The church at large has the admonition from Christ to minister to those who are sick and in prison (Matthew 25:36-40). Ministry in prison is a daunting task and many will say they just can't do that. In reality, in and of ourselves, none of us can do that. Christ's admonition is not to be taken lightly. Christians in general have a tendency to follow their own agenda and seek God's blessings for the work. Frequently the true call from Christ goes unheeded because it is buried under a mountain of our agenda.

When Christ calls, Christians frequently respond by saying, "I can't do that because I don't have the ability." How well we Christians have learned our Bible and the examples of the great leaders who have said I can't do that. To cite a few such examples, Moses gave ten excuses, Isaiah lamented, "Woe is me for I have seen the face of God and will die," Gideon said he was the least in his family and his family was the least of the Israelites. God did not accept those excuses for not serving.

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EMMAUS & CHRYSALIS CELEBRATION 2005



April 8-9, 2005



First United Methodist Church, Alpharetta, Georgia
Hosted by: Emmaus

Sponsored by the International Emmaus/Chrysalis Offices

"Early Bird" registration ends 2 weeks before the event and will be \$50.00. Late registration and walk-ins are welcome at \$75.00 per person. You can print a registration form by to our website at www.upperroom.org/emmaus/, under Celebrations. Or, call 1-877-899-2780 and ask for the International Walk to Emmaus office.

The Importance of Prayer

By George Mullard -North-West Emmaus Community's Newsletter team - England

Prayer is an essential part of our daily lives and apparently the Methodist Church in this country has just announced that it is going to do a whole year of non-stop 24-7 Prayer. This follows its Youth Conference acknowledging "the part played by the 24/7 Prayer Movement in renewing churches and youth groups across the world" and our main conference strongly encouraged Methodists to organize 24/7 Prayer events in their local communities. Its intent is to be a massive Prayer Vigil. Let prayer be real in our lives. Let us believe that our prayers are answered.



The Holy Spirit has renewed many on their Walks; the consequence has been some renewal in homes, churches and Communities. Reunion Groups and Gatherings are places where we can pray, renew our strength and purpose to encourage others to share our renewal experiences - the consequence will be growing, fruitful churches. Let 2005 be a year of prayer and spiritual growth for each of us - let it be a year of full complement of Pilgrims on each Walk and where there are more volunteers for Team than places.

What We Have Convenanted to Do

By Carol Browne, Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community

Most of us recognize that changes to an original copyrighted script need to be correspondingly publicly acknowledged prior to performance. To rewrite someone else's work and to pass it off as the original is unethical and misleading, no matter the contrived reasons. Simply because an audience is unfamiliar with the original and does not know any difference does not explain or excuse the wrong done.

The Upper Room's Walk to Emmaus has been an original copyrighted script since 1981, at least. Like the performing of a play or an opera, the script for The Upper Room's Walk to Emmaus is a given including necessary stage directions which cannot be altered. Even so, since 1991, we have not to date conducted a Walk to Emmaus according to the original copyrighted script.

Every year the Board of Directors of every Emmaus community signs a letter of agreement with The Upper Room

covenanting to conduct the Walk to Emmaus in their geographic area as The Upper Room intends. But what we have covenanted to do, we have not done.

To quote a representative of The Upper Room, ". . . Sometimes I believe the most important thing we learn in the leadership development of serving in this movement is how to be obedient to a higher authority. Ultimately I am talking about God, but under that I am talking about being obedient to what was given to the Upper Room long before we came on board and understanding that everything that is presented is there for a reason and that when we change any part of it, we change the dynamics, which then can, if left unattended, change the results for the pilgrims". Carleen Alderman

As we step out in faith moving to fully conduct the Walk to Emmaus as The Upper Room intends, we are simply doing what we have covenanted to do.

Go Ahead, Take Advantage of us!



If you are not taking advantage of International Walk To Emmaus information on the web, you might want to check it out at www.upperroom.org/emmaus

Christ is not so much interested in our ability as He is in our availability. Whom Christ calls, He equips. The word availability is a compound word: avail + ability and avail comes first. If we avail ourselves to the call of Christ, He will equip us (give us the ability) for the task.

Prison ministry is a special privilege that few have the opportunity to experience. Kairos Prison Ministry International is a sister organization to The Walk to Emmaus, one we fully endorse and support. People with the Emmaus experience (and similar 4th Day program experience) are the building blocks of the Kairos ministry. Involvement with Kairos will be a humbling experience of Christian action. It will provide you spiritual blessings that are indescribable.

A journey to consider is the following. After Emmaus, get actively and deeply involved in your local church as you keep the fires burning with your involvement in Emmaus. Expand your experience by working with Kairos for a year or two. Following that, return to Emmaus involvement for a year or two and move into another year or two of exciting adventures such as Chrysalis. Back to Emmaus and then return to Kairos. Through such a process, you may find your spiritual ears have been retuned to allow you to better hear that deeper call from Christ to spend more time in a particular ministry.

The response to the words in Micah 6:8 is still needed today. Are you up to the challenge?

Richard A. Gilmore, Ph.D.

Richard A. Gilmore, Ph.D.
International Lay Director

Free Newsletter

We are pleased to be offering the Walk to Emmaus International Newsletter in two ways:

You may subscribe to receive the newsletter by e-mail by directing your browser on the internet to:

<http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus/online/lists.asp>.

Subscribing in this way will help us by reducing our costs of printing and mailing the newsletter.

If you are currently receiving the paper version of the International newsletter and wish to receive it by e-mail, please be sure to remove yourself from the paper version list. To do this, please send an e-mail to emmaus@upperroom.org. Please put in the subject line, "Remove from Emmaus Newsletter List." Be sure to include your name, address, city, state, zip code, and country.

You may subscribe for the printed newsletter by sending your name and address to Upper Room Walk to Emmaus Newsletter Mailing, P.O. Box 340004, Nashville, TN 37203-0004.

Please tell all of your Emmaus friends and community members about this free service.



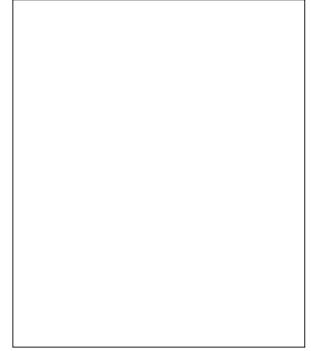
The Upper Room Prayer Center Phone: 1-800-251-2468

If you are in need of special prayer, please remember The Upper Room Prayer Center. You may call at any time. The Prayer lines are answered by volunteers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Meet our new team members:

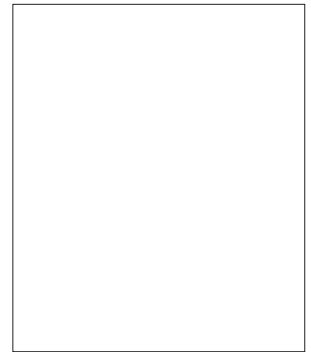
Elizabeth Behrens: Bilingual Assistant to the International Spiritual Director

Elizabeth is a native of Venezuela. She has lived in the United States several times. She brings experience in office administration working with a corporation that provided international events. She will be assisting our International Spiritual Director in providing support to our Emmaus & Chrysalis International Communities. Elizabeth's bilingual skills will be very helpful as we develop new international communities in Central and South America as well as with the Spanish speaking communities within the U.S. She can be contacted at: ebehrens@upperroom.org or 1-877-899-2780 Ext. 7230.



Rev. Carl (Sonny) Plishcke: Clergy Regional Representative for the South Central Region.

Sonny is a retired ordained clergy person from the Oklahoma Conference of the UMC. He served as a Community Spiritual Director for Green Country Emmaus for several years. He also brings many years of experience serving as a Chaplain here in the US and in other countries. Sonny will be available to Emmaus & Chrysalis Community Spiritual Directors to provide training and consultation for the clergy persons in these communities. He can be contacted at: scclergyregrep@msn.com



Notes from the Emmaus Office

International Walk to Emmaus Office Information Address: The Upper Room Emmaus (be sure to put Emmaus in the address), 1908 Grand Avenue, P. O. Box 340004, Nashville, TN 37203-0004. Phone numbers: Toll free: 877-899-2780, ext. 7288 for Dick Gilmore; ext. 7222 for Jean Johnson Green; ext. 7227 for Metral Smith, ext. 7189 for Víctor Pérez and ext. 7230 for Elizabeth Behrens. Fax: 615-340-7257. E-mail: Emmaus@upperroom.org. Office hours: Weekdays, 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Central Time).



Emmaus Materials and Supplies must be ordered through our Customer Service Staff at phone number 1-800-972-0433, or fax: 615-340-7590. Place your orders six to eight weeks in advance of your Walks to give plenty of time to fulfill your order accurately and lessen your stress levels. You must have your community account number, mail to and ship to addresses available when placing your order.

Attention All Board Members! **Board Room Web Site -- It's up to you!**

Remember to go to the Board Room Web site regularly to make changes for your community and also to enter your Walk Dates. If you are not sure how to do this, please contact the International Emmaus Office and we will be happy to instruct you. To enter this site you will need your user name and password, which you will find on your Letter of Agreement.

The Board Room Web site is: <http://www.upperroom.org/fourthday/boardroom>

1st Walks in Ireland Need Your Support!

The Walk to Emmaus in Ireland needs your support. The entire teams, which consist of people from five continents, will be traveling from February 14th thru March 2nd. Please pray for them and for the local Steering Committee in the Dublin area.

As of January 20, the pilgrim list has 17 men confirmed and 22 women confirmed. There are 18 other persons awaiting confirmation. Please pray that God will lead the right people to make the commitments so each walk will be filled to capacity (30 for each walk).

Please pray that the pilgrims and the team will be open to receive all that God intends for them on the walk and that the fire of God's love will empower them to spread the spirit of Emmaus throughout Ireland. The Steering Committee believes that Emmaus is coming to Ireland at just the right time to bring spiritual renewal and healing. The team, background supporters, and local leaders are counting on your prayers and support.

If you or your community would like to contribute to these walks or other international development efforts, please send your donation to the Emmaus Office and designate it for International Development or give online through the Upper Room website.

De Colores!

Rev. Victor Pérez

Rev. Victor Pérez
International Spiritual Director

Dick Gilmore

Dick Gilmore
International Lay Director

Other International Opportunities

Recently we received an invitation from Bishop Bolleter to bring the Walk to Emmaus to the Czech and the Slovak Republics as soon as possible. Jana Krisova, a staff person from Bishop Bolleter's office is the local contact person.

In the fall of 2004, eight men and women from the United Methodist Church in these republics attended the Walk to Emmaus in North Texas and Central Texas.

Our International Spiritual Director, Victor Pérez, is working with this project. He will need your prayers as we proceed with the careful work of laying a good foundation for this future Emmaus community.

For those communities interested in Spanish speaking Walks in the U.S. please contact the International Walk to Emmaus Office for a copy of the Guidelines for Conducting Spanish-Speaking Walks in the United States. You may call Rev. Victor Perez at (615) 340-7189, or his assistant Elizabeth Behrens at (615) 340-7230. Or, you may call toll free at 877-899-2780. Just ask the operator to connect you to anyone in the Emmaus office.

Emmaus Funding Plan Donations

Thank you to each of the following Emmaus Communities for Pilgrim fees sent to the International Walk to Emmaus office for 2004 year end. **Total to date: \$222,096.20.**

Alabama, AL	Burning Hearts, IN	Northwest New Mexico, NM	Highland Rims, TN
Blue Lake, AL	Columbus IN Area, IN	New York Annual Conf., NY	New Covenant, TN
Central Alabama, AL	East Central, IN	Troy Annual Conf., NY	Still Waters, TN
Living Waters, AL	Evansville District, IN	Western New York, NY	West Tennessee, TN
New Life, AL	Greater Indianapolis Area, IN	Wyoming Conference, NY	Big Country, TX
Arizona, AZ	Greensburg Area, IN	Albemarle, NC	Brazos Valley, TX
Noahs of Ark, AR	Michiana, IN	Blue Ridge, NC	Cradle of Texas, TX
Central California, CA	Midwest Crossroads, IN	Central Carolinas, NC	Dallas, TX
Central Coast, CA	North Indiana, IN	Emmanuel, NC	Denton Area, TX
Channel Island, CA	Richmond Area, IN	Grace of the Carolinas, NC	Diakonia, TX
El Shaddai, CA	Southwest Indiana, IN	Heart of Carolina, NC	East Texas, TX
High Desert, CA	Cedar Rapids, IA	Mountain Top, NC	Golden Spread, TX
Orange County, CA	Iowa, IA	Pamlico Area, NC	Golden Triangle, TX
River Walk, CA	Terrace Hills, IA	Piedmont, NC	Grace, TX
San Diego, CA	Bread Of Life, KS	Central Ohio, OH	Hearts Afire, TX
Southern California, CA	Ashland Area, KY	Drake County Area, OH	Hi-Sky, TX
Southern San Joaquin, CA	Bowling Green, KY	East Ohio Emmanuel, OH	Houston Bay Area, TX
Emmaus of the Rockies, CO	Campbellsville, KY	Greater Cincinnati, OH	Living Water, TX
Four Corners, CO	Dale Hollow, KY	Greater Findlay Area, OH	Llano Estacado, TX
Northern Colorado, CO	Elizabethtown, KY	Greater Scioto Valley, OH	NET Northeast Texas, TX
Western Rockies, CO	Lake Cumberland Area, KY	Heart of Ohio, OH	New Horizon, TX
Delmavra, DE	Lexington, KY	New-Ark Area, OH	Red River, TX
Aldersgate, FL	Louisville Area, KY	Northern Lights, OH	Rolling Plains, TX
Big Bend, FL	Owensboro, KY	Northwest Ohio, OH	Rushing Wind, TX
Florida Crown, FL	Pennyrile, KY	Ohio Valley, OH	Signal Mountain, TX
Florida Sunrise, FL	Cross Bayou, LA	Springfield Area, OH	South West Texas Conference, TX
Gulf Coast, FL	Lagniappe Country, LA	Western Reserve, OH	Texoma, TX
Heart of Florida, FL	Southern Maryland, MD	Wilmington Area, OH	Dan River, VA
Southeast Florida, FL	Emmaus of Southeast Michigan, MI	Cross Point, OK	Eastern Shore, VA
Athens, Area, GA	Grand Rapids Area, MI	Great Lake, OK	Greater Fredericksburg Area, VA
Atlanta South, GA	Jackson Area, MI	Great Plains, OK	Loudoun Valley, VA
Coastal Georgia, GA	Kalamazoo Area, MI	Green Country, OK	Lynchburg-Central Virginia, VA
Dayspring, GA	Mid-Michigan, MI	Northwest Oklahoma, OK	National Capital Area, VA
Georgia Foothills, GA	Northeast Emmanuel, MI	Pioneer Country, OK	Peninsula Rainbow, VA
North Georgia, GA	Straits Area, MI	Mountain Trails, OR	Southside, VA
Northwest Georgia, GA	Traverse City Area, MI	Crossroads of Eastern PA, PA	Southwest Virginia, VA
Pathways East Georgia, GA	West Michigan, MI	Mountain Top of NE PA, PA	Tidewater, VA
South Georgia, GA	Heartland of Kansas City, MO	Three Rivers, PA	Eastern Panhandle of WV, WV
Valley, GA	Missouri East, MO	Southern New England, RI	Kanawha Valley, WV
Hawaii, HI	Show Me The Way, MO	Emmaus of the Midlands, SC	North Central West Virginia, WV
Idaho, ID	North Mississippi, MS	Foothills, SC	Big Horn Basin, WY
Bloomington-Normal, IL	Western Montana, MT	Low Country, SC	Wyoming Conference, WY
Elohim, IL	Nebraska, NE	Seaside, SC	Comunidad Emaus De Puerto Rico, PR
Illinois Heartland, IL	Southern Nevada, NV	Dakota's, SD	
Little Egypt, IL	Garden State, NJ	Chattanooga-Lafayette, TN	
Northern Illinois, IL	Skylands, NJ	Emmaus of the Cumberland, TN	
Quad-Cities, IL	Northeast New Mexico Emmaus, NM	Great Smokey Mountain, TN	



LEAVE A LEGACY THAT BRINGS CHRIST TO A SUFFERING WORLD. For simple language to include Emmaus International in your estate plans, call 1-877-899-2781 ext. 7212 or E-mail: bwakefield@upperroom.org

Personal Agape Letters

By Melanie LeMay, Central Alabama Emmaus Community

I was on the waiting list to go to Emmaus for a long time. In that interval, my sponsor went through a downspin in her life and more or less lost interest in Emmaus. I tried to gently suggest, prior to my Walk, that she might give my sponsorship over to someone else, but she didn't take the hint. I had information about her life situation at the time but I couldn't reveal the source of that information and discuss the situation openly with her.

As a result, my sponsor did little to obtain Agape letters for me. One of the most agonizing experience of my life was sitting down with a bag full of generic letters from people who didn't know me and who had only taken up the slack, so to speak, out of the goodness of their hearts.

In the meantime, my fellow Pilgrims were scattered about, going through bags with long letter after long letter, obviously very moved by what their loved ones had written. I had a few brief letters from one or two friends and family, but it was clear my sponsor had not communicated with them the purpose of the letters, so they were quite generic and not much different from any other letters I'd previously received from them. The letter from my best friend was the best, but I had actually clued her in on it in advance, knowing that my

sponsor probably wouldn't take the trouble to locate and request a letter from her. She had actually sent her letter directly to the camp prior to my Walk.

I relate this story only to stress to sponsors that the Agape letters are crucial to the Emmaus experience. There is no more lonely feeling than to have been showered with Emmaus love for days, only to have to sit and watch other Pilgrims weep over long, heartfelt letters that their sponsors have so painstakingly collected for them. When the day comes that I sponsor my first Pilgrim, I'll do everything I can – including stealthily borrowing an address book or two and quizzing friends to be sure I've covered all the significant people in his/her life – to see that the crowning experience of Emmaus is not a disappointment and a sad memory.

To this day, I feel immense sadness when I think back on my Agape letter experience. That said, let me assure you that overall, my Walk to Emmaus was still the most significant experience of my life, and one that I will cherish forever.

Anyone who takes part in this program makes a real difference in the lives of others. Even if my sponsor wasn't at good point in her own Christian walk, she still did me a great service by helping make a Walk possible for me.

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

By Chuck Greever – Lynchburg/Central Virginia Walk 31

I'm a big guy, 6'7" tall and 350 pounds or so, but when you're inside of this body looking out you don't necessarily grasp how big you look to other people who may be seeing you for the first time. I had been dealing with this for some time trying to understand the impression other people have of Chuck. It's good to know the impact you have on others around you.

- Three years ago after I had my mountain top experience, The Walk to Emmaus, I began to lead a changed life. A lot of things changed. I stopped thinking about how I could be a better me, and started thinking about how I could be better at letting Jesus live through me. I began to understand the concept of the potter and the clay as I became aware that it wasn't me doing the changing but the Lord making me a fit vessel for his presence.
- I began to see the pain of others and the love I felt could bring me to tears in a heartbeat. I became a giving person rather than the victim of my own avarice. I began to trust in the provision of the Lord rather than my own ability. I began to study the Bible and the writing that I do is the natural result of that. And I began to see the Lord at work not only in my life but in the lives of others, and probably the most important thing of all; I began to pray, I pray at work, I pray at home, I pray in the car, I have a constant dialogue in my head and I do that in the full presence of the Lord. He knows every thought.
- I wish I had a quarter for every time someone has said to me, "What's the weather like up there?" Or, "Good Lord, what size shoe do you wear?" I still don't know what other people see when they look at Chuck Greever, but it is my prayer that they will come to know what lives inside of me rather than appearances, for I aspire to making a home in my heart for Jesus. That's really all that this devotional is about, the building of the Holy Temple, a clean place for the Lord to reside in this unclean world.

There is no gift, greater than that of the Spirit of the Lord; it is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

Regional Representatives

All of our Regional Representatives are working hard to serve your community. When they make contact with your leaders, please make them feel welcome. Please contact them. Regional Representatives are available to serve. Here are the Regional Representatives and their contact information.

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