

Near the Cross Emmaus



July 2012
Volume 7, Issue 7

TEAMS PREPARE FOR UPCOMING WALKS

Being a team member for a weekend Walk is far different from participating as a pilgrim. People who are team members for the first time may feel overwhelmed when they realize the full cope of preparation necessary for a Walk. Even those who have served on several teams gain spiritual insight from each experience; they come to understand and appreciate the dynamics of team membership and the meaning of service.

The team does not strive to have a Walk that is better than any other. Rather its intent is to form and deepen the spirituality of each team member. Weekends are structured so that the participants have experiences that help them become better disciples and offer opportunities that encourage them to express their faith. They learn to witness to the love of Christ, not only in the Emmaus community, but

in their homes, workplaces, churches, and world. Being a member of a team prepares people to make discipleship, proclaiming the gospel, a vocation.

The attitude of team members is this: We do our best, through Christ who strengthens us, in the places where we have been called; and we trust the rest to God, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

When the Israelites left Egypt, they followed a cloud by day and fire in the cloud by night. When "the cloud covered the tent of meeting,...the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34). During team meetings, we follow a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1), servants and leaders who were called by God and have gone before us. The fire of the Holy spirit and the glory of God fill the Walk to Emmaus.

A Prayer for Our Freedom

Dear Lord,

There is no greater feeling of liberation than to experience this freedom from sin and death that you have provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and soul are free to praise you. For this I am very thankful.

On this Independence Day I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that my freedom was purchased with a very high price. My freedom cost others their very lives.

Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty meet their needs and watch over their families.

Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Christ.

Amen

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28

Orientation-Walks #25 & #26
Cornerstone UMC

August 4

NEAR the Cross Gathering
FUMC-Jonesboro

August 10-11

Walks #25 & 26
Conference Room Training
Cornerstone UMC

August 25

Walks #25 & #26
Team Training
Cornerstone UMC

September 13-16

Men's Walk #25
LD: Jim Markley

September 20-23

Women's Walk #26
LD: Shelly Fulks

* We will not have Monthly Gatherings in July and September due to the 4th of July holiday and the Walks in the month of September.

Check us out on the web!
www.nearthecrossemmaus.org
Find Sponsor/Pilgrim applications, upcoming events and reunion groups!

Overcome the world...

Overcome the world...

John Schooley

4th Day Talk

I John 5:4

My Fourth Day has been a journey. I have had a little over 7500 Fourth Days. My walk was in 1991, I met my wife in '93, got married in '95, changed professions in '96, and had a life changing accident in '97. Let it be said that each event was touched by my walk.

In the summer of 1997 my wife Sheila and I decided to have Sheila be a stay at home mom to her 13 year old daughter. We prepared and arranged to have Sheila quit her job. Her last day was on a Friday; I was in an automobile accident the following Monday.

The next six months I was in the hospital. The first six weeks were at the Elvis Presley Trauma Center in Memphis. I was on morphine, and I don't remember most of that period of time. Elvis Presley Trauma Center holds you only until you are stable. The average stay is three days. I was there six weeks.

My wife had the most difficulty. She had to live through the trauma every day, not knowing if I was going to live or die. She overcame it with love and support from friends and family. There is an 80% divorce rate in couples who go through this type of trauma. We beat the odds!

The psychiatrist would ask me if I was mad at the person who was driving the truck that hit me. I never felt angry or mad. I just felt God's love all around me. In my room Sheila taped the get well cards to the wall. Sheila was able to cover the wall with cards, and she got to the point where she had to take down cards to make room for the

new ones.

Some of the staff would come in just to get renewed; they would tell me my room was like a sanctuary. I knew in was in the hands of God.

Before the accident I was very confident in my own strength and mental capabilities. Afterwards my strength was completely gone. My left leg was in fraction for four and a half months.

My upper body was very weak. For example, the nurse had to put a ball under my right hand to help form the fingers the way are supposed to be. After a while, my hand was getting sore, but I did not even have the strength to lift my hand off the ball. I used the call button to call the nurse's station for help to raise my hand off the ball.

Mentally, I was forgetful; I had to ask my son when was his birthday. I couldn't remember names. In all these things I had to rely on God.

I knew I could rely on Him because of Emmaus. I knew God would never leave me and never forsake me. And that love supported me through the hospital experience and still supports me every day.

For the first few years I would see improvement every day. Now it is very slow. Some of the problems, I hate to admit, are because of age.

I now have a desire to help people. I volunteer at Sara House, an activity center for adults with disabilities. We work with a lot of individuals with learning disabilities. This has taught me patience. God has given certain abilities to each and every one of us. If you wait and

listen to people with learning disabilities you learn a lot.

You have to be patient and listen to their way of communication, but they do have insight that you may not realize. Sometimes it is like looking through a child-like eye about injustices or circumstances happening to them or others they know.

I learned about this type of patients when I was in the hospital. I used to roll my wheelchair around the halls for exercise.

One day I saw a lady I recognized from one of my groups. She had had a stroke, and had trouble talking. I sat with her for a long time waiting to hear what she had to say. When it was time for me to leave she told me that I was the first person who would listen to her at the hospital. She had been there many weeks.

Almost 2 years ago, I was sitting at my computer at home when I felt a calling to go to the United Methodist Church and get involved because there was going to be a revival. After a few months I joined the church and now volunteer at FUMC, Corning.

I am president of the Methodist Men, teach Sunday School, and serve as treasurer of the memorial fund. I am able to do all of these activities because of the time God has allotted me, and the desire to serve in whatever and wherever the need may be that is asked of me.

I still feel there **will** be a revival. I feel it will include many churches, and Emmaus contributions.