

# Near the Cross Emmaus



June 2012

Volume 7, Issue 6

## PILGRIM APPLICATIONS FOR FALL WALKS

### How do we Sponsor Pilgrims?

As plans and preparations are underway for our Fall Walks, remember to be in prayer for Sponsors and Pilgrims. Good sponsorship is vital to the Emmaus movement in every community. Without Sponsors and Pilgrims, Walk weekends cannot exist. Early registration can help Sponsors prepare their Pilgrims for the weekend by answering any questions, making necessary arrangements for the weekend and to gather agape letters. Pilgrim applications are available on our website and are now being accepted by our Registrar.

When sponsoring a Pilgrim for an upcoming Walk take into consideration the following steps to a wise sponsorship:

1. Pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a Walk.
2. Make an appointment with the person or couple for the purpose of discussing participation in Emmaus.
3. Invite the pilgrim to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just an event to go to. Share your faith; explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose and the follow-up dimensions that help us live in grace the rest of our lives. Take the attitude that you are giving the person a wonderful gift rather than that he or she needs to go.
4. Ask the person to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage an equal commitment by both.
5. Continue to pray for your pilgrim, prepare agape letters and enlist the support of their pastor.
6. Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil and your presence at Send-Off, Sponsors' Hour, Candlelight and Closing. Support the pilgrim's family by house-sitting, baby-sitting or just checking with a spouse to see if anything is needed.
7. Encourage the pilgrim in his or her 4th Day involvement. Help them find a Reunion Group and encourage them to attend Gatherings.
8. Help the pilgrim reenter their church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.
9. Inform them of ways to serve the Emmaus Community and future Walks.
10. Help the pilgrim sponsor others.

## CORRECTION

*An error was printed in last month's newsletter in the listing of the new community members from our Spring Walks #23 and #24. We apologize for the mistake and would like to recognize and welcome our new members in this edition.*

### Men's Walk #23

James Baker  
Chris Buxton  
Blake Culbreath  
Dewayne Crouse  
Mark Duncan  
Brock Ferguson  
Joe Ferguson  
Amon Firestone  
Keith Mitchell Hensley  
Clint James  
Joe Little  
Thomas Martin  
Troy Morgan  
Ronald Palmer  
Scott Ralston  
Robert Smith  
Jay Wilson

### Women's Walk #24

Carolyn Baldwin  
Shirley Coble  
Sara Culbreath  
Christina Dickerson  
Susan Glasgow  
Marsha FitzPatrick  
Mary Grubbs  
Dawn Harris  
Teri Hinson  
Mary Jeter  
Jennifer Kaiser  
Jane Lindsey  
Darby Merrill  
Sharon Nichols  
Rikki Painter  
Donna Palmer  
Amanda Pulliam  
Renuka Singh  
Amanda Weaver  
Natalie Williams

## COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

There will not be a gathering in July due to the 4th of July Holiday. Our next gathering will be Saturday, August 4th at First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro at Noon. Join us for a potluck lunch, fellowship, singing, communion and a 4th Day Talk. Bring Pilgrims for Walks #25 and #26 to help encourage excitement for the walk!

# 4th Day Talk

## Judi Andrews

When Marion called me to ask that I would give a 4th Day Talk, I was hesitant. As we spoke, I decided that there was a reason I was being asked to speak and maybe my story would touch someone, so I agreed.

I hung up the phone and called my sister and told her I had been asked to give a 4th Day Talk and I had no idea what to say. First she laughed, she said that Shane, my brother-in-law had been planning to do it but they had the lake house that weekend so he had let Marion know he couldn't be there. So, there was my reason, my brother-in-law was going to the lake. Now, I say that in good humor. I realized as I talked with my sister that I did have something to share about my walk and the journey I had made since. I think in some way, God was calling me to recall the things I have overcome in the last several years and realize how much I have healed with His help.

You see, I have tried very hard my whole life to do things the "right" way. I made good grades, was kind to people and went to church. I married my college sweetheart after I had been at my "real" job for six months. We bought a house, had a child, went to church, donated our time to causes.

I was doing things the "right" way so no way anything bad would happen to me. My God wouldn't allow that. After 15 years together, I came home one night after church to tell my husband about the sermon. He interrupts me to tell me how unhappy he was and that he thought he wanted a divorce. Stunned I got through it with the help of my family, friends, my church family and God. I had to be strong for my daughter, after all her parents would be divorced. I knew I had to provide stability for her. She had a very difficult time with the divorce and I think maybe that I didn't realize the extent of my hurt because I was so concerned about hers. I still had my beautiful daughter, I had our home, my career, an amazing support system and no real hardship other than the hurt feelings of myself and my daughter.

We healed and we moved on with our lives. About a year after the night I found out my marriage was over, I met someone new. We were married within six months. This is it, I thought. This is the something better God had in store for me. Great guy, loved my family, was kind to my daughter, went to church with me and was a good dad to his children. We sold the home I had owned and the only home my daughter, who was 13, had ever known so that we could begin our new life with a fresh start. We bought our dream house and began to merge all aspects of our lives together. Shortly after we moved in our home, he began to have a different personality. He yelled, complained, constantly corrected all of us, his two daughters included. He became very controlling and judgemental and it grew

I could see that not only was he making me a nervous wreck but he was destroying my daughter's self esteem. I knew that I couldn't allow that to happen. We talked and decided maybe we just need some time to reconnect. After three and a half years of marriage, I came home for a weekend getaway we had planned. The children were gone, we had arranged for the grandparents to have them. However, we did not go away. Instead I got the news that he was not happy and wanted a divorce. Here I go again I thought. Really? How can God let this happen when he showed me such happiness. Surely the great person I married was in there somewhere. So, after a week of consideration and some ugly confrontations, my husband made some mistakes I couldn't forgive so I filed for a divorce.

The first divorce was very civil. We still cared about each other and didn't want to hurt the other, we just didn't have the relationship a husband and wife needed. He was very fair and wanted our daughter to have the ability to stay in her home and not have to experience any loss. But I had no idea what was in store for me this time.

I was in a much different position now. The new house we had purchased was a two income home, one that a single mom wouldn't have taken on alone. So I placed the house for sale. Shortly after, I learned that the company I had worked for in upper management for the past 11 years would be merging with our parent company. Great news, so I thought. It turned out that they would have more managers than positions. They began looking at managers with 10 years or more service with the company and then rated them based on various targets. I was lucky that I was on the list to keep my job, however the condition was that I may have to relocate. It was pretty ironic because the biggest complaint that always triggered my husband's tirades was my job. I worked long hours that he felt interfered with our time. So, now I had my divorce and my job to deal with, the matter of where to live, and my husband contested the divorce three times, not because he wanted to work it out but because of the financial obligations he would have one the property settlement was final. I was quite stressed and all I really wanted was my life back to normal. After 5 months of contesting, we finally were issued a court date that he did not contest and we were able to divorce. Ten days later, I learned my fate was to move to another area for my job or take my severance pay by the end of February. It was December at the time. I had a home for sale, a fresh ugly divorce, the task of starting my career over, and a child that I felt would be the victim of my poor choices. I struggled during this time to determine why these things happen to me. I slept little, lost a lot of weight and withdrew to myself. It wasn't that I didn't have a good support system or people who cared, I just felt very

alone and unworthy.

During the months the divorce was going on, my sister and brother-in-law kept encouraging me to go on a Walk to Emmaus. The one in October was originally what I had planned. As the time drew closer I decided I just had too many things going on and I just couldn't take on anything else. The seed had been planted though. February arrived and I left my job of 11 years. I went home and did nothing but spend time with my daughter, sleep and lick my wounds. In March, I finally realized one day that I had to make some decisions about the rest of my life. I contacted the Chamber and found three positions that I felt I would enjoy and were qualified for. I had not applied for a job in a very long time. I applied for all three. I was contacted by the first one and asked for an interview. I went on my first interview and it went very well. I was actually excited about the aspect of a new profession. I had another interview with their Regional Manager and was later offered the position. I signed my contract and left feeling good about the future.

I called my sister and she was excited to hear I had gotten the job. Then she said okay, now it's time for you to go to the Walk to Emmaus. She told me there was one in April and that she was working the Walk so I felt a little more comfortable about going.

April came and I went on my Walk. It was there that I learned that God does love me and that the only thing holding me back for that joy was the hurt I was carrying. He never allowed those terrible things to happen, He helped me survive them. My anger, my hurt, my regrets were weighing me down and not allowing me to experience the true happiness that was intended for me. I was very touched that people who did not even know me prepared my meals, made things for me and cleaned up after me. After all, some of the people I trusted more than anyone had never done these things for me. I realized that they were showing me the love that God has for me and all I had to do was allow Him to take those burdens. Hand my problems over and then trust in His wisdom. I did that and I really felt a weight lifted from me.

It was a joy I hadn't felt in a long time. I felt like I had a new beginning and a new perspective.

That is how I began my Fourth Day.

Since my journey began over two years ago, I have taken a huge loss on my home, recently moving to a house less than half the size of the home I hoped to grow old in. I make far less money than I did a few years ago. I no longer have that someone special to share my day with. I see now that this was all in God's plan for me. My new job has enabled me to be home with my daughter much more. I don't travel and I never miss her school activities. My house is much easier to clean. My life is much simpler. I am far richer and better for having found that relationship with God that I had lost. I had no idea how far I had drifted. I don't know if I would have ever realized this without attending the Walk to Emmaus.

## 4th Day Talk

Judi Andrews

(continued)

I just worked my first Walk and I believe it was as much of a blessing to work as it is attending one. I saw some of the pilgrims looking lost and alone the first day and saw the transformation that took place over the weekend. I wanted to make sure that someone who needed it as badly as I had, felt the presence of God's love. I have a new outlook and am really a much different person. I still struggle and sometimes wait too long to hand over my burdens, but it's a journey. It may not always be visible on the outside of the changes I have made. I do remember that God will not ever bring you to anything he cannot bring you through. I have come a long way from that hurt lost person who showed up that Thursday evening for my Walk. I hope that you all have been as blessed as I have been. De Colores

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Where did Emmaus Originate?

The Walk to Emmaus is an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Cursillo (pronounced cur-SEE-o) Movement, which originated in Spain in 1949. Cursillo de Cristianidad means "little course in Christianity." The original Cursillo leaders designed the program to empower persons to transform their living and working environments into Christian environments. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Episcopalians and Lutherans, along with several nondenominational groups, such as Tres Dias, began to offer Cursillo. In 1978, The Upper Room of the General Board of Discipleship adapted the program for a primarily Protestant audience and began to offer it under the name The Upper Room Cursillo. In 1981, The Upper Room made further adaptations and changed the name of the program to The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus. In 1984, The Upper Room developed a youth expression of Emmaus called Chrysalis.

## TRAINING DATES SET FOR FALL WALKS

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|-------------|--|
| July 28     | Orientation for Walks #25 & #26<br>Cornerstone United Methodist Church |
| Aug. 10-11  | Conference Room Training<br>Cornerstone United Methodist Church        |
| Aug. 25     | Training for Entire Team<br>Cornerstone United Methodist Church        |
| Sept. 13-16 | Men's Walk #25<br>Lay Director: Jim Markley                            |
| Sept. 20-23 | Women's Walk #26<br>Lay Director: Shelly Fulks                         |

### PRAYERS & PRAISES

*Let us know what is going on with you, your family, friends and other Emmaus communities by logging on to our website [www.nearthecrossemmaus.org](http://www.nearthecrossemmaus.org). Post prayer requests, birthdays, anniversaries, deaths, upcoming Walks in other communities and anything else you need your Emmaus Prayer Warriors praying for.*

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#### Check us out on the web!

[www.nearthecrossemmaus.org](http://www.nearthecrossemmaus.org)

Find Sponsor/Pilgrim applications, upcoming events and reunion groups!