

# Near the Cross Emmaus



October 2012  
Volume 7, Issue 10

## NEW MEMBERS LOOK FORWARD TO 4TH DAY

### Walk #25 Closing

God's love and deep appreciation for their experiences at the Fall Walk were the theme of responses from men testifying at the closing ceremonies September 16 at Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Jonesboro.

"I've been going to church my whole life, but this walk gave me something I can take home. I want to share this love with my family and my community. I know I can be a better husband, father and worker in my office."

†

"I will do whatever God asks, no matter what it is," a man declared.

†

"I learned to hear what God has to say to me. I have learned that God can meet my deepest needs."

†

"I felt the Lord's presence last night, and He accepted me just as I am," a man stated. "Now I want to please him."

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#### Men's Walk #25

Michael Boggs  
Brian Brahic  
Charlie Coburn  
Chad Daniels  
Jimmy Davidson  
William Davis  
Louis Dyche  
Chris George  
Keith Harp  
Brett Hickman  
Cooper Holmes  
Mark Huffer  
Daniel Jarchow  
Joe Kaiser  
Byron McCrackin  
Clay McDaniel  
Johnny Noles  
Jonathan Poynor  
Scott J. Smith  
Wayne Still  
Shane Sturdivant  
Brent Swaim  
Anthony Tate  
Scot Walker  
Mark Warnick  
Rick White

#### Women's Walk #26

Paulette Arnold  
Brandi Boggs  
Ellen Stoddard-Boling  
Ruth Ann Cain  
Tammie Day  
Stacey George  
Rachel Golden  
Athena Goodall  
April Goodman  
Margo Grant  
Christy Grimes  
Barbara Harness  
Pam Huffer  
Leanne James  
Kim Mann  
Katie McLean  
Peggy Miller  
Ruth Mitchell  
Kelly Privett  
Lorri Ralston  
Neva Shewmaker  
Penny Stallings  
Kelli Swaim  
Whitney Teague  
Terrie Thompson  
Johnnye Wallace  
Terri Warnick

### Walk #26 Closing

Love overflowed in remarks from women at Closing ceremonies for Walk #26 Sept. 23 at Cornerstone United Methodist Church.

"I never felt so much love, as I did during the walk.! I feel restored, and I haven't felt that way in a long time."

†

"A month ago I had never even heard of Emmaus, and I didn't think I could last for 72 hours. This is a true melting pot. I want to take my restored faith back home and share it with my community."

†

"I love new shoes! But like Cinderella, I found it's not about the SHOES. It's about the WALK! I want to be the hands and feet that Christ can use."

†

"Through God's grace, I was able to let go over things I've held onto for years. Now I'm going to help others."

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**NEAR the Cross Emmaus Community**  
**Board of Directors Election**  
**October 2012**

If both spouses are Emmaus members, you may vote with separate emails/ballots.  
Indicate who is voting on each email/ballot.

**Deadline: Saturday, October 20**

**LAY POSITIONS (Vote for 4 only)**

Marvin Day  
Kathy Price  
Mark Belk  
Jason Chandler  
Pam Slaven  
Clint James

**CLERGY POSITIONS (Vote for 1 only)**

Shane West  
Dan Brand

Votes may be placed by email or by mail by sending your choices to:

NEAR the Cross Secretary  
Sara Frazier  
402 Cedar Street  
Pocahontas, AR 72455

**Who Is the Servant?**

*Martha was distracted with much serving...but Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.*

*Luke 10:40-42 NKJV*

Martha is worried about something good. She's having Jesus over for dinner. She's literally serving God. Her aim was to please Jesus. But she made a common, yet dangerous mistake. As she began to work for him, her work became more important than her Lord. What began as a way to serve Jesus, slowly and subtly became a way to serve self...She has forgotten that the meal is to honor Jesus, not Martha.

It's easy to forget who is the servant and who is to be served.

Max Lucado  
He Still Moves Stones

**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

Preparations for Spring 2013 Walks are already underway. Marvin Day of Jonesboro and Lois Anderson of Cherokee Village have been selected as Lay Directors for Walks 27 and 28. The NEAR the Cross team selection committee will be meeting in November to prayerfully begin selecting team members from work applications to serve on these walks. If you are interested in serving on the conference room or support team for either walk you must submit a work application to our Registrar Bob Rogers by October 31st. If you have not filled out a work application since September 2012, you must resubmit a new application so the committee has your accurate contact and work information. Applications can be found on our website **[www.nearthecrossemmaus.org](http://www.nearthecrossemmaus.org)**.

The dates for Spring and Fall 2013 Walks will be determined January 1st when Mt. Zion Camp releases their 2013 calendar. We can accept Pilgrim applications NOW! It is never too early to start talking to potential pilgrims. Please be in prayer about who to sponsor and begin those initial conversations. It would be great to have our walks filled a couple months in advance so that we can bathe the pilgrims in prayer by name that much longer! Pilgrim and Sponsor applications can also be found on our website and must be submitted to our Registrar Bob Rogers.

**NEAR THE CROSS**  
**Emmaus Community**

**President**

Jim Markley  
jmarkley\_best@msn.com

**Registrar**

Bob Rogers  
bobgoeagle@att.net

**Treasurer**

Sherri Slaven  
sherrislaven@yahoo.com

**Secretary**

Sara Frazier  
wsfrazier@live.com

**Newsletter**

Haley Mitchell  
haley\_jo\_01@yahoo.com

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

# 4th Day Talk

## 4th Day Talk

### Amy Baker Speaks at Candlelight

When I was asked to speak here tonight I first thought, well that's going to be a boring talk. I don't really have any great stories. But then I thought everything God does is great, no matter how big or small and God has definitely affected my life in a BIG way. He is my life and I never fully understood that until attending my walk 5 years ago.

When I was first asked to go on the Walk to Emmaus it was by my best friend. She told me about how fun it would be if we went together, but I knew she wasn't so sure about it either. I had been married about two years at the time and I thought I couldn't leave him for that long, especially without a phone to check on him, you know we have to know what they're doing every few hours.

Well my best friend went and she was so excited to tell me how blessed she was and all that God had shown her during the weekend. I prayed about it and realized that God has to be more important than anything else in my life so I was so excited to go on the next walk. Now I know lots of people say that they were nervous about all the people at send-off and being lined up while people stare at you, but I didn't mind it too much because I thought I knew everything that was going to happen! You know best friends tell each other EVERYTHING right? Wrong. I love, love surprises, but I had it in my mind that I knew everything that was going to happen over the weekend. I even made sure to bring my earplugs and stretchy pants. But the thing is that God has His own plans and I had no idea what He had in mind.

The best word I could use to describe my weekend was LOVE. I had no idea how people who didn't even know me could show me so much love. Growing

up I've had many ups, but also many downs. I've felt so much emptiness at times in my life and I carried so much baggage with me on my walk. I remember being so happy just to cry in the prayer chapel as I felt the Holy Spirit. There were things that I didn't want to admit to even myself and God provided me with clarity and knowledge. That's such an amazing thing.

I grew up in church, knew all of the songs, could sing the books of the Bible, and I could be a pretty good challenge in "who can find the verse fastest," but I didn't have as deep of a relationship with Jesus that I desired. I made excuses and helped my husband do the same thing.

I made it to candlelight and thought wow, more love. I remember praying that night and feeling so undeserving. God led me along this path and I finally saw what I needed to do to become the follower of Jesus I desired. As the weekend got closer to an end I became nervous. I new this bubble of love and understanding was going to end soon. I was so excited to return home to my husband, but nervous to see how he would respond to the "new" me because that's how I saw myself. God had turned me into a new Amy, one who wanted to seek His will instead of things of this world. My husband was so happy to see me when I got home and so sweet. I thought "Man, maybe I need to go away more often if I get to come home to this." After an hour or so he finally said what I was waiting on: "Your going to be a little different now aren't you?" It was music to my ears. The man who sees me every day and knows me so well saw a change in me so quickly. He wasn't even surprised, like he was expecting it. I knew that I was doing what God wanted me to. I knew that

God had a plan whether it was what I had in mind or not.

Then came the day I was not ready for: Monday morning. Did anybody else dread that day as much as me? Who wants to go back to the real world without a pre-breakfast and little gifts on my bed? Well I quickly realized that I was starting to see things differently. I was happier and I was making my day about my walk with Jesus rather than my own goals. That day was also the day that I realized what amazing friends I was going to have in my Emmaus community. My friend that went on the walk with me left something at the camp and her table leader met us to return it. With it she brought us a bag of candy and a notepad with a rooster on it and the words "Happy Fourth Day!" More of that love!

I have worked many walks since then and have been blessed enough to become friends with some of the most amazing people I know. When I need prayer or encouragement there is always someone to listen or provide the scriptures that I need at the time.

After my walk I became more active in my church and you better believe people heard about what an amazing thing the Walk to Emmaus is. One of my goals was to sponsor as many people from my church that God would lead me to. I'm pretty sure people started going the other direction when they saw me coming sometimes, but I wanted people to know how God changed my life. I became more confident to speak, sing and teach. Even though I still felt so unworthy, I knew that God wanted my best and that He would give me the words to speak.

I'm still nowhere near perfect. I mess up daily, but I know God is still molding me. My husband and I have a little girl now (who has already been on a walk in my belly) and I know there are going to be many hard days ahead...but I also know that my God will be right there with me. I grew SO much on my Walk to Emmaus and I pray that I continue to grow each and every fourth day I'm given.

De Colores!