

Near the Cross Emmaus



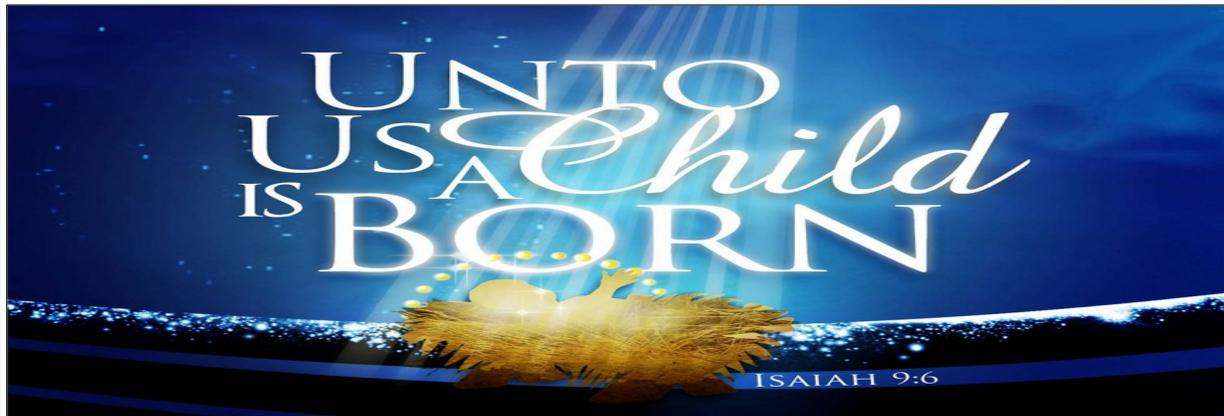
December 2017

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Remember the Reason for the Season

Luke 2:10-11 New King James Version (NKJV) Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

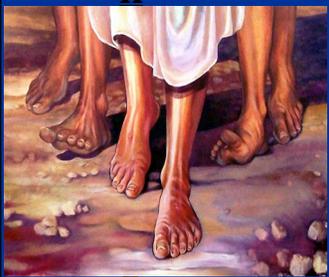
When talking to others about Emmaus are you spreading the joy of our Savior Jesus? Christmas should be a time when every Christian shares the joy and happiness of the birth of our Savior, but it shouldn't end there. The bible is full of day-to-day life as a Christian. Being in a reunion group is a great way to experience the true Gift of God. Belonging to a reunion group is just one of the goals of Emmaus. Emmaus gives us some tools to take back and share with our churches, family to share the workings of Jesus in their lives. The group members talk about the times during the week when they have denied Jesus. They discuss how they have shared Jesus with others. A reunion group is a great way to stay in the Word while being held accountable to one another and praying together all in the name of Jesus. Maybe life has gotten busy and you just don't have time to get in a reunion group. Let me ask you this, are you sharing Jesus with others? As Christians, let's make time and take time to share the joy that comes from the One who came for all. The best way to share the Word is to live the Word. Real life sharing is still a great way to live a life that glorifies God.

“Bethlehem Morning” is a song by Sandy Patti, the lyrics to this song says it all:

Bethlehem Morning is more than just a memory, for the child that was born there has come to set us free. Bethlehem Sunrise, I can see Him in your eyes, for the child that was born there, His spirit never dies.

Merry Christmas to You, Emmaus Community and to all those you hold dear

www.nearthecrossemmaus.org



Important NTC Emmaus Board Members Meeting (all members, new and current)

January Board Meeting will be Friday evening, January 5th, 2018 at Regions Bank, 4th floor Cobb Realty Board Room at 6:30 pm. We will meet at Tamolly's at 5:30 and eat together, from there we will join each other across the street at Region's for the first 2018 board meeting.

Saturday January 6th Board Chair's will meet with committee members for training sessions at 9:00 am until 12:00 pm at First UMC in Jonesboro prior to January Gathering. "The Board is reaching out to all interested community members to attend the training sessions and pitch in to support the walks and strengthen the 4th Day Community." Saturday's session is an open invitation for community members. This a great opportunity to serve on a committee with things like Candlelight, entertainment, luggage, camp setup and clean up, making agape, follow up on reunion groups, etc.

Sponsorship

Teams are forming for the Spring Walks. It is time to think about who you can sponsor. Here are a few tips on Sponsorship.

Sponsorship is a very, very big responsibility. It should not be taken lightly. The purpose of the Emmaus Walk as you heard in the Body of Christ talk is to help build church leaders.

Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of The Walk to Emmaus. The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices. Sponsorship starts with prayer asking God for that person whom God wants you to contact to go on the walk. Wise sponsorship builds up the body of Christ. Keep in mind when sponsoring that The Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. The first discussion with prospective pilgrim about the Emmaus Walk is extremely important. You want to tell them everything about the walk and what it meant to you. God will do the rest, just plant the seed.

The must do list for every sponsor:

- 1) You must pray to find out who God wants you to sponsor
- 2) You must fill out application and the pilgrim must fill out an application .Send both to our registrar - email address found on the web site. Wait for confirmation letter from Registration. One letter to you, One letter to your pilgrim
- 3) You must get agape letters for pilgrim's packets, ensure you get 12.
- 4) You must take your pilgrim to send off and sign them in. Be sure to get there on time.
- 5) You should ensure that your pilgrim eats and is introduced to as many members as you can.
- 6) You must stay for sponsor's hour to pray over the crosses.
- 7) You must pray for the pilgrim
- 8) You must attend to the pilgrim's family if married
- 9) You must if pilgrim is single check on pets, pick up mail, whatever is needed
- 10) You must help any kind of way while the pilgrim is on the walk.
- 11) You should pick up pilgrim's luggage before closing starts
- 12) You must meet pilgrim at closing and take him home.
- 13) You must impress on pilgrim to attend the follow up meeting.
- 14) Sponsorship does not end when the weekend is over.
- 15) You must help your pilgrim get into a reunion group even if you have to start one
- 16) You must help your pilgrim to get involved with the community so he becomes a viable member of the community
- 17) You must ensure the new member gets to gatherings and other Community events at least for the first 6 months, but a year would be better, at least until the new member feel comfortable in the community,
- 18) You must teach the new member how to be a good sponsor. It is wise to only sponsor 1 couple or 1 individual if you really want to be a good sponsor that performs all of the must to do.

Who Should I Sponsor?

There are several qualities in a pilgrim that you should look for. First, the prospective Pilgrim should already be on a pilgrimage, willing to grow and move forward in his or her journey of faith. Second, the person should have a Christian fervor. The Pilgrim knows God can make and has made a difference in their life. Third, the prospective Pilgrim is not so consumed by other situations that he or she will not be able to give full attention to the message and experience of the Walk to Emmaus during the 72 hour experience or follow-up activities.

When you have someone in mind you would like to sponsor, follow these suggested steps:

Pray. Prayer should be focused on how this person can become a more vitally alive Christian in helping bring God's kingdom into his or her natural environments rather than on how you can get this person to attend a weekend.

Make an appointment. Casual conversation about your experience with Emmaus is helpful, but if you are serious about asking someone to become a part of Emmaus, make an appointment to make the invitation. If the person is married, share with both spouses. Do not recruit one and expect that person to recruit the spouse.

Invite. Share your experience. Make sure the person knows that your invitation is to a more vitally alive relationship with Jesus Christ, not just to attend a weekend retreat. The three days are just a part of a whole new way of life. Explain group reunion, gatherings, team membership and formation and the renewed interest in serving one's church.

The commitment. Have a registration form with you and ask the prospective Pilgrim to fill it out in your presence, answering questions he/she may have. If the person is married, get an application from the spouse at the same time. Complete the form and mail to the registrar with the fee.

Now, the fun begins. Pray for your pilgrim and stay close to him or her. Collect agape from family, friends and pastor. As the weekend begins, stay in contact with your sponsors family, offering assistance. Attend Sponsors Hour, Candlelight and Closing but at other times, let the Pilgrim have space to make his or her own Walk. Help them find a reunion group. This is so vital. Stay in touch and in prayer as they find their ministry within their church. Help the pilgrim to sponsor appropriately. And always, pray, pray, pray.

Who would send a baby, a tiny child, when the world is hoping for the promised one, who will send His only Son.



GRACE, unmerited favor –A **CHOICE**, He had a choice and He chose You!