

DIAKONIA

February 2004



To Be A Pilgrim

The dictionary defines a "Pilgrim" as a person who journeys as an act of devotion. So I guess the Thanksgiving images we have of the tall hats, buckle shoes, and cold winters may have to be revised.

A journey as an act of devotion is an image that most of us can easily remember after we went on our Walk. In fact the memories only get better as we re-experience the Walk as team members.

Developing Christian Leaders for the church, home, and world is the purpose of the Walk to Emmaus, and where that starts is that "journey as an act of devotion." That journey is surrounded by love, under girded with prayer, wrapped in the Holy Spirit, and presented by dedicated members of the Emmaus Community to prepare those Pilgrims for a home with God.

The next "devotional journey" will be the Walk to Emmaus #10 (for women) on March 25th through the 28th. If you know of persons who are wanting the "devotional journey" that Emmaus can offer them, their church, and their families; then point them to one of the walks held in March, June, July, September, or October. There are openings for all of them and the journey is being prepared.

See ya there.

DeColores

Steve Hines

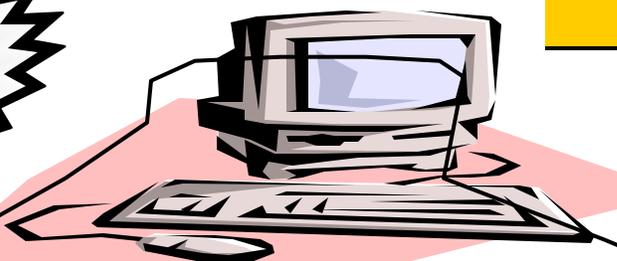
Community Lay Director

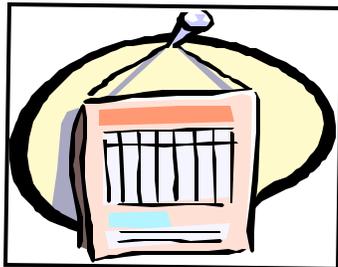
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- YOU CAN NOW SIGN UP TO SERVE ON A SERVANT TEAM VIA OUR WEBSITE!
- YOU CAN NOW SIGN UP ON A PRAYER VIGIL VIA OUR WEBSITE!

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.dentonemmaus.org





**CALENDAR
OF**

Men's Walk #9
February 26-29, 2004
Lake Sharon

Women's Walk #10
March 24-27, 2004
Lake Sharon

Gathering
April 24, 2004—7pm
Blue Mound UMC
Denton, TX

Gathering
May 15, 2004 - 7pm
Vista Ridge Baptist
Carrollton, TX

Men's Walk #11
June 24-27, 2004
Lake Sharon

Women's Walk #12
July 22-25, 2004
Lake Sharon

Gathering
August 21, 2004 -
7pm

Men's Walk #13
September 23-26,
2004

Women's Walk #14
October 14-17, 2004
Lake Sharon

Gathering
November 20,
2004—7pm
CHURCH NEEDED



SCHOLARSHIP FUND

DO YOU WANT TO HELP SOMEONE ATTEND THE WALK TO EMMAUS THAT MAY NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PAY THEIR OWN WAY? ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAS SUGGESTED TO YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION WE ESTABLISH A "SCHOLARSHIP FUND" TO WHICH ALL OF US CONTRIBUTE WHAT WE CAN, WHEN WE CAN. WITH SUCH A FUND, WE WOULD HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS ON A NEEDED BASIS TO PILGRIMS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF THIS MINISTRY, MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:

Denton Area Emmaus Community
P.O. Box 2609
Denton, TX 76202

FINANCIAL REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 6,054.39
INCOME	
Pilgrim's Registrations	\$ 945.00
Gathering-01/17/04	\$ 103.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,048.00
EXPENSES	
Lake Sharon Fee #9 & #10	\$ 300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (300.00)
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 6,802.39

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Daniel
Treasurer



A MUSICAL NOTE



This is the first in what (I hope) will be a continuing series of articles about our favorite “Emmaus” songs.

(from an article by Greg Asimakoupoulos on www.pastorport.com)

In the sixties, the Righteous Brothers were a highly successful, rock and roll singing duo. Their founder and manager was their 'soul and their inspiration.' His name was John Wimber. But before too long, the beer-guzzling, drug-abusing pop musician 'lost that loving feeling.' He became a spiritual seeker and was converted at the age of 29 while chain-smoking his way through a Quaker-led Bible study.

Yes, that is the same John Wimber who founded the Association of Vineyard Churches before his untimely death in 1997. For many, this popular charismatic Bible teacher and faith healer is a source of theological debate, but when I think of John Wimber, the first thing that comes to mind is a little worship song he wrote a decade after his conversion. It's called 'Spirit Song.'

Never heard of it? Oh, I think you probably have. Most likely you don't connect the lyrics to the rather obscure title. The first stanza of that little praise chorus goes like this:

O let the Son of God enfold you with His Spirit and His love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let Him have the things that hold you and His Spirit like a dove will descend upon your heart and make you whole. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs. ~~Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.~~

I love that little song. For one thing it reminds me of King David's secret of living in reliance on the Good Shepherd. When we see ourselves as vulnerable little lambs dependent on God, we do not need to continually want for more.

But there's more. There's a little phrase in that first verse that packs a punch: 'O let Him have the things that hold you.' When it comes to releasing stress, don't overlook the obvious. Every day we have the opportunity to let the Lord have the things that keep us bound up or pulled down—call it the Great Exchange. That means giving to God the tangled messes that drain our energy in exchange for a settled peace that He will orchestrate the circumstances of our lives we cannot fully understand or control. The late Bill Bright called it spiritual breathing. That means exhaling our confession of need and breathing in a sense of God's presence.



When we give God the things that hold us hostage, we don't need to be captivated by worry. After all, like the little plaque that hangs in my kitchen says, **'Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its troubles, it empties today of its strength.'**



Jim Gerber
Week-End Events, Music, WebMaster

Servant Team Service

Service on a Servant Team, either on-site or outside, is the doorway to team service. If you are new to the community, been inactive for a while, or just went on your walk, the way to inside team service starts with being on a Servant Team.

Who is a Servant Team Candidate?

1. Persons who have filled out forms signifying a desire to serve on a team.
2. Persons who have been Pilgrims on walks, but have not served in any capacity yet.
3. Spouses of inside Team members.
4. Sponsors of Pilgrims on the walk they will be attending.
5. Persons in the community who have been inactive for an extended period of time.
6. Persons with experience who have a close or working relationship with the Servant Team leader.

Are you a person who moved here from another community and would like to become involved again? Are you a person who had been active several years ago and served on teams in the Dallas community, or another nearby community, but for good and valid reasons has not been able to participate recently? Are you a person who wants to be involved, but just hasn't made the right connection yet? Are you being called by God to serve others anonymously, but don't know how? If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, you are a candidate for Servant Team service.

Sonny Gann
Servant Team

AGAPE CORNER

Agape is the example of the love and concern of a supporting community. Agape is not in fact gifts to the pilgrims, but sacrifice on their behalf. It is loving the pilgrims in a sacrificial way. Our agape must demonstrate clearly to them the grace of God working in our lives on their behalf, and the power the Holy Spirit gives us to sacrifice ourselves for them, even though we may not know them. This shows that the life of grace they have just learned about is indeed possible. It is agape that shows the truth of grace.

The first act of agape before a Walk ever begins is sponsorship. During the Walk itself, members of the Emmaus community support the team with prayer. In addition, as the speakers are giving their talks they are supported by persons praying in the Prayer Chapel. General agape may include letters addressed to the pilgrims as a group from other Emmaus communities. Table agape is the endless variety of gifts that appear on the dining tables at each person's place throughout the weekend. Some table agape may come from other communities, but most of it will come from the members and Group Reunions of our Emmaus community. Table agape is an expression of unconditional love; therefore personal names are not attached, although Reunion Group or church names are acceptable. Include a message or scripture on your agape, to let each person know you have prayed for and sacrificed for him or her.

Please take this opportunity to support our upcoming walks with your agape. 52 pieces will be enough for team and pilgrims.

DeColores,
Barbara Carruth
Agape Chair

It Takes a Servant's Heart...

Remember your walk? You may not have even noticed that as you moved from room to room, activity to activity, that every detail was cared for, every need met before it was known. One of the best parts of Emmaus is that its very survival rests on the participation and dedication of the laity. It takes many people to be the hands and feet of Jesus and make a weekend happen.

There are many, many ways to serve:

- Music
- Servant Team
- Agape
- Newsletters
- Sponsorship

Look on-line at the many contacts and email them about how you can help. Remember – we are the hands and feet of Christ!



Denton Area Emmaus Community
P.O. Box 2609
Denton, TX 76202
Phone: 940-390-9143

Luke 24:13-35
Now that same day two of them were
going to a village called
Emmaus.....

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.dentonemmaus.org