



DIAKONIA 2011

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Greetings! As I write these words, I'm trying to acclimate to Texas heat after a week in Hawaii, where Allison and I celebrated our 35th anniversary. We had a great time and really enjoyed each other's company. The food was great, the beaches and mountains beautiful, and the sunrises and sunsets stunning.

As I wound down from the normal hectic life we lead and began to relax and enjoy a more peaceful island rhythm, I realized that I often don't take enough time to thank God for the many blessings

he pours out on me each day. It's much easier in a place like Hawaii to be thankful, for those beautiful sights and cool breezes. It's more difficult in the middle of a hot Texas summer day, stuck in traffic on the way home from work.

Yet those are blessings too. I'm thankful that I have a job that I enjoy and that interests me. I'm thankful that I have the means to commute to that job. I'm thankful that I can get up each day and

go to work. I'm thankful that I have someone to share my life with who loves me and wants to be part of my life. I'm thankful that we share blessings like the Walk to Emmaus. I'm thankful that I have a church family that cares for me, and friends whom I can spend time with. I'm thankful for each of you and your commitment to the Walk to Emmaus.

I'm even thankful for those

"Get those Pilgrim applications in early to make sure that your pilgrim has a spot on these first walks at Briarwood."

blessings hidden behind big scary changes. A reunion brother shared with me today, how happy he was in his new job, just a few months after being laid off from his old job. He told me today that he now realizes that the layoff was a blessing for without it, he'd never have left his old job.

For many of us, recognizing those blessings begins with the Walk to Emmaus. The Walk opened our eyes and our minds to the many bless-

ings we've received. It started something for each of us, it left all of us changed. As a sponsor, you can share that blessing with others. Remember the blessing is from God, not from us, we're simply the hands and feet of Christ. Our job is to be there and to plant the seed. God will water it and make it grow.

We have two walks coming up this fall, both will take place at Briarwood Conference Center in Copper Canyon. Get those Pilgrim applications in early to make sure that your pilgrim has a spot on these first walks at Briarwood. Because of cancellation policies we don't have the flexibility we had at Lake Sharon and so deadlines will be observed.

So to quote a dear friend, "blessings abound!"

How about you, are you blessed?

De Colores,
Bill Beattie

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**Walk to
Emmaus**
THE UPPER ROOM



SUMMERTIME IS GATHERING TIME

**Join us on
Saturday, July
16th, 5:30-7:30
pm at Lake**

**Cities United Methodist Church in
Lake Dallas for the next 2011 Em-
maus Gathering.**

If this is your first opportunity to attend a gathering, you may want to know what it is all about. It is a grand night of fellowship, food, and worship.

Feel free to bring your family and friends, even if they have not yet attended a Walk. This is not a time of "recruitment", but a time of visiting and catching up with others in the community. It is always a joy to see friends that we only see in Emmaus.

Most people enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the gatherings. Attire for gatherings is "Emmaus casual" for all you fashionistas.

If your church would like to sponsor the next Gathering, please contact **Rosie Alexander**, Board Member in charge of setting up these events.

girlietchr@gmail.com

Food is where you come in. The meal is a potluck and all that involves. We never go home hungry and showing off a new recipe is part of the fun. Bring your favorite dish to share. The host church provides drinks and paper goods. We do the rest. Yum!

Training is also in the night's activities. **Sponsorship training will be held at 5:30 pm.** If you have not made a training session so far, this would be an excellent time to do that. No registration is necessary. There will be a special room set aside for that activity. Just ask and someone will point you the right way. With the fall Walks coming up, we will certainly need to be sponsoring new Pilgrims. Learn how to do that effectively.

Of course the evening ends with a time of joy-filled worship with plenty of music and, of course, communion. Plus there is always a 4th Day Talk that will remind us of our connections to one another through Christ.

Schedule of events:
6:00—Sponsorship Training
6:30—Potluck Supper
7:30—Worship

Google has great maps to the church in Lake Dallas at **300 East Hundley Drive**. See you there!

2011 WALK SCHEDULE

MEN'S WALK #51
Lay Director

OCTOBER
Dennis Hale

October 13-16

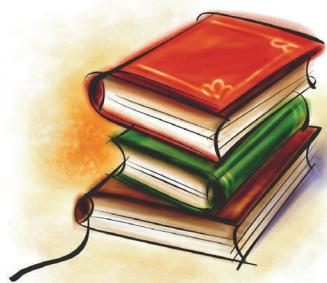
WOMEN'S WALK #52
Lay Director

OCTOBER
Cindy Shoemaker

October 20-23

*The October Walks will be held at
Briarwood Retreat Center in
Copper Canyon.*

REMEMBER THE BOOK TABLE?



Did you ever wonder where those books on the book table come from? Of course, it is some dedicated person's job to see that there is an interesting and inviting array of good books to tempt every already-avid reader and also every "I'm-just-getting-into-this"-reader. This is certainly an important part of our growth through study. The books are purchased and then paid for by the sales made during the Walks. Here's a new idea. I bet we all have a really good book that is in good condition (not underlined or raggedy) that we would donate to help build up the book table. I know we could collect those at the Gatherings and help make stocking the book table an easier job to do. Bring just 1 book with you to the next Gathering or Candlelight and give them to a Board Rep who will see they get to the correct person for the upcoming walks. Just thought you might like this recycling and sharing of good books. Thanks in advance. -Editor

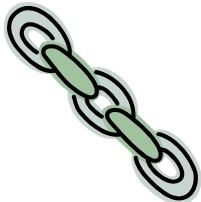
BOARD AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

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Upper Room Ad hoc Representative.....	Carleen Alderman	cookie@hpcserv.com

ANOTHER IMPORTANT JULY EVENT— EPIPHANY #23—GAINESVILLE STATE SCHOOL FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH

Epiphany Ministries #23 is happening July 8 -10 at the Gainesville State School. **Would you pray for these incarcerated young men as our team shares God's love with them?**

Your name and hometown will be written on a paper chain to be placed around the entire gym on campus. These guys are always overwhelmed that people would do that for them. Just email me and let me know that we can add your name to the chain!



Kim Beck, Epiphany # 23 Lay Director

kimjbeck@earthlink.net

What is Epiphany?

Epiphany is a Christian outreach program for incarcerated youth nationally. Our local community serves the young men at the Gainesville State School. It is similar in nature to The Walk to Emmaus but tailored to the youth offender. Epiphany Weekends are held on campus only twice a year, in January and July. At that time, up to 36 young men are allowed to spend

3 days in a loving Christian environment on campus with music, worship, prayer, 8 different talks about the Christian life, discussion of the talks, skits, music, recreation, and "free world" food. Each young man has a "weekend guide" from the team who spends extra time during these days praying specifically with him.

How can I be involved in this ministry?

Epiphany team members must have completed a 3-day Walk-type experience (Emmaus, Tres Dias, Cursillo, Kairos or Chrysalis) prior to working on a team. In addition, there are state requirements that must be met. This involves a training class to qualify you as a trained volunteer with the paperwork and badge necessary to be on campus. It is always good to do this ahead of time. The next Epiphany Weekend is July 8-10, 2011. Fingerprinting and background checks are also required and are done at the expense of the state. After the weekend we hold monthly reunions for the Gainesville State School Epiphany Community on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Bible studies are shared weekly on Tuesday nights for all the young men of Epiphany. These times help keep them accountable just like our own reunion groups.

[After serving on an Epiphany weekend it is recommended you return 4 times for any of these events before the next Epiphany weekend.](#)

Are there on-site and off-site teams?

Yes. Just like the Walk to Emmaus, there is an on-site team of approximately 50 people that work directly with the Stars. ("Stars" are to Epiphany as "Pilgrims" are to the Walk to Emmaus.) The outside team prepares the meals that play such a big part of the weekend. Not only do they feed the inside team and the Stars, they also make breakfast for the entire Team each morning before the day starts. They also help out with many of the other logistics of the weekend. There's plenty for everyone to do.

Is music a part of the weekend?

Boy, is it! This is particularly well received by the Stars. The music teams always welcomes more members to share in the weekend. Musicians help out in other ways during the weekend as well.

Would I be required to give a presentation/testimony?

There are only 8 "talks" by members of the clergy and lay team. There are many ways you can help with devotionals, recreation, and assisting at the "family" tables.

Is there a cost to serve on a team?

The entire weekend costs approximately \$4000. Each team member is responsible for \$100 to help pay for the cost of the weekend. In addition, you will have to pay for housing for 3 nights in a motel at Gainesville. We typically get a discounted rate at a nearby motel. Some people in

the Christian community in Gainesville offer to let us stay in their homes.

Come and check out the weekend.

Each Epiphany Weekend ends with a service called a Closing. This is a glorious time of praise with a chance for the young men to speak about what they have learned on the weekend.

You are invited to attend any Epiphany Closing.

However, in order to do so, you will need to be pre-screened. All that requires is that you let a team member know by the designated deadline that you would like to be there so the proper form can be completed and turned in to the school. Unfortunately, the deadline for the July walk has already passed, but the January closing will be announced in plenty of time for you to apply to attend.

Epiphany Ministries of Texas



Manifesting God to Incarcerated Juveniles

If you would like to become a volunteer or learn about other ways you might be involved in Epiphany at the Gainesville State School for young men contact :

*Kim Beck at 972-679-2120
[/kimjbeck@earthlink.net](mailto:kimjbeck@earthlink.net)
for additional information.*