

DIAKONIA

JUNE

2004



FROM OUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Thank you all for an amazing year as your Community Lay Director. We have accomplished much and it is a privilege to have been able to lead devoted and dedicated persons in doing God's work.

You as a Community have elected two new persons to your Board and re-elected two inspired and inspiring leaders as well. Chuck Lowry and Darlene Ward have been elected to the Board. Jim Gerber and Margie Lindley have been re-elected. In talking with Chuck and Darlene, I know they join the Board with enthusiasm and dedication that will move our community forward.

The Walk to Emmaus purpose is the development of Church leaders. That purpose does not stop at Closing on Sunday. It continues as persons return to their churches and become better and more active in leadership. It continues in the family and the workplace, and it continues as you return to serve on Servant Teams, inside teams and Board service. It continues throughout the Christian experience as we model His Discipleship for others we encounter in all walks of life.

In July I will turn the leadership of the Denton Area Emmaus Community over to Joy Morrison. I pray that you all will dedicate your service to supporting her as we continue to serve the Walk to Emmaus and being Jesus' disciples developing Christian Leaders.

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!



COMMUNITY-WIDE TRAINING

THERE WILL BE COMMUNITY WIDE TRAINING AUGUST 21, 2004 AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN LEWISVILLE, TX. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AS THEY DEVELOP!

www.dentonemmaus.org

Thoughts from one of our Assistant Spiritual Director

A CUP OF COFFEE AND JESUS



Luke 24: 28-32—As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

I'm in one of those seasons. You've had them too. Seasons that seem to come into your life, unanticipated, unwarranted and unannounced. Seasons where you sense that trouble is always around the corner, or that something else is about to happen. We've all had them and we all experience them.

I never knew how much it would take for me to enjoy a cup of coffee. Before this season, I wasn't much of a coffee consumer. But somewhere in this season, I felt the call to a local eatery where I discovered the most wonderful cup of coffee. (If you want to know--email me!) Each day my car would instinctively turn into the drive that leads up to this establish-

ment. It became a refuge for me.

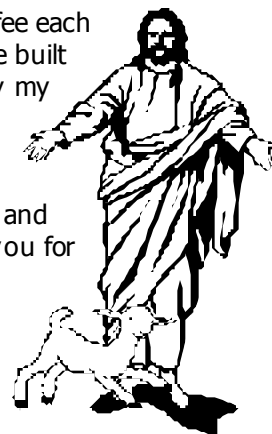
At first I didn't think much about the spiritual connection to this place. All I knew was that it offered a warm atmosphere, a good cup of coffee, and in the winter time it had the most wonderfully cozy fire place to sit by and contemplate the day before me.

I began to use this place as the place for my quiet times early into this season. I had begun using the PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE JOURNAL and sat down each day to study and ponder what God would teach me. Little did I realize that when I sat at the table for two, I was not alone. Somewhere in the midst of the middle of this season, I discovered that I had a date with Jesus everyday for coffee. When I met him there each morning, the day seemed to be in perspective and I could face whatever would come my way. when by chance I missed turning into the drive for this place, I ran into all kinds of troubles and stress. I can recall the very place that I sat the morning the Lord pierced my heart with a poignant teaching about offering God my weakness instead of my strength. My coffee cup had more tears than cream that morning. I use part of that journal entry from that day in my Sanctifying Grace talk.

My wife began to notice my regularity to this place (she saw all the debits on our card). She remarked to me one day that it was costing us so much per day for that coffee. I just smiled to her and said "He's the cheapest counselor that I can find. For \$1.82 a day--I think that's a pretty good rate." She knew that it was more than the coffee that was drawing me there. I had found a safe place, a refuge and a shelter to dwell in during the storms of the season.

I find it very comforting that the Lord of all creation would humble me by meeting me for coffee each day. I don't know how he likes coffee or not; but I am certain that the relationship that we've built has meant as much to Him as it has to me. I have 3 journals full of our conversations (mostly my crying and complaining). They are precious to me because He has been so faithful to meet me there.

I don't know where you are in the seasons of life. My only hope is that you've found the safe and peaceful refuge that Christ offers. He will meet you wherever you are in life. He'll even meet you for a cup of coffee.



Jim Drake
Assistant Spiritual Director



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

DENTON AREA EMMAUS COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT as of April 1, 2004		BALANCE
INCOME	BEGINNING	\$ 9,418.83
	BALANCE	
Gathering—5/15/04	\$ 69.00	
Pilgrim Registration's	2,085.00	
Scholarship Fund	10.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 2,164.00
EXPENSES		
Newsletter Postage	\$ 319.68	
Upper Room—Literature/Supplies	649.13	
CCL! Renewal Fee + Song Select Basic	138..00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ (1,106.81)
ENDING BALANCE		\$ 10,476.02

*Respectfully submitted
by
Nancy Daniels
Treasurer*

**2004
CALENDAR
OF
EVENTS**

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

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

**COMMUNITY
TRAINING**
August 21, 2004
First United Methodist-
Lewisville

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

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

Gathering
November 20, 2004—
7pm
First UMC
The Colony

2005 WALKS

Men's Walk #15
February 24-27, 2005

Women's Walk #16
April 21-24, 2005

Men's Walk #17
June 23-26, 2005

Women's Walk #18
July 7-10, 2005

Men's Walk #19
September 15-18, 2005

Women's Walk #20
October 6-9, 2005



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
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.

**DECOLORES,
SONNY GANN, SERVANT TEAM**





The first agape on a walk weekend is the prayer chapel and prayer vigil agape. In addition to the organized local prayer agape, the pilgrims are supported by several other forms of agape given by the local and international Emmaus communities as signs of God's loving presence. This agape first takes the form of "general agape."

General agape may include letters addressed to the pilgrims as a group from other Emmaus and Cursillo communities and from individual members or groups within communities or banners made on the pilgrims' behalf. The agape chairs for Emmaus communities often send out notices of upcoming Walks to other communities with requests for general agape or include such request along with the general agape they send to other communities. The general agape is first introduced on Friday afternoon after the JUSTIFYING GRACE talk.

Table agape is the endless variety of gifts that appears on the dining tables at each person's place throughout the weekend, beginning Friday evening after agape has been introduced by the JUSTIFYING GRACE speaker. Table agape is a wonderful sign of God's inexhaustible love for each one of the pilgrims. Since table agape is an expression of unconditional love; please do not attach personal names, although Reunion Group or church names are acceptable.

Snack Agape is the fruit, cookies, and refreshments that are made available throughout the weekend for the pilgrims. A separate snack agape coordinator is sometimes needed to enlist enough people to supply snacks for the entire three days.



Personal agape comes in the form of personal letters to the pilgrims written by family members, friends and sometimes members of the Emmaus community in general. Personal agape letters are powerful evidence to each pilgrim that he or she is personally loved by those who know the pilgrim best. For some, the personal agape has the greatest impact of The Walk to Emmaus. Each sponsor quietly requests and collects eight to twelve letters for his or her pilgrim and delivers them to the Servant Team of the Walk. The personal agape letters are delivered on Sunday afternoon after the packets have been reviewed.



If the sponsor receives more than twelve letters, he or she will certainly include family letters in the twelve. It's a good idea to mark family letters with an "F". All the letters above twelve can be delivered as a Fourth-Day surprise. Limiting the number of letters delivered on the Walk for each pilgrim has several advantages. The main advantage is that the pilgrim can usually read all twelve letters within the time allotted. A second advantage is to ensure that a disparity between the quantities of letters each pilgrim receives does not distract from the quality of the message that the letters convey. A third advantage to limiting these letters to twelve is that it reduces the burden on the sponsor; the Servant Team, and the community who might be placed under pressure at the last minute to generate more letters for pilgrims just so they can have more letters.

Personal agape should not include personal gift items or bouquets of flowers that are given to one pilgrim but not to all. Such gifts should be returned to the sponsor for delivery after and away from the weekend.

The Servant Team should coordinate all agape; individuals in the community should not enter the facility, secretly or otherwise, during the Walk to leave agape in a pilgrim's room.

Sponsors sometimes ask, "Doesn't asking people who have not been through Emmaus to write letters spoil the surprise of the letters for them if and when they attend Emmaus? For many, the opposite has been true. The request for letters introduced them to Emmaus in a positive and interesting way because it gave them an opportunity to do something special for a friend or loved one. Awareness of the letters is not an obstacle to receiving the love they represent.


Do you remember how you were impacted by the agape on your walk? Is it time to "give back"? Check our calendar for the men's walk in June and the women's walk in July.

DeColores,
Barbara Carruth, Agape Chairperson

Favorite Emmaus Songs

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

By Rick Founds



Worship leaders know that "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" is a rare gem. The song is as effective in an intimate small group as a public praise outreach. Methodist Junior High kids settle into the song as sweetly as Baptist senior citizens, and it never seems to get tiresome. In less than a decade, Rick Founds' little four-chord rock-rocker has become known and loved internationally. It hurdles denominational barriers effortlessly, and is sung in every conceivable musical style. It rocketed into CCLI's highest position several years ago and remains comfortably unusual to find a modern songbook without "Lord, I Lift," or an evangelical church that doesn't sing it. More than an accessible and catchy praise song, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" accomplishes something priceless: it summarizes the whole gospel, responds with adoration, and then places it on the lips of uncouped millions. All this is quite a feat for a guy who does research and development at a fiber optics company.

Rick Founds, however, is far more than a techno-geek with a pocket protector; he's logged 15 years in full-time ministry, and has authored nearly 500 praise songs. The 43-year-old father of three teen-age daughters has been leading worship since he was a teen himself. Even so, Founds is awestruck at the impact of "Lord I Lift Your Name on High," a song as at home around a campfire as in the shadow of the Washington Monument with a million Promise Keepers. "It's an honor," he ponders, speaking slowly as he takes it all in again for the umpteenth time. "I'm happy about it. It's what anybody would hope for."

"Lord, I Lift Your Name" was written in 1989 during Founds' morning devotion. Having developed the habit of playing guitar while watching television, he found it very natural to play while reading Scripture on his computer monitor. "I'd just reach over and grab my guitar," he recalls. "I'd plunk along with whatever I was reading that day."

He remembers marveling one early morning at the love of God who created the world though He knew we would rebel and fall. It amazed Rick that God had a plan to redeem us from the very beginning. As Founds meditated over his cyber-Bible and touched his guitar strings, God's plan struck him as something of a cycle.

He thought of the cycle of rain that comes down, waters the earth, evaporates back into the clouds and then returns.

Suddenly, the now famous chorus emerged: "You came from heaven to earth to show the way / From the earth to the cross my debt to pay / From the cross to the grave / From the grave to the sky..." Interrupting his own lyric, Founds explains, "The response to grasping even a little bit of that knowledge is praise, and thanksgiving and gratitude!" When he completes the line, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High," a moment of silent awe follows.

Founds was worship leader for a large church so the song found its way easily to Maranatha! Music and was soon recorded. A then new men's movement called Promise Keepers began to use the song at their rallies with both Anglo and Latino lyrics, helping lift the song into profound prominence. The composer enjoys visiting churches and anonymously adding his voice to their versions of his song. He has found many of these renditions to be... unique. He warns young praise songwriters to prepare themselves for this shock. "Every congregation has its own personality and style," he observes. "It's a lot of fun to hear things you have written done in the character of that church. I've heard 'Lord, I Lift Your Name on High' done in reggae, in 3/4 (almost a polka), and in a Spanish flavor. I've heard it done country. These were the musical characteristics of the praise band or predominant style [of that ministry]. That's exciting, because it means they have taken ownership of it, made it their own."

Founds says he is most touched when people tell him that his songs have given expression to the cries of their own hearts. He treasures letters from believers in Croatia and Russia thanking him for his songs. Retiring from full-time ministry four years ago, Founds re-entered the technical field of his training, both to keep his fingers on the pulse of the culture and to spend more time with his family. Today, he leads worship at a small church on a volunteer basis. Founds is known for many other fine praise songs, including "Jesus Draw Me Close," "I Need You," and "Lord, I Love Your Grace."

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High," Rick Founds, 1989 Maranatha! Music Lyrics reprinted by permission of author. Phil Christensen is Worship Pastor at Chapel of the Hills in Brightwood, Oregon.

De Colores!
Jim Gerber
Music and Weekend Events



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!

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

Alleluia!

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

