

DIAKONIA

MAY

2004



COMMUNITY NEWS

Progressive Servanthood

Progressive Servanthood...well what does that mean? As we have said many times in most of our literature and most of our scripts, the purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is the development of Christian leaders. Development is a journey not a destination.

The walk itself exposes the Pilgrim to the best the Team has to offer and if nothing else happens the Pilgrim comes home equipped for the journey of leadership. Many persons want to do more in the Emmaus movement however, and the walk opens that door for service.

Getting involved means first of all answering the call for service on an "Outside Team". These are known by many names such as 4th Day team, Kitchen team, Angel team, and many other variations. In the Denton Area Emmaus Community we have designated our "Outside Team" as the Servant Team. Servant Team members serve either on site or in various support roles offsite and coming and going as the need arises. These team members serve anonymously and without recognition. They take the pictures, set up chairs and tables, pray for Pilgrims and Team, bring Agape and food and many other things.

After service on a Servant Team you are declared eligible for inside team service. Inside team service starts with service as an Assistant Table Leader for at least one time, Table Leader twice, Assistant Lay Director three times then Lay Director. Now considering that ideally you should not serve more than once a year this process could take eight to nine years. Some of the other factors are that it is considered best to have one third of the team "experienced", one third relatively new and one third first time servers, and that is spread over each position.

There are approximately 20 positions on a Servant Team. When you consider that they funnel into 5 positions as Assistant Table Leaders, 5 possible Table Leaders, 3 Assistant Lay Directors, and 1 Lay Director that the variables become amazing. Now, as most of you know these are guidelines are just that... "guidelines". In the real world there are many variables that may disrupt or cause variances in this plan. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the board.

Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at the table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Luke 22:26-27

See you at the next Gathering May 15th at Vista Ridge Baptist Church.

Steve Hines, Community Lay Director
Denton Area Emmaus Community

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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!

www.dentonemmaus.org

Whatever you
did for one of the
least of these
brothers of mine,
you did for me.



Matthew 25:40

Thoughts from our Spiritual Director

“...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40) And with this word from Jesus we try to live our fourth days after our Emmaus experience. The fruit of the Spirit is visible through our daily lives as we live and teach the Truth.

Over the past seven years I have served as clergy on Emmaus walks I have witnessed God’s blessings as we reach out to others on our weekends. Unfortunately, I have also seen some near disasters when the team, pilgrims and community are not prepared to deal with a physically or mentally challenged pilgrim.

On my walk in 1995 a fellow pilgrim was confined to a wheelchair. His sponsors had given the community adequate time to prepare to make his walk as comfortable as possible. Facilities were confirmed, a team member was assigned to push the wheelchair and a caregiver was on site to help with his other needs. I vividly recall thinking how well-prepared and caring the community was for this individual. This all happened through good sponsorship.

On another walk a blind pilgrim was accommodated with a “guide” for the entire week end. The guide took notes and described what was happening. It was a good experience for everyone involved and handled quite well with forethought and planning.

Perhaps you have noticed at community worship services that we have special crackers on the communion table. We only recognized recently how many people suffer from allergies of one type or another that require they avoid wheat or chemicals found in the bread we use for communion. We have been able to adapt to meet their needs and will do the same on a weekend.

On the down side, there have also been some less than desirable situations due to a lack of information from sponsors. The result was an inability to provide adequate facilities and care for the pilgrim to enjoy the Emmaus experience. When these situations arise it places a tremendous responsibility on the Lay Director and Spiritual Director to determine if that pilgrim should continue on with the weekend. These are difficult and painful decisions that can potentially disappoint the pilgrim, the sponsor and the community.

Matthew reminds us to tend to the needs of all of God’s children. This can be done best through caring and careful sponsorship. The purpose of Emmaus is to raise up and strengthen church leaders with the three day experience. Is the pilgrim a church leader or a potential church leader? Is he/she mature enough to understand and experience growth from the fifteen talks of the weekend? Is he/she physically capable to attend the weekend? If not, what special provisions must be made?

The scheduled walks for the rest of 2004 are beginning to fill up. Please don’t wait until the last minute to submit an application or seek out someone to sponsor. Help the team and community meet pilgrim’s needs by identifying special needs (this includes scheduled medications and dietary restrictions).

I have found that the pilgrims, team and community grow in many wonderful ways when we reach out in love and compassion to anyone with a special need. My prayer is that we eliminate the “rough spots” and avoid disappointing anyone over something that could have been taken care of with advance notice.

Blessings,
Joe Zinser
Spiritual Director
Denton Area Emmaus Community





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	\$ 7,320.87
	BALANCE	
Men's Walk # 9 - Team Fees/Lunch Money	\$ 2,823.00	
Men's Walk #9 - Book Table	261.25	
Scholarship Donations	185.00	
Pilgrim Registrations	1,755.00	
Candlelight - Women's Walk #10	581.55	
Name Tags	56.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 5,661.80
EXPENSES		
Literature/Supplies - Book Table	\$ 206.06	
Lake Sharon - Men's Walk # 9/ Addt'l Due	198.00	
Lake Sharon - Women's Walk # 10	5,940.00	
Upper Room (Pilgrim Fees 9 & 10)	420.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ (6,764.06)
ENDING BALANCE		\$ 6,218.61



Respectfully submitted
by
Nancy Daniels
Treasurer

**2004
CALENDAR
OF
EVENTS**

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
CHURCH NEEDED

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
CHURCH NEEDED

2005 WALKS

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

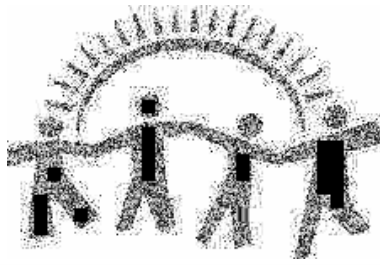
Women's Walk #16
April 21-24, 2005

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



**THE NEWEST COMMUNITY
MEMBERS:**

**MEN OF WALK #9
And
WOMEN OF WALK #10**

Larry Beasley
Jim Blanchard
Kent Bliss
Loren Burdett
Dan Clark
Philip Davis
Bobby Ellis
Don Hamilton
Steven Hengel
Kevin Hill

Matthew Hunt
John Jackman
Randall Kessler
Dean Lampman
Jack McDonald
Scott McGough
Kris Melvin
George Molina
Jon Myers
Brent Myers

Jack Padgett
Edwin Provancha
Jim Schumann
Scott Smith
James Stephens
Jay Straub
Christopher Sullivan
Gary Wehrwein
Frank West
Gary Williamn

Jackie Alcoze
Cyndi Alexander
Debra Bliss
Gina Davis
Kim Dunlap
Lisa Elders
Lisa Ford
Martha Fuller
Cheri Hughes
Suzi Hunt

Brenda Kitchen
Breanna Lane
Debi Longoria
Sherry McGough
Teresa Parrish
Connie Petree
Becky Rankin
Melissa Reams
Gloria Richardson
Beth Satterfield

Lanette Schindler
Ann Simoson
Barbara Smith
Karen Stevens
Vicki Tylka
Michelle Vaughn
Brenda Williams
Diana Young





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.

DeColorés,
Barbara Carruth, Agape Chairperson

Favorite Emmaus Songs

"You Are My All In All"
By Dennis Jernigan



In 1981, God delivered musician Dennis Jernigan from a lifelong struggle with his sexual identity. "He began teaching me," Dennis explains, "that being a new creation means the 'old Dennis' really is dead." Dennis married, became the father of nine children, and committed to living his life in praise to God.

He wrote "You Are My All in All" at an Oklahoma City church where he led a daily prayer meeting at 6:00 A.M. It's Jernigan's habit always to carry a music manuscript book with him. "I believe God sings over me," he explains, referring to Zephaniah 3:17 ("Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He will exult over you by singing a happy song"), "so I need to be listening. When I hear God, I write it down right away."

He was sitting at the piano thanking God "that He bore the punishment of my sin fully with the first drop of His blood." In that moment, the line came to him, "seeking You as a precious Jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool." The song emerged in pieces. "I'd start the people praying over a specific need in the church, then I'd go back to singing what I was sensing in the Lord. With my left hand I'd play the piano, and with my right hand I'd write down the melody and the words."

—Phil Christensen and Shari MacDonald in [Our God Reigns](#)

De Colores!
Jim Gerber
Music and Weekend Events

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.



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




WE'RE ON THE WEB

