

Springfield Area Emmaus

July 2015

Co-Community Spiritual Director's Thoughts

Dear Fellow Pilgrims

We have all heard about the mass murder of worshippers at Ebenezer AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Dylann Storm Roof perpetrated the largest mass killing in a church, coldly slaying nine people as they gathered to worship God. As we have watched that faith community and particularly the families of the victims have led their city, state and this nation in a display of faith, grace and forgiveness that has begun to transform those around them.

On a different note, Sharon and I have been looking for a financial advisor. We went to one for a few times but have rejected his services because he seemed more like someone selling timeshares than an investment strategy. Not our type at all.

You say, "Pastor Bill, what on earth do these have to do with each other?" Well, quite a bit, actually. The Ebenezer church is showing the grace and forgiveness they have themselves received in abundance from God through Jesus Christ our Savior. He in turn has told us in many ways to forgive as we have been forgiven; that, in fact we cannot really receive forgiveness unless and until we ourselves forgive. Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Jesus told the story of the wicked servant who at first WAS forgiven a great load of debt by his master. However the same servant demanded of his fellow servant the repayment of a small debt and had him thrown into jail when he could not repay. The master heard of this and TOOK BACK the grace he had given, throwing the servant in jail until he had repaid every penny! Wow! Can God take back his grace from us or is it that we never really had it in the first place? Jesus clearly gives us this command, which seems hard, "Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6: 35, 36) In other words, don't just have a not-hateful attitude toward your enemies, but do them a positive good, like lending them money without asking for repayment! However isn't this exactly the grace we have received from God? "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) If we have really received that kind of grace-initiative from God, should we not be ready and willing to give it to others in the same kind and way?

I know there are people out there who have done you or beloved members of your family wrong. Can you forgive them? Are you able to reach out to them positively with good?

When I first found out that Emery Chapel had been broken into and our safe stolen a couple weeks ago, I was first disbelieving and then for a time enraged. I felt violated, abused, as indeed I had been and we all were. I searched in my mind for possible suspects and, yes, I had imaginings of revenge and punishment suitable for each. I am sure that each of the families in Ebenezer had these moments also. But then if you leave room for the Holy Spirit to work, you find the grace of God bringing peace in place of pique. Yes, justice should be sought but the place for that justice is in the courts of earth and heaven and not in your heart and mind. Leave that burden at the foot of the cross and let God take care of it. "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord." (Romans 12:19)



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And here we come to Sharon's and my affair with the adviser. We are free to take his advice or NOT, to continue our relationship with him or NOT. Jesus' teachings are not suggestions. These are not options among which we can pick and choose to suit ourselves. They are literally the keys to light and life and salvation. Students must be like their Master or they will fail the course. All us teachers know that.

1 John 2: 4-6 puts it pretty plainly: "Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did." In other words, the supernatural grace the people of Ebenezer was showing was not "above and beyond the call of duty" it was a necessary and inevitable result of the grace they had truly received from their Savior Jesus.

May this letter find you living in Jesus our Savior and walking as He walked. And may grace be over us all.

Your Co-Spiritual Director and friend, Bill Kelley

A Message from your Community Lay Director

When Ed Jurkat passed the torch of leadership to me. He said, " We need to light the fire and get it burning bright and high again." Amen Ed!

Ed' s work is not done! He has done fine job as our Community Lay Director and has worked to keep the fire burning. As advisor to the board and Emmaus Community he has committed himself to letting high light shine and to help light up the community.

Thank you Ed and continue to pray for him and add " Pinky" in that mix.

At most Sunday closing we see many brothers and sisters with a glow on their face. The glow was not there Thursday night and we know they were Touched by the Holy Spirit. Then something happens to that fire. Sometimes well-meaning folks try to douse the fire before they leave the church. NO NO, NO, NO, NO! You once had fire or at least a spark of it. Catch it again.

Encourage the glow and try to reignite yours. Let' s light up the place! Let' s fill the room at Gatherings. Let' s fill the roster at walks, let' s fill out Teams – Emmaus and Kairos. Let' s get applications – Let' s have a waiting list. And Let us Let us, you and me. Let us is plural. We can' t do it by ourselves. The big fire needs many legs. The Emmaus Community needs you and needs you to be willing to be on fire.

If you haven' t been around for a while, please consider, this, the Torch of Emmaus needs to keep going. It is being passed to you. Keep the fire burning. Re-Ignite your glow.

In closing I would like you to know that I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as your Community Lay Director. Our goal as a community is to have walks! Our goal is to work together. Our goal is to catch fire and light up the place. We have 25 years history and it means so much to me that I want Emmaus to have 25 more. How about you? Will you pray about it and share it? Listen for the Holy Spirit and be obedient?

Decolers, Pinky Pendleton



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Consider coming to **July 12** Gathering a meet the new Board Members of Springfield Emmaus Community 2015 Gathering Dates start at 7pm

August 9

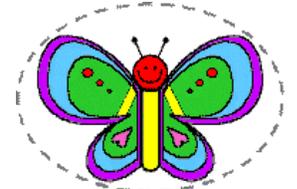
September 13

October 11

November 8



It is almost time for the summer Chrysalis Flights. The girls Flight #60 is July 10-12 and boys Flight #60 is July 31-August 2. All Flights are held at the Piqua Greene Street United Methodist Church in Piqua. Applications are available on the West Ohio Chrysalis Web page. Do you know a young person 15-21 years of age who could benefit from a Chrysalis Flight which is similar to the Emmaus Walk you attended. Now is the time if God is leading you to sponsor a young person.



I want to thank the Springfield community for allowing me the privilege to serve as your representative to the Chrysalis community over the last three years. During that time I had the opportunity to serve on a couple boys Flights. What an awesome time. Come July 1, Sarah Cogan will step into this position. I know she will do the community a great job as well as serve God faithfully.

DeColores!

Tom Dever Sr.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR SHARE GROUPS WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING AND DONATING THE RED CUPS THAT THE PILGRIMS & TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVE DURING THEIR WALK (APPROX.. 60). THE CUPS ARE \$.49 EACH. IF YOUR GROUP WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER THIS AS AN AGAPE FOR THE WALKS, PLEASE CONTACT BETTE BROWN, THE AGAPE CHAIRPERSON AT (937) 325-6062.

Social is seeking volunteers that would be willing to coming and help set up tables in the dining room for Gatherings. Hope to see you at 5 pm on Gathering nights!

Remember to check for un-used agape. Can contact Agape Chairperson

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Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®

Springfield Area Emmaus

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Springfield Area Emmaus Community

Newsletter Request

Name _____ Walk# _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (optional)

If you would like to have the Newsletter mailed please send your \$10 fee along with this or copy of requested information to Springfield Area Emmaus, 230 E. High St., Springfield, OH 45505



Springfield Area Emmaus
230 E. High Street
Springfield, OH 45505

Time Sensitive Material