

From Our Spiritual Director

THE JOY OF THE FATHER'S HOUSE

—JOHN 14:2

Living in one's father's house can be very rewarding, fun, and happy. It can be a safe haven from the onslaught of the world. The father's house can be warm in the winter and cool during the hot summer months. The father's house is a place for fellowship with others.



In the Father's House, there you will find Jesus, our Savior, Who saves us from the onslaught of sin. In the Father's House, you will find innumerable acts of grace. In the Father's House, you can find the peace that passes all understanding. In the Father's House there is joy unshakeable.

Each time I attend worship or attend an Emmaus gathering, I expect to be in the presence of the Father, because that's the reason I attend. How do you feel when you attend holy gatherings? Is there room for all Believers to worship without reservation? Is it an assembly for praise or for show?

When Jesus invites us to come into His Father's House, He wants us to come expecting to be loved; He expects us to come to rejoice; He expects us to be a blessing to one another.

Can you imagine what it will be like when the Father steps into the room and begins to speak to us and fellowships with us, His children? Can you imagine sharing stories with the other saints, apostles, and prophets? I can hardly wait for the day when I can see and talk to Jesus face to face. The song says, "I Can Only Imagine"

Well, we have the opportunity to prepare for that day. Now we are practicing for the day when the real deal will take place, when the practicing will become the true performance. However, if we don't practice now, it will be too late to get ready. There's an old spiritual that says, "I want to be ready, I want to be ready, I want to be ready, to walk in Jerusalem just like John."

Will you be ready?

Pastor Ray Harper

Community Co-Spiritual Director

***Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You,
who walk in the light of Your presence. Psalm 89:15***

Question? Why does the music from your Walk flash into your mind so often on your Fourth Days? Sometimes when you wake up at night or even when you're on a job—♪ songs♪ from your Walk pop into your mind — sometimes it's even "De Colores"! Music on a Walk enhances and reinforces the spoken message of the fifteen talks and four meditations. When we sing praises and thanks to God, it frees us to fluidly express ourselves. While our singing may be a bit off-key, God must smile and know we are revealing to Him what's in our hearts. During our prayer time, let's sing! We need all the practice we can get to be ready for joining God's Heavenly Choir. Right? Pastor Ray (msg above) has got it right. Let's immerse ourselves in prayer and preparation for that glorious day when we will praise Jesus as part of His choir! Hallelujah!

Sing the song that's in your heart!

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

Thoughts From Our Lay Director



"Love, Love, Love, Love; the gospel in one word is Love. Love your neighbor as your brother, love, love, love." When I hear that song, I am reminded that love is a verb. It is an action word. We are called by God to love, love, love. Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:37-39, "You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The love Jesus describes is not a passive or casual thing; it is an action that involves your heart, soul and mind – giving it all you've got!

Agapé is an act of truly unconditional love. It is a love that is shown, with no expectation that you would be noticed, or thanked. Luke 6:35 tells us to "... love our enemies, do good, and lend, and expect nothing in return." Anonymous acts of kindness and love give glory to God. Through anonymity, we can be assured that the glory, the gratitude, and the praise goes to God, and not to us. I continue to be amazed with the Agapé that our Springfield Emmaus community pours out on the pilgrims each walk. As I learn more about the many little, sometimes overlooked, gifts of agapé that go into a weekend, I thank God for your generous and loving hearts. One of the greatest acts of agapé, in my opinion, is to look someone directly in the eye and remind them that God loves them and you love them too. As a community, we do this at candlelight. Imagine: what if we shared that kind of agapé with our family members, our co-worker, or a stranger? Or an enemy (oh, gasp!)? Surely God isn't calling us to do *that*! Surely He is, as we see in the scriptures I cited above, as well as several others. I pray that as we all grow in our walk with Jesus that we strive to take that active step toward loving the people God brings in our path each day.

The gospel in one word is: Love.

In His Love.

Sue Neves

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is LOVE. I Corinthians 13:13



There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1
He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men,
yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3: 11



ATTENTION

Weekend Lay Directors

Are you curious about the Fourth Day activities of the Pilgrims who attended the weekend when you served as Lay Director? How have the team members continued serving God? A reunion of the Pilgrims and team members of a specific Walk would be a great way to renew the experience of your weekend with the Holy Spirit.



Please contact the Board Outreach Chairperson, **Judy Delledonne** at judydelledonne@gmail.com to arrange a reunion of the folks who participated in the weekend.



no behavioral problems, the staff was able to witness the entire program as well. I know God moved in everyone's life that weekend.

One interesting event occurred after lunch on Sunday: The residents circled together and began to pray for us volunteers and our families – it was quite humbling, a beautiful prayer.

Of course as the weekend progressed we all became friends. We volunteers listened, joked, and learned to accept these men as our Christian brothers. They accepted us as friends as well. That is the whole point of an Emmaus and Kairos weekend isn't it? One thing we did not need to know was what their crimes were. We knew they were in for murder, but nothing beyond that. My biggest dread was realized a few days after the weekend. A newspaper article detailed a change in the drugs that are used to put a resident to death. In that article one of my new friend's crimes were detailed. The crime was terrible. This friend had turned to Christ earlier this year. I could accept him as a new creature, his old ways were not who he was now. But I will have to hear of his impending death, and his crimes, several more times as his execution date approaches.

Several strange thoughts occur to me from this particular weekend:

- I know we all have a date to die. God knows that date but not us. To know the date of your own death would create quite a different mind-set.

- I have been taught that in heaven everyone will know everyone's previous sins but it won't matter. I now realize that the crimes of these residents (actually all residents) are immediately known upon entering a prison. In prison you can't hide your previous sins. In heaven you won't be able to hide them either.

As I reflect on the upcoming death of my friend I also think about Jesus' death and His friends reactions. To cope with the normal backlash of public opinion will I hide, by saying nothing, as most of the disciples did? Will I deny being his friend, as Peter did, to stave off being thought of as too soft on crime? Or will I stand up for my friend as a new creature, a changed person?

Another thought occurs to me: How can God accept this man's confession of faith? I can understand God forgiving a one-time crime of passion, but can I see God forgiving a life-time of bad choices resulting in rape, murder, and a death sentence? (Yes, His love covers all).

Finally, I think about what was God's plan for this man? Why would God want a disciple for only one short year of his short life? I know there are 125 residents on Ohio death-row. Maybe through this last month of my friend's life, with God's guidance and help, my friend can reach one or two of the other guys awaiting their own execution date. That is my hope and prayer.



As you can see a Kairos weekend is not only for the residents, God grows the volunteers as well.

Please join me at the next **Gathering October 13, 2013. Kairos will be hosting the evening**, so I hope to see a HUGE turnout. Have a wonderful month, and may God give you Peace and fruit on your fourth day.

Jeff Montgomery, Kairos Representative

Prayer Needed

Please pray for the residents who attended a Kairos weekend at the following prisons:

- September 12-15 — Lebanon Men's #47
- September 19-22 — Dayton Women's #3
 - North Central Men's #11
 - Trumbull Men's #24
- September 26-29 — Northeast Pre-release Women's #4
 - Toledo Men's #21
- October 4-6 — Scioto Juvenile #5

And for residents and teams of these upcoming weekends:

- October 10-13 — Hocking #11
- October 17-20 — Grafton #2
- October 27-27 — Marion #34
 - Lucasville #17
- Oct 31-Nov 3 — Warren #11



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!



The theme of the December Gathering, December 8, 2013, is to praise the Savior and His birth with music. If you would like to participate in glorifying the Lord Jesus with your talent, please contact the Board Music Chairperson, **J.C. Howell** at 215-1741 or j.c.howell@sbcglobal.net.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11



Pilgrims of Men's Walk #46

Plan to attend a reunion of the men who attended Walk #46 to be held on Sunday, October 13, 2013, in the Conference Room at High Street United Methodist Church. The reunion will begin at 6:00 PM to be followed by the Gathering in the Sanctuary at 7:00 PM. Come and tell us how your Fourth Days are going.

The Gathering will be hosted by Kairos and promises to provide interesting information on this prison ministry.

Important Dates

2014 Walks
 Women’s Walk #69—Feb 20-23
Karen Packer, Lay Director

Next Gathering
Oct 13, 2013
HOSTED BY KAIROS
Future Dates
 Nov 10, 2013
 Dec 8, 2013
 Jan 12, 2014

PLEASE NOTE: Provide your cell phone numbers to our database manager, Rick Clark, 937-508-9740 or rclark104@woh.rr.com.



Come Ye Thankful People, Come
*Come ye thankful people, come,
 Raise the song of harvest home;
 All is safely gathered in,
 Ere the winter storms begin,
 God our Maker doth provide
 For our wants to be supplied;
 Come to God’s own temple, come,
 Raise the song of harvest home.*

