



CO-COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

Dear fellow pilgrims:

"Do you love me?"

The little boy, flush with fever looks up at his mother hovering over the bed, cool wash cloth in hand and chicken soup heating on the stove.

"Do you love me?"

The lover leans toward her companion sitting beside her on the bench as the moon shines down through the scattered clouds and leafy branches onto the shimmering surface of the water.

"Do you love me?"

Jesus leans over the rising sparks and smoke of the campfire. The smell of frying fish filling the air. The light of the breaking dawn is growing behind the hills to the east of the Galilean lake. The risen Savior looks into Peter's eyes, into the depths of his disciple's soul and repeats these words three times, each more strongly than the last.

"Do you love me?"

Each one of us has asked this question.

As we read these examples, the difference between them leaps out at us with immediacy and power.

The first two are asked out of our sense of need for reassurance, for affirmation, for the knowledge that there is someone, somewhere in this world who knows what happens to us, who will be there to support and care for us. We need to know someone loves us. It makes all the difference in life.

On the other hand Jesus is asking this question of Peter not because he needs Peter's love, although he wants it. After all, Jesus loves Peter so much that he gave himself to die on the cross for him. Jesus cares for you in the same way and wants you to love him also.

Jesus is asking the question because he wants Peter to realize that loving Jesus means more than words spoken in the heat of passion. Love is dying to self for the sake of someone else. Jesus gave himself to die on the cross because he loves you. Because Jesus gave himself for you he is glorified above all creation and sits at the right hand of God.

Now Jesus tells you to take up your cross and follow him. He is asking if you love him enough to die to yourself for his sake and for the sake of others so that you, too, can experience the glory and joy, the depth and breadth of life, real life, abundant life God has waiting for you.

No it is not for his sake but for ours that Jesus asks this burning question.

"Do you love me?"

In order to truly rejoice in Easter during Lent we need to participate in the death of Jesus. We need to die to ourselves and begin to live for him and for others. We have to die – with Jesus, through Jesus, in Jesus – so that we are able to experience the power, glory and joy of His resurrection.

"Do you love me?"

Jesus asks the question when we face the need to die to ourselves in forgiving someone who has sinned against us. We will never live in the fullness of the grace we have received until we believe in that grace enough to die to our anger, hatred and need to be vindictive. Make a special effort this Lent to forgive others as you have been forgiven.

"Do you love me?"

Jesus has called each one of us to go and make disciples, to die to ourselves so that others can live for him. This is not a job that can be delegated or assigned to a "professional". Jesus is calling us to form relationships with people who do not yet know him. That means dying to our fear, moving out of our comfort zones of familiar faces and routines. Jesus is calling us to walk across the room and greet that new person whom God knows but you don't –yet. Is there someone with whom you could form a new relationship this Lent, loving them for the sake of Jesus?

"Do you love me?"

When we love someone we trust him or her with our lives – our physical and emotional well-being.

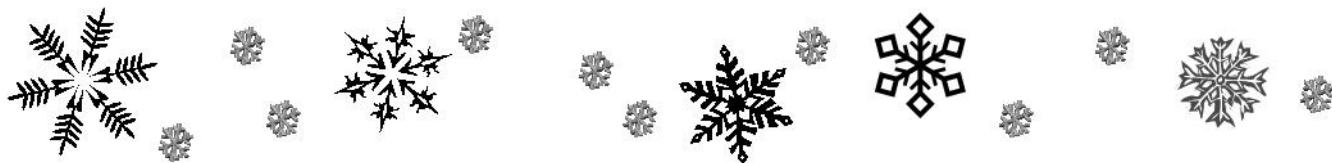
Henri Nouwen, an author and priest, was talking to the leader of a troop of South African trapeze artists. He told Nouwen, "Henri, everyone applauds for me because when I do those leaps and back flips they think I'm the hero. But the real hero is the catcher. The only thing I have to do is stretch out my hands and trust, trust that he'll be there to pull me back up."

This Lent, answer the question Jesus asks by looking for a way in which you can trust him more, dying to yourself and loving Jesus.

As we do we will answer "Yes" to the question Jesus first asked of Peter and find both a new depth to the love of God for us and a new richness and abundance of life.

De Colores!
Rev. Bill

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST



After six-one years of living in Ohio, I have come to enjoy all four seasons. To me winter is a time to sit back and enjoy life. When the roads are bad, and the snow is deep, you can use it as an excuse for just resting and doing a lot of reflecting. This is a lot easier for me since I am retired and can re-prioritize my daily chores (except for feeding the horses). After all, isn't that's why we retire, to enjoy the so called "good life"? So, sometimes on a cold, snowy winter day, I sit and ponder.

One thing I have learned while sitting and thinking about life is how much "my life" has been like a new fallen snow. After church on Sunday, listening to a good sermon (that steps all over my toes), I leave there determined my life will stay as "pure white" as a new fallen snow. But (and there always seems to be a "but") it doesn't take long until my life starts to get a few dirty spots. Just like my driveway when those slush clods fall off behind the tires of my truck. The slush clods lay there surrounded by all the beautiful white snow. Those dirty spots look so out of place surrounded by the white. Then Sunday rolls around again, and there's about two inches of fresh snow that has fallen and covered all the dirty spots in my driveway. I almost breathe a sigh of relief – it's almost like God is telling me, "I'm still here, Larry. I will help you in your spiritual growth. Trust me."

This time when I leave church I have a fresh determination to stay whiter longer. My only hope and prayer is to try to get further along in the week before those dirty spots of; anger, distrust, judgment, frustration, and all the other things that I continue to allow into my life show their ugly heads. I know if I keep studying God's word, and listening to a good Bible-based sermon on Sunday, then I can live a better life every day.

I am not where I want to be, but thank God I am not where I used to be. God will always be with me to give me a new and refreshing cleansing. His love that covers a multitude of sin cleans and makes me brighter ever time. Thank you, Abba. God's offer of cleansing is for all, isn't that the most incredible of all truths!!

Your brother in Christ,
Larry McMahan

PLEASE HELP US LOCATE YOU

This newsletter goes out to about 370 households, and there are well over 3500 names in the Emmaus database. Keeping this database updated is an astronomical job, but well worth the effort. If you ever thought about serving on a team, then it is important that your information is correct. If you are chosen to serve on a team and cannot be contacted, you will be passed over for the next name on the list. It's not how we want to operate but we have no other recourse. Please let us know if you have new cell or resident phone number or new address. Also, if you've remarried and changed your last name we need to make the change. Please note: if you've attended another 3-day weekend, e.g., Cursillo, Tres Dias, Chrysalis, Epiphany, Kairos, or took your Walk in another Emmaus community, we will not have your info in the data base. Please fill out a "willing servant" sheet with all your info noted. Since only 370 households receive this newsletter, please pass the word along to anyone you know in our Emmaus community. Thanks for your help.

Your brother in Christ, Larry McMahan

Data Base Manager:

John Ahlborn

E-mail: jahlborn@woh.rr.com Phone: 322-1958

(please contact John if you need a "willing servant" form)
or pickup a form at a Gathering.



SPRINGFIELD AREA EMMAUS WOMEN'S WALK #55

<i>Pilgrim</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Lindsey Ancrum	Revival Center Ministries	Kasi & Doug Gardner, Jr.
Betsy Marie Anderson	Freedom Road	Sue Browning
Tamara Barnett	Soapstone U.M.C.	Jeff & Mary Beth Cheeseman
Pat Bass	None Listed	Dot Higginbotham
Susan Blizard	Simple Truth	Elaina Speas
Leana Combs	Victory Temple	Pattie Mumma
Dawnyel Culp	None Listed	Kimala Culp
Judy Culp	None Listed	Kimala Culp
LaNell Dobyns	First Penecostal Church of God	Sim Bowen
Betty Ealey	High St. Nazarene	Carolyn Brewer
Sheila Grayson	Mt. Zion Baptist	Verna Reed
Dee Hale	First Church of the Nazarene	Philip Hale
Lisa Hamill	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Cindy Hildebrand	Renewed Strength	Shawn Clark
Shelley Hopkins	Maiden Lane Church of God	Dave & Karen Speas
Starr Huff	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Rebecca James	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Gary Hollander
Jennifer Jones	Freedom Road	Joe & Rita Chapman
Edith Klingler	None Listed	Edie Voiz
Jacky Lee	Grace U.M.C.	Diane Page
Kimberly McCohn	London Vineyard Church	Elmer & Joyce Penwell
Lucille Miller	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Melanie Mingus	Clifton Pres. Church	Sara Levesque
Sharita Portis	None Listed	Wanda Walker
Diann Reno	Fellowship Christian Church	Johnny & Sharon Williams
Reva Ricketts	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Heather Ruch	Faircreek Church	Steven Ruch
Staci Seelig	None Listed	Ken (Barron) Seelig III
Joyce Simmons	Covenant U.M.C.	Kasi Gardner
Karen Smith	Nation Chapel U.M.C.	Cindee Johnson
Lisa Stump	Forest Valley Freewill Baptist	Rhonda Crist
Emily Webb	Renewed Strength	Shawn Clark
Andi Wilburn	The Journey Church	Brenda Barger
Andrea Young	Lagonda U.M.C & Freedom Rd.	Tammy Hively

Team List

Lay Director	Mikie McMahan	Table Leader	Pilar Mock
Board Rep	Mary Ahlborn	Table Leader	Pattie Mumma
Spiritual Director	Rev. Ray Harper	Table Leader	Kim Stehle
Co-Spiritual Director	Rev. Roland Wildman	Table Leader	Kristy Stehle
ALD	Shelly Canan	Ass. Table Leader	Silke Berner
ALD	Dee Moore	Ass. Table Leader	Sue Brown
ALD	Rhonda Voorhees	Ass. Table Leader	Yvette Isles
LOG	Mary Beth Cheeseman	Ass. Table Leader	Char Jacobson
LOG	Belinda Montgomery	Ass. Table Leader	Dorinda Jones
LOG	Cindy Moorman	Ass. Table Leader	Shirley Settles
Music	Kelly Crain	Ass. Table Leader	Mary Ward
Music	Marta Kennedy	Clergy	Rev Cindee Johnson
Table Leader	Cathy Boyd	Clergy	Rev Robert Martin
Table Leader	Melody Boyd	Clergy	Rev Kathy Reiff
Table Leader	Nancy Feltner		

High Street United Methodist Church
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Springfield, OH 45505

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UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 7 PM
Sunday, April 12, 2009 at 7 PM

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP:

After each gathering, there will be a time of fellowship and food.

If you plan to stay, please bring a dish to share.

2009 WALK DATES:

Men's Walks

#37 April 23-26 LD: Tom Myers Jr.
#38 August 13-16

Women's Walks

#55 Feb. 19-22 LD: Mikie McMahan
#56 June 25-28 LD: Barb Baugh
#57 November 5-8

FROM SOCIAL

Hey Share groups:

We are looking for help at Gatherings and Walk closings.

If your Share Group can STEP UP AND HELP PLEASE CONTACT JOHNNIE WILLIAMS AT 399-9886.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

CHRYSALIS

Boys Chrysalis Walk # 47 on February 14-16 at Piqua Greene Street UMC.
There is a large number of Springfield guys on the team.

A twinkle in the eye means joy in the heart, and good news makes you feel fit as a fiddle.

Proverbs 15:30