



CO-COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

The journey of the Lenten season moves us from our own life, filled with wilderness temptations, to the cross of Jesus where we can lay those temptations at the foot of the cross. The forty days of Lent serve as a reminder to us of the human struggle against those things in our life that have control over us.

Most of the time we center on what we need to give up during Lent and often find that giving up something that truly controls us demands a heightened awareness and vigilance so that we don't slip back into our normal behaviors. While we want to be in control of our life, we are often brought to the realization of how out of control we really are. We want to give up before we even start because changing our behavior is too difficult for us.

But Lent is not about changing ourselves. Instead, it is all about God's ability to begin changes within us that will bring us from the wilderness to the cross, and eventually to the victory of the resurrection. We must be willing to allow God to prepare us for the resurrection that breathes new life into us. We need to have our spiritual eyes centered on God's activity in our life.

Lent then becomes an exciting time of resisting temptation and observing God's victory and activity in our life. When Jesus spent the forty days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil he was able to reject evil's temptation because of the activity of God in Jesus which was able to bring Jesus through to the other side of the wilderness.

It is this same activity of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in us that will give us the ability to resist temptation and bring us through our wilderness to the other side. God wants his people to be able to stand firm in their faith. This means that we are to place our trust in God completely in the difficult wilderness times as well as in the good times of our life.

The Lenten season gives us the opportunity to grow deeper in our faith, letting our spiritual tap root reach the refreshing living water of Jesus during the driest, wilderness times of our life. When we gather as the Emmaus Community we are able to find spiritual refreshment through our praise and worship, share in lifting each other up in prayer and most of all we are able to feast at the table of the Lord. May each of you find spiritual refreshment during these forty days of Lent as you allow God's activity to breathe new life into you. As the prayer of the Holy Spirit says "Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth." May it be so.

Carolyn Peacock
Co-Community Spiritual Director

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST

I'm sure all of us remember the first and all important talk we heard when we attended our Emmaus Walk. **PRIORITY!** Through the Priority talk we learned to "**keep the Main Thing – the Main Thing**" in our lives. If we have applied this concept to our personal lives, we have discovered its value. In the same vein it works if we apply our first priority in our work areas, our churches, and definitely in our Emmaus community. The Walk to Emmaus is designed to transform, through the Holy Spirit, active church members and instill in them the desire to make service to God their first priority. For instance, if you're attending a Sunday school class, perhaps you could envision yourself becoming a teacher, an assistant, or a Sunday school officer. There are many jobs in our churches that are begging for good, responsible church leaders. Since 1990 when Springfield Area Emmaus began, the area churches have seen the dedicated results of those who have attended a Walk.

Every year your Board of Directors personally signs an agreement with the Upper Room that we as a Board and our Emmaus community will adhere to the guidelines they have set forth. In the agreement there are 14 items of service to which we must commit. Number seven states, "The local governing body will maintain Emmaus focus on sponsoring pilgrims who are actively participating in a local church." As sponsors, we must be conscientious of this requirement. In recent Walks there have been Pilgrims sponsored who are not spiritually mature enough to grasp the concept of the Emmaus Walk. There have been some who have left a Walk because sponsors had not told them that Emmaus is ecumenical and focuses on the teachings of Jesus. In other words, much of the wordings of each talk are in what many may refer to as "church language." If a Pilgrim is not in a church, much of the information presented on the Walk confuses them and often makes them feel inadequate. As sponsors, we must remember that the Walk to Emmaus is an intense "cram" course in walking with Jesus. While some of you may disagree and see the Walk to Emmaus as an opportunity to meet Jesus for the first time, it would be more beneficial for a Pilgrim if they have accepted Christ as their Savior before attending a Walk. Again, the Walk to Emmaus was established to create and "grow" church leaders.

If anyone would like to have a copy of the agreement the Board members must sign and covenant to for the continuation of the community, please contact me. The remaining thirteen items of the agreement cover abiding by the guidelines set forth in *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*, *The Team Manual*, *The Talk Outlines for Clergy and Lay*, and *The Director's Manual*. If anyone tries to alter or change a guideline because it is not suitable to them, it will break the trust of the agreement. If anyone has an area in the aforementioned guidelines with which you disagree, please bring your concern to the Board. We will work with you.

In prayer with you, Larry McMahan, Community Lay Director

INFORMATION FROM THE AGAPE ROOM

Thanks for all of your continued support showering the pilgrims with agape for the week-end walks!

If you have the time Men's walks are typically lower on meal time agape.

Please pick up your leftover agape at gatherings. After 2-3 gatherings, left over agape will be donated or discarded.

We would also like to ask that when you deliver agape during a week-end, please place it in the bin located in the kitchen, or the agape room in the designated bins marked team/pilgrims. Do NOT sort the mail yourself. Also, if you have table or bedtime agape, please put it on the table in the agape room. DO NOT, place it on the dining room tables, or beds yourself. Pilgrims are only to receive specific agape in designated amounts and at designated times.

Thanks again for all your support!

Rhonda Voorhees & Shelly Canan

NEW WOMENS' SHARE GROUP FORMING

Monday nights, 6:30 pm at Perkins on North Limestone Street.

Contact Patty Brandon - 408-5775 (leave message) or can email pbrandon@tacind.com.

Thanks! De Colores, Patty Brandon

A REPORT ON TEAM SELECTION

Springfield Area Emmaus has a Team Selection Committee that is comprised of the Community Lay Director, Leadership of the Community or as described in the Upper Room Handbook the Chair of the Team Selection Committee, the Community Co-Spiritual Directors (2), the Spiritual Director of the upcoming Walk, the Lay Director of the Walk, and two members at large, which have been selected by the Board. Rules for selection for live-in team are: (1) a person has completed a Walk at least a year prior to the beginning of team meetings for the next Walk; (2) a person is active in and meets regularly with a Share Group; (3) a person participates in church activities; and (4) a person helps promote and assists in Emmaus activities, (e.g., Gatherings, sponsors Pilgrims, and is available to help and assists during Walks.)

A Springfield Area Data Base is maintained to reflect the desires of those who have submitted "Willing Servant Sheets". On the "Willing Servant Sheet," one may choose which area he/she is willing to work in and whether they wish to be on a "live-in Team." The desires of those who submit "Willing Servant Sheets" are placed in the data base to assist the Team Selection Committee in choosing candidates for teams.

Recently, there was a Board-selected Committee which reviewed the lists of names that have accumulated since 1990. After reviewing the lists, the Committee determined those who should be moved to an inactive list based on their performance in Emmaus activities during the past 12 years. Should those on the "inactive" list return to participate in current Emmaus activities, their names will be moved to an "active" list and returned to the team selection lists.

There is a progression throughout the Team selection process for each Team as follows:

- There are **7 assistant table leaders** (inexperienced) chosen from a list of **180 female /93 male eligibles**. (There were over 1,000 plus names to choose from prior to the Committees' selection of those who are active and met "Team" criteria). The selection is made from those who have submitted a "Willing Servant" form and opted to be on a live-in team, and/or who have assisted during Emmaus weekends plus the criteria that have previously been stated.
- **Inexperienced table leader** – there are **4 chosen for this area**. They have served as Assistant Table Leaders on prior Walks. In this area there are currently **77 female/45 male candidates**.
- There are **2 experienced Table Leaders** that are chosen for each Team. Qualifications are for someone who has served as a Table Leader and has given a talk(s). This is a "critical" area as it may determine those who qualify for Lay Director leadership. Currently, there are **40 female/24 males**.
- **Fourth Day Table Leader** – **One person** is chosen. The criterion to serve as a Fourth Day table leader is to have served previously as a Lay Director. In this area there are **32 female and 23 male candidates**.
- **Music and Assistant Music Directors** – **Two are chosen**. The Music Director should have served on a past team as an assistant music director. Generally, one music person is efficient in playing a musical instrument. (From a list of **39 female and 17 male candidates**).
- **Logistics** – **Two are normally chosen** (selected from a list of **45 female and 35 male names**). One may be chosen from a list of "experienced" Logs, but at least one must be selected who has already served as an ALD but who has never served as a Log, in order to be eligible for Lay Director (as required by the Springfield Emmaus Board)
- **Inexperienced ALD** – **One selection**--must have served for a minimum of 2 Walks as a Table Leader and given 2 talks. There is a list of **9 female and 5 male candidates** from which to choose.
- **Experienced ALD**—**Two selections**. Must have served at least once as ALD. (Chosen from **17 female and 11 males**.)
- **Board Representative** - An experienced Board member or past Lay Director. (There is a list of **24 females and 19 males** to choose from).
- **Lay Directors** are chosen by the Board from a list of those who have progressed from Assistant Table Leader up through the chain of selections to an experienced Assistant Lay Director.

Questions regarding the above information may be directed to John Ahlborn (tel. 322-1958)

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UPCOMING GATHERINGS!

Sunday, April 12, 2009 at 7 PM

Sunday, May 10, 2009 at 7 PM

Sunday, June 14, 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

#56 June 25-28 LD: Barb Baugh

#57 November 5-8

FROM SOCIAL

We need Share groups to step up for June's Gathering & June's Closing for Walk# 56.

Please contact Johnnie Williams 399-9886

REUNION OF WALK #41

On April 12th

For info contact: LD, Selena Martin
Tel: 323-9613

PRAISE GATHERING

The next gathering on April 12th will be a praise gathering.

If you would like to contribute praise music, please contact Sue Neves:

Phone: 767-2976 or 241-1020 / E-mail: farmmama@netzero.net

