

the fourth day newsletter

Men's Walk #97

Mar 28 - Mar 31

Times To Remember:

Wed 7pm Sendoff

Fri 7pm Candlelight

Sat 7am Serenade

Sat 4pm Closing

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March
2007



"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"
Luke 24:32



"Come, follow me," Jesus said,
"and I will make you fishers of men."
At once they left their nets and followed him.
Matthew 4:18-20

CAEW #97
March 28-31st

JOE EAKES—COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

As I write this letter, I realize we are only two weeks away from beginning our third Walk for 2007. Walk #97, a Men's Walk, is set to begin March 28th. I'm sure it is not too late to volunteer to help out if you feel a nudging from the Holy Spirit. Montgomery is the lead cluster for this Walk and Buck Starr is serving as the Lay Director.

Many things are happening in our Community and I am honored to be a part of what God is doing. I had the privilege of attending closing for Walk #96 a few weeks ago. What a blessing! As the ladies of Walk #96 got up and spoke about their weekend, several of the ladies said how much they looked forward to coming back and serving with their husbands. Their words reminded me how much I have been blessed by coming back and serving with my wife. I also thought about the fact that we often talk to others about attending an Emmaus Walk without speaking with spouses. When praying about who God would have you sponsor for this Emmaus Walk, I would encourage you to make sure that you also pray about providing the same opportunity to the individual's spouse. As many of you know, it is often difficult for those coming home to express what they have experienced on their Walk to their spouse. When my wife returned from her Emmaus experience she had a difficult time convincing me to attend. I'm sure it had nothing to do with being hard headed or how busy I felt I was at the time. It was not until a gentleman from my Sunday school class asked that I finally decided to accept the opportunity. I know the timing is in God's hand, but we must be obedient to God's desire when sharing the opportunity of the Walk to Emmaus.

If you are considering sponsoring someone on a Walk to Emmaus, take a look at the sponsorship checklist on our web site. The Sponsorship Checklist will provide you with some guidelines for sponsoring individuals for the Walk. On that list the first item listed is to pray about whom you would sponsor and the second item discusses explaining what the Walk to Emmaus is to the person and their spouse.

Please continue to pray for our community and the up coming walks that are planned for this spring. I know God has great things planned this year and I hope you will come be blessed by serving. I'll leave you with words penned in Matthew 24:46, "When the master comes and finds the servant doing his work, the servant will be blessed."

DeColores Joe Eakes CAEW #38, Table of Paul

BUCK STARR - LAY DIRECTOR OF MEN'S WALK #97



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our Emmaus Community for all prayers that have been lifted up for CAEW#97. Many of those prayers have already been answered in that our pilgrim list grew from just 22 to 43 in around five days last week.

This reminds me of John 21: 1-6, where Simon Peter, Thomas, and Nathanael went out fishing only to find their nets come up empty time after time. Then Jesus told them to cast out once more to the right side of the boat and as they drew back to the boat, the nets overflowed with fish. Although CAEW#97 seems to be full, I encourage each of you to be faithful and continue to cast out your nets and leave the rest up to Jesus.

As we all know, one of the ways Emmaus keeps on giving is returning the past pilgrims for service in the support areas. In welcoming them back to serve, it is so important that we welcome them with the same love and cooperation that we showed them during their walk.

I would like to challenge everyone to contact a past pilgrim and encourage them to return to serve and embrace them with that same agape love as they work in different support areas.

God bless each of you for your service and prayers.

DeColores,
Buck Starr
CAEW#38 Table of Luke



Upcoming Walks

• Women's Walk #98 Apr 25-28

Joy Priester LD

• Men's Walk #99 May 16-19

Steve Kopp LD

• Women's Walk #100 Aug 22-25

Judy Lovelady LD

Team Meetings

April 7 - Women's Walk 98 8:30 Flint Hill UMC Alex City Bring two, two-liter drinks and breakfast snacks. Lunch will be provided.

April 14 - Joint Team Meeting Walks 98 and 99 8:30 Aldersgate UMC Montgomery. Bring two, two-liter drinks and lunch snacks. Breakfast will be provided.

May 5 - Men's Walk 99 8:30 Church St UMC Selma. Bring two, two-liter drinks and lunch snacks. Breakfast will be provided.

Walk #97 Scripture Verse

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Matthew 4: 19-20



CAEW #97

Central Alabama Emmaus Walk

To renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through development of leaders and renewal of Christians as faithful, committed disciples of Jesus Christ.



In Case Of Emergency
Camp Alamisco
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Pilgrims As Of 3-20

Philip Abernathy
Karl Ames
Trent Bradley
Josh Brock
Barry Brooks
Thor Burk
Brian Carr
Ray Caudill
Will Curry
Jason Etherton
Brody Fisher
Wescoat Free
John Gates
Don Grobe
Mike Hall
Paul Hansell
Brian Harris
Scott Hartzog
Lane Hegwood
Jon Jones
Van Kilpatrick
Doug Kirk
Rev. Vince Lee
Brad Litkenhous
Terry Love
Ronald Lynch
Dru Mattox
Tyler McMurtrey
Tom Oliphint
Tony Parker
Mike Patterson
Willie Phearson
Mark Powers
Harry Pugh
Darrin Sanders
Philip Segrest
Stephen Skarecky
Bradley Strother
Blue Vardaman
Jason Washburn
Ronny West
Ben Whitworth
Brad Word

Millbrook AL
Tallassee AL
Auburn AL
Auburn AL
LaFayette AL
Auburn AL
Montgomery AL
Montgomery AL
Camden AL
Valley AL
Montgomery AL
Cullman AL
Montgomery AL
Montgomery AL
Acworth GA
Auburn AL
Auburn AL
Smiths Stn AL
Opelika AL
Opelika AL
Wetumpka AL
Selma AL
Alex City AL
Auburn AL
Opelika AL
Alex City AL
Alex City AL
Auburn AL
Montgomery AL
Auburn AL
Mobile AL
Phenix City AL
Cecil AL
Selma AL
Alex City AL
Tallassee AL
Alex City AL
Ashland AL
Alex City AL
Opelika AL
Kennesaw GA
Notasulga AL
Phenix City AL

Church

Aldersgate UMC
Tallassee FUMC
Victory World Prayer Center
Auburn UMC
Pleasant Grove Congregational
Auburn UMC
Frazer UMC
St. James UMC
Camden Methodist
Langdale UMC
Frazer UMC
St. John's Evangelical
Heritage Baptist
First Christian Church
Northern Hills COC
St. Paul UMC
Auburn UMC
Midway Baptist
Trinity UMC
Trinity UMC
Frazer UMC
Summerfield Baptist
Hillabee Baptist Church
Auburn UMC
Trinity UMC
Alex City Methodist
Hillabee Baptist Church
Union FCM
Frazer UMC
Auburn UMC
Cottage Hill Baptist
Greater Mt. Zion Baptist
St. James UMC
Summerfield Baptist
Faith Temple Church
FUMC Tallassee
Flint Hill Methodist
First Assembly
Alex City FUMC
Auburn UMC
Northern Hills COC
Cornerstone UMC
Epworth UMC

Sponsor

Steve Blair
Leslye Ames
Adam Byrd
Steven Griffies
John Biblis
Michelle Granberry
John Duncan
Edward & Yolanda Baldwin
Mandy & Billy Johnson
Bill Cutright
Sam Fisher
Buck Starr
Buddy Englebert
Jimmy Smith
Tad Goss
Jodi Hansell
Kelli Harris
Scott Futch
Rishi Rajan
Rishi Rajan
Wallace Justice
Allen Fancher
Patrice Booth
John Reese
Wendy Rajan
Scott Davis
Ira & Betty French
Michelle Granberry
Chip Nix
Jeff Brackin
Greg Crance
Bob Money
Randy Helms
Mike Morrison
Greg Fields
Glen Pugh
Duane & Cathy Skarecky
George Simpson
Rita Romine
Mark Young
Tim Broadwell
David Waldrop
Robert Miller

March
2007



"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Team Roster—Men's Walk #97

Lay Director

Buck Starr

Spiritual Director

Tony Hughes

Assistant Spiritual Directors

Cliff Cobb

Greg Nobles

Glen Pugh

Steve Spinning

Assistant Lay Directors

John Braswell

Steve Kopp

Fred Turner

Chad Wilbanks

Table Leaders

Greg Fields

Glen Granberry

Rishi Rajan

Pat Starr

Phillip Vallia

Mike Wells

Mike Whitt

Assistant Table Leaders

Shepard Dearing

David Dingman

Keith Foster

Brock Hill

Pat Miaolis

Van Northcutt

Ed Williams

Music

Chris Hines & Chris Kelsey

Media

Allen Brewer



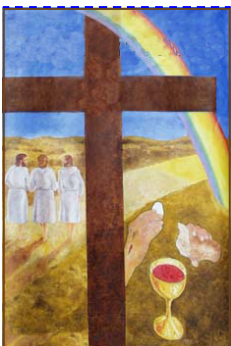
"Come, follow me," Jesus said,
"and I will make you fishers of men."
At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-20

CAEW #97
March 28-31st

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Colossians 1:15



**Agape Needs: 72 of
Each Item**

**March
2007**



Walk #97 Scripture Verse - Matthew 4: 19-20

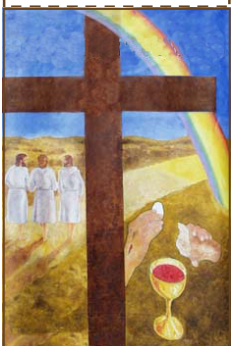
"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Work Area Assignments—Men's Walk #97

Support Area	Chair	Co Chair	Support / Notes
Agape	Linda Voitle		334-821-5998 lvoitle@mindspring.com
Banners	ALDs Take Care Of		
Bed Tags	Vicky Taylor		
Book Covers	Beth Kisor and Darlene Gill	Kelly Aulner	
Book Table	Don and Judy Letford		
Candlelight	David Bowen	<u>Music:</u> Chrystal Strickland and Marian Woodman	<u>Fourth Day Speaker:</u> Matt Taylor <u>Media:</u> Ken Himes
Entertainment	Howard Porter and Jere Colley		
Friday Night Party	Alan Long		
Greeters	Beth and Dewayne Jordan	334-298-4476	
Logistics	Ryan Lovelady		
Housing & Registration	Pat and Evelyn Barnt		
Meal Prep	Tom Hunt thunt@phdhotels.com	Bill Cutright and Bob Money	
Meal Service	Danny Massey	Lynn 'Mo' Mosley	334-613-0176 / 334-313-2955
Photography	Lamar Frazier		
Refreshments	René Richard, Emily Cumbie, Lindsay Griffies		rene@dmlawoffice.com ehcumbie@charter.net stevenlindsay@bellsouth.net
Serenade	Chancey & Patti Barnes		
Sponsor's Hour	Danny Tankersley	Martha Jean Starr	
72 Hour Prayer Vigil	Alicia Cargill	Jason & Michelle Templeton	
Speakers Prayer Chapel	Tracie Starr traciestarr@bellsouth.net	Shanda Foster	
Worship	Fred and Sharon Cargill		

Central Alabama Emmaus Walk

To renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through development of leaders and renewal of Christians as faithful, committed disciples of Jesus Christ.



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**Agape Needs
72 of Each Item**

**March
2007**





the fourth day / serving

Work Areas — Understanding & Monthly Focus

Mike Wells

CAEW# 68

Table Of Paul

LOGISTICS

Think about it Wednesday night arrives, sponsors deliver pilgrims, greeters deliver luggage, pilgrims are checked-in by housing and registration and everyone assembles downstairs for send-off. Refreshments has prepared cookies, soft drinks and coffee for everyone to enjoy. It is a great moment as we can all recall in our minds of our first *Walk to Emmaus*.

All in all things look good, the conference room is set, meal service has all of their items delivered and meal prep has begun. Agape is looking through all of their boxes and Worship is getting items ready for the outdoor chapel at 7am. The prayer chapel is set and all the speaker banners have been removed from their cases and hung in the banner room. Refreshments have been unpacked, and their supplies are being prepped for the first of many refreshment breaks. All of the black drapes have been hung and chairs lined up for send-off and sponsors hour.

What the pilgrims do not see are the loving men and women who arrived at 7:30 am to begin set up of the camp. All of the behind the scenes work is accomplished by the called to serve LOGISTICS TEAM. They are the first to arrive and the last to leave. They work because they love to serve. They serve others because that is what was done for them on their Walk to Emmaus. They are there to give back that AGAPE LOVE they received.

Sometimes they get sweaty, they get dirty, they even bleed and believe it or not they get a little irritated, but that is quickly resolved with God's hands. They are asked to be detectives for misplaced items, plumbers, carpenters, electricians and anything else that may arise. There is alot to do on Team Logistics. Before the weekend is out they will have completed over 105 different tasks from opening sets to the closing take down of the camp. A single task may consist of moving one item to many items - such as the set up for Candlelight.

Team Logistics needs men and women who would like to work from one task to another during all four days. *Wednesday and Saturdays are the busiest, and the times where we need the greatest number of helping hands.*

Please prayerfully consider giving your time and talents to logistics. If you can lift from 10 to 50 pounds then you are QUALIFIED! The attire is simple and very comfortable clothing and shoes. If possible, always have some rain gear available. **MOST OF ALL BRING WITH YOU A HAPPY HEART AND A SERVING ATTITUDE!**

If you feel led to serve on Team Logistics please contact myself, Mike Wells, at 256-749-0464 or email me at mwells@chal.org. Better yet just show up, roll up your sleeves and pitch-in you as you are always welcome!

DeColores — Mike

... Jesus Jesus Can I
Tell You How I Feel,
You Have Given Me
Your Spirit
I Love You So

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Matthew 7: 24-27

The task ahead of us is
never as great as the
Power behind us.

Surviving The Storms Of Life ... Hearing and Acting On His



the fourth day - sharing and testimony

Patti Barnes
CAEW 32
Table of Martha

WHAT MY WALK MEANT TO ME

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

John 15:4

I attended my Walk in September 1999, and I would like to share some of the experiences I went through at that time that have made a difference in my life until today. I was able to live in my Fourth Days only by first experiencing forgiveness. I had some issues in my life that I could just not turn over to the Lord until my Dying Moments. I would not let go of my mistakes, and it was a block between my Lord and me. But the moment I was able to HEAR the words “You are forgiven,” I was able to put those issues behind me. This was something I experienced immediately, and it has made a difference from that day until the present time.

Sometimes what you experience in your Walk takes time to really become part of your life in your Fourth Days. I had been a Christian since a very young age, but had not really experienced the joy of walking with the Lord on a daily basis. Because I was not abiding in the Vine every day, I was tempted to fall into sin and did so.

I attended church regularly most of my life and even served as a Youth Coordinator at a local church and taught Adult and Youth Sunday School. I would usually read my Sunday School lesson, especially if I had to because I was teaching, but did I truly enjoy it? I can't say I did.

After my Walk, my time of prayer and study in the Word came alive. If I don't start my day in prayer now, I feel off center. If I don't read God's Word, I feel empty. Sometimes life gets so, so busy it is easy not to do what is truly important. I live about 35 minutes from my work, so now I use that time to listen to God's Word on Bible CD's in my car. It is amazing how fulfilling it is to start everyday listening to God's Word. Since my Walk, I have also attended several women's Bible studies and have LOVED doing my homework. Study has been something that has been added to my life since I went on my Walk, and I praise God for showing me how to live abiding in the Vine through prayer and study.

DeColores,
Patti



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5: 22-23



**Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me
Melt me. Mold me.
Fill me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me**



**Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together,
Bind us together with love.
There is only one God,
There is only one King,
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing:**



the fourth day - sharing and testimony

March 2007



Lorri Schoonver - CAEW 79 - Table of Naomi

DON'T LET ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT GOD DOESN'T ANSWER PRAYERS!

My name is Lorri Schoonver, and I went on the Walk to Emmaus in May of 2005 - Walk #79. It was the second best thing I had ever done in my life. The first was asking the Lord Jesus Christ into my mind, heart and soul. God has blessed my life in many ways. One of the greatest blessings was when he put Dave into my life. He gave me my best friend along with a husband. Along with Dave came 3 boys: Matthew, Tim and AJ. When we had been married for nine years, God decided that we needed to move 3,000 miles away from our family and two of our kids. In August of 2001, we moved from Springfield, Oregon to Selma, Alabama. I wondered why God would take us from all of our friends, and most of all, both of our families. After coming to Selma, not only did Dave get saved, so did all three of our boys. That was an answered pray for me, as before I couldn't even get them to go to church with me.

In 2003 Dave was diagnosed with hemochromatosis, which is a blood disorder. This disease destroyed Dave's liver. The liver disease gave him another disease called esophagus varicose, which he was taking medication for. On Feb 20, 2006 I woke up to find Dave covered in blood. There was blood all over the bedroom. Dave wasn't in good shape. I called 911 and then called the greatest friends anyone could ever have - Chris and Mike Melton. They came over to be with me, and we started a prayer chain going. I think all of Selma and Valley Grande were praying for Dave, along with the whole Emmaus Community. The doctors told me that Dave wasn't going to make it. In fact, they didn't think he would even make it to Birmingham in time. They told me that I needed to call our kids and our families and tell them to come, as Dave was going to die. Boy that was the hardest phone call I ever had to make. I don't want to do it again. I had to tell his Mom and Dad and our boys that he was going to die, knowing that they were 3,000 miles away.

Dave just kept going down hill; the doctors in Birmingham said there was nothing they could do. Dave was in a coma and not doing well. They kept telling me that he was going to die. I kept telling them that God was going to take care of him. By Tuesday Dave was really going downhill and the nurse that was on duty told me that I needed to let him go and turn him over to God. The nurse's name was Danny. He prayed with me and told me that he would pray on the hour every hour over Dave. He told me I needed to try to go get some sleep. I hadn't slept in two days. Our oldest son and Dave's parents had made it here from Oregon, and they made me go get a hotel room. When I got there, I told our son Matt that we needed to pray. I prayed that God would just take Dave and not make him suffer if that was His plan. I last looked at the clock at 2:30 am Wednesday morning. Around 3:00 am, I woke up because I thought Matt had crawled over into bed with me and was hugging me. I could feel someone in bed with me hugging me. Then I heard angels singing "Jesus, Jesus" to me, just like I was at candlelight at the walk. I then felt another hug and someone patting me on the shoulder. Then the voice came, telling me that "HE IS GOING TO BE OK, BECAUSE HE IS IN MY HANDS." I didn't know if that meant that God was taking Dave home with Him, or if He was going to be letting me take him home.

I couldn't wait to get to the hospital. When I got there Dave had not changed at all; he was still barely holding on. I just kept praying that God would either take him or heal him. I was on the phone talking to someone from Oregon when visiting hours started at 4:30 pm Wednesday. I will never forget what happened. Our son Matt told me that he was going in to see his dad. It couldn't have been three seconds before Matt came running out crying uncontrollable. I thought Dave had died. He started yelling, "Dad is awake and talking!" Dave is living proof that God does answer prayers. The doctors could not believe it; they just knew he was going to die.

I now know why God took us so far away from our family and friends. God wanted both of us to experience the Walk to Emmaus, to see just how much He loves us, and to know that if and when you pray, God answers you. Sometimes it's not how we want, but He always answers. And He wanted us to know that you can have family wherever you are. I didn't always turn to God or even pray much before my Walk to Emmaus, but it is now a very important part of my life. I now belong to a prayer group that meets every Sunday before our church service and prays. Dave also has been on the Walk, and he is a changed man. He told me that God healed him and he just keeps getting good news from the doctors. So don't ever let anyone say that prayer doesn't work, because I know for a fact that if it wasn't for all the prayers, Dave wouldn't be here today. God has a plan for each of us. It's not always the plan we have, but God knows what is best. Psalm 37:4 says that if we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart. Don't take life for granted. You never know what is going to happen.

"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." - Jeremiah 17: 7-8

DeColores - Lorri



the fourth day - sharing and testimony

Nedetria Talbot
CAEW 60
Table of Ruth

WHAT I LEAVE BEHIND



In 1995 I lost my brother, George, to cancer. I cannot tell you how much I loved that guy. He was 10 years older and my hero. When I was young, my girlfriends and I were just pests to him. After my friends and I were about 30, I discovered he had grown to like us pretty well! It was my job, as the executrix of his estate, to settle his affairs---to put them all into order. Instead, he showed me about the correct order of things in life.

After he died, I went to the bank with his safety deposit key in hand. It was a hard and humbling experience to turn the key and lift out the box. You knew that precious things were in there. When I opened the box, right on top was a large folder. On the front, in bold letters, was written IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS. I lifted the folder from the box and began to cry. I could hardly open it. I looked inside and the first thing I saw was a small, yellowed, bound booklet held together by a once white cord. On the front was written Certificate of Baptism. To my brother, the most precious and important document in that box was not something of monetary value, but something that signified the beginning of his walk with the Lord and his first steps toward his mansion in Glory. George not only knew the correct order of things in life, but wanted us to realize it, as well.

I lost my mother to cancer in September of the same year. My mother was an avid reader. She could absolutely devour a book! She always kept two books on her nightstand. One was fiction, usually a Southern historical novel, and the other was her book of instruction. I don't remember many nights when I passed her bedroom that she wasn't propped up in bed with her head on her pink satin pillowcase, reading her books. Many fictional novels came and went from the top of her nightstand, but her book of instruction, The Holy Bible, remained there and was read nightly. I have that worn, torn and marked up Bible. It is a treasure to me and a testament to my mother's faith. It was my mother's instruction book and has become my own.

A few weeks ago tragedy struck our home. There was a terrible accident on Friday night, February 16. It happened on Highway 231 south of Montgomery. A brother and sister were killed in the accident. They were both students at the University of Alabama. Matt was a senior majoring in finance; his sister, Lauren, a freshman majoring in communicative disorders. Lauren and my granddaughter, Kasey, were best friends. They had been since they were very young. Matt and Lauren were in route from Tuscaloosa to Troy, where they were to pick up Kasey, drive on to Dothan to pick up their mom, and then on to the beach to meet their Dad for a great weekend. They never made it to Troy. Frank, Kasey and I were with their mom when the law enforcement officer came and gave her the horrific news of her children's death. I cannot tell you how my heart ached. I witnessed a parent's worst nightmare. In the midst of this terrible pain, we were literally holding each other and rolling on the floor. Vickie (the mother) sat up, pulled away from me, looked straight into my eyes and said: "They are together and they are with God." What a testimony that was to me and everyone in the room at that time. The only peace that could be found at that moment was the blessed assurance that her children were at home with Him.

During the funeral service, their pastor told of a phone call he received the day before the service. A lady called to tell how Matt, only two weeks before, had helped her find her way in an unfamiliar church. It was important to Matt to help others - to lead them to Christ. Lauren always had a beautiful smile and a hug for you. The pastor, who had known Lauren all her life, described her as a "light." Only two weeks prior, when she saw him, she smiled and literally ran to hug him. She was a ray of sunshine on any day, always ready to brighten the worst of days. When we remember Lauren, we will see God's light that shined through her life.

The day after the service, the Dothan Eagle ran a huge headline '**They're with God.**' This beautiful quote came from a heartbroken mother who shared her faith. What a beautiful testimony and what an important document that paper became to someone who needed a word of assurance or some hope for the future.

I do not tell you these stories to bring you sadness, but to bring you joy that God has prepared a wonderful place for each of these precious people in my life. He also has a mansion ready for each of us. What blessed assurance it is! All of us will face trials and hurts in this life, but we are so blessed - we have God! I have read that for those who are of the Christian faith, our best day on earth can't compare with our first day in heaven.

My Emmaus experience has taught me many things about life and also about death. It has helped me get my life in better order; it has taught me the importance of the greatest book ever written and the necessity to read, study and share this wonderful book of instruction with others. Emmaus has also taught me about sharing the love of God and always showing concern for others; to be a shining light for Him in this sometimes dark world. The Emmaus community has strengthened me and my faith like no other experience in my life. I have come to realize that what I do here on earth may not be as important as what I leave behind. I thank God for each of you and for your willingness to serve. Let us never forget Paul's words in 1 Timothy 3:13, that those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

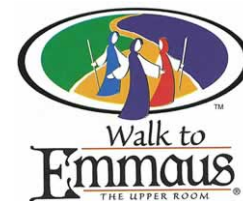
DeColores - Nedetria



the fourth day / perspective



March 2007



THREE CAUSES OF WEAKNESS IN GROUP REUNIONS

Aimlessness

The group reunion card provides a format for meeting, order for spiritual discipline, and an agenda for sharing. But eventually members may need to clarify for themselves and, for one another, their expectations of the group reunion and their personal commitments to it. Otherwise, the sharing and sense of support levels off; the group stops meeting the deeper needs of members. The group can die from superficiality because of neglect and unwillingness to talk about dissatisfactions with the group reunion experience.

When a group first forms, it helps for the members to personally answer for one another:

- What do you want from this group reunion experience and weekly discipline? What do you hope will be gained?
- What is your commitment to God for which you need our support? Do you want to live in grace through the practice of piety, study, and action?
- What shall be our commitment to one another?

Agree as a group to stop every six months, or as need arises, to reassess the seriousness of the group about its reasons for meeting, the commitment of each person to live with spiritual discipline, and ways the group reunion can be more effective for each member.

Take seriously "Your Plan" for the next week. Take turns writing down each member's plans and asking them about their progress at the next meeting. Pray for one another to follow through on their plans.

Alterations

Every group reunion experiences loss of members who move away, get married, get sick, or die, change groups, or simply drop out. A group in this situation should exercise its faith by turning its liabilities into spiritual assets. Realize Christ has called you to offer support for one another in these circumstances. For those who move away, send them off with God's blessing; maintain contact with them as members of your group through prayer and correspondence. When members are sick, meet as a group at their bedside. When members change groups, recognize their need without feeling rejected and pray that God will meet their need. When members drop out, keep them in prayer during group meetings and keep in touch with them as friends, continuing to uphold them in their faith.

Anemia

Sometimes groups or individuals in a group suffer a diminishing of idealism, self-surrender, and charity for no apparent reason. This spiritual anemia may be experienced as spiritual dullness or dryness in individuals or in the group. This is sometimes the case even when group members are earnest about their spiritual 'disciplines' and their commitment to the group meeting. It is often the case, however, that when one member feels the group meeting is least worthwhile, another member feels it is most worthwhile. This underscores the importance of each one's commitment to participate regularly. We come to the meetings not only for ourselves, but to be there for the others and make the group meeting possible for one another.

"To forgive is to set the prisoner free, and then discover the prisoner was you."

Talking up our cross daily

Romans 6:13 - Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

1 Peter 2:11 - Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

Matthew 26:41 - "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Romans 12: 1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW



EMMAUS CELEBRATION

FRIDAY JULY 20, 2007

6:30 p.m.

FRAZER UMC MONTGOMERY

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



March 2007



2007 Board Representatives

Work Area	2007 Board Representative
72 Hour Prayer Vigil	<u>Sue Utsey</u>
Agape	<u>Steve Kopp</u>
Banners	<u>Mike Wells</u>
Book Table	<u>Aleta Fountain</u>
Candlelight	<u>Jack Mosley</u>
Food Preparation	<u>John Duncan</u>
Greeters	<u>Roger Lien</u>
Housing and Registration	<u>Roger Lien</u>
Logistics	<u>Mike Wells</u>
Meal Service	<u>Terri Sasser</u>
Music	<u>Christi Hall</u>
Photography	Charles Cummings
Refreshments	<u>Randy Lovelady</u>
Serenade	<u>Christi Hall</u>
Speaker's Prayer Chapel	<u>Sarah Mingledorff</u>
Sponsor's Hour	<u>Elvis North</u>
Supplies	<u>Sue Utsey</u>
Worship	<u>Aleta Fountain</u>
Registrar Men's	<u>Michelle Nix</u>
Registrar Women's	<u>Lynn "Mo" Moseley</u>
Community Spiritual Director	Charles Cummings
Community ASD	<u>Elvis North</u>
Community Lay Director	<u>Joe Eakes</u>
Community ALD	<u>Christi Hall</u>



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