

From the Desk of the Lay Director

You Have to Move with the Times

I have pondered many times over the years what it is that makes the Walk to Emmaus work. And why people still want to attend a retreat so many years after the model weekend was put together. Our churches have been asking themselves a similar question, in the hopes of attracting new members to their congregations, and the hope of keeping their younger members from leaving. In a recent edition of the Wall Street Journal, Brett McCracken wrote an opinion piece titled, "The Perils of Wannabe Cool Christianity," which documents the trend over the last ten years or so of churches trying to reach out to the 18-30 year old crowd, and either get them to church or keep them in church. The article describes several techniques that churches have used in this effort, such as pastors using lots of pop culture references in their sermons, the promoting of the church's use of recycled paper and other "green" techniques, expensive dips into the technology and computerization pool, and the use of shock tactics such as explicit sermons on sexual topics and the screening of popular "R" rated movies at the church. As the South Plains is a fairly conservative place, I don't know how far these particular techniques might go here, but the article makes clear that such efforts are not limited to big metropolitan areas, and are being tried literally from sea to shining sea. The article concludes that the younger generation is less impressed with whiz bang technology, can see through what is slick and glitzy, and are just as likely to walk away from churches that use these techniques as walk into them. And then Mr. McCracken makes this point:

"If we are interested in Christianity in any sort of serious way, it is not because it's easy or trendy or popular. It is because Jesus Himself is appealing and what He says rings true. It's because the world we inhabit is utterly phony, ephemeral, narcissistic, image-obsessed and sex drenched, and we want an alternative. It's not because we want more of the same."

The Walk to Emmaus has certainly changed over the years, and has embraced some of the technology that society offers. Gone are the days of over head projectors, felt boards, and burning candles; and computers have forever changed the way information is presented. But what has not changed is what makes the retreat enduring. The biblical basis for the Walk to Emmaus has not changed. The cascade of prayer all weekend has not changed. Inviting the Holy Spirit has not changed. And the love of Christ has not changed. I have no idea what form our retreat will take a generation from now, and how much of the popular culture will have worked its way into the weekend. But I have little doubt that it will remain relevant, exciting and Spirit filled. And folks will still be lined up to spend a weekend in Slaton, Texas, because the Lord, and not the modern world, is waiting for them there.

DeColores,

Terrell M. Thompson,

Community Lay Director



LLANO ESTACADO EMMANUS

Emmaus Community Newsletter

Community Meeting	Men's Walk #78	Sept. 23-26
September 2nd 7:00 P.M.	LD Chad Oglesby	SD Phil McClendon
Lakeridge UMC	Women's Walk # 115	Oct. 21-24
4701-82nd Street	LD Dani Blythe	SD Ted Wilson
Lubbock, Texas		
Fellowship following worship		

Contact Info

Community Lay Director Terrell Thompson E-Mail: terrellthompson@suddenlink.net

Registrars

Emmaus Women Darris & Jeanette Linder E-Mail: deaclinder@gmail.com

Emmaus Men Terri Flores E-Mail: tflores@lakeridgeumc.org

Chrysalis Gals Mark & Celia Miller E-Mail: mfmrraider@aol.com

Chrysalis Guys Yvonne Allred E-Mail: yvonneallred@sbcglobal.net

Spotlight on Sponsorship - Don't Hide the Ball

A criticism that frequently follows the Emmaus movement is that it is a secret society, and that those who have been on a Walk won't talk about, or worse, say they "can't" talk about what went on during the weekend. Frequently, new pilgrims will say that their sponsor didn't say much about what goes on during the retreat, and many times their questions before the Walk were intentionally not answered. This is a bad practice.

I am convinced that knowing the format is not the same as living the experience. There is absolutely no harm in discussing the basic procedure of the weekend with your pilgrim. Always focus on how much laughter there usually is, and how great it will be to get away from the office, from the cell phone, from the computer and just spend some time with the Lord. Many times, prospective pilgrims will even know about Candlelight, but that doesn't know they "know" Candlelight. If your pilgrims ask you questions about any of the specifics of the weekend, you should do your best to answer them. Many people are detail oriented, and can't really understand anything described in vague, general terms.

You should always give good advice to your pilgrim about such things as what clothes to wear, and whether such things as their own pillow, extra blankets, towels, portable fans, or extra jackets should be brought. You can also give your pilgrim good advice about the use of their watches, internet access and cell phone usage during the weekend. Our teams are expected and encouraged to lead by example when it comes to such things, and you as the sponsor can set the appropriate example as well.

Christ commissioned all of us not to keep His love a secret, and to share it with everyone we encounter. In a like fashion, the Walk to Emmaus should not be a secret, and knowing some of the details will never be able to prepare a pilgrim for all that Christ has for them during their 72 hours at Mercy Center. You now have permission to never ever again say "I can't tell you."



If I had one word to describe this past summer's Chrysalis weekends, it would be... AWESOME! What a blessing God gave us in the approximately seventy-five new caterpillars He gave to the Chrysalis community. Also' what a show of support the Emmaus Community provided as well. That was some "good stuff"!

As we look forward to the future, taking it one day at a time, please pray with us as we petition God for the next caterpillars for the upcoming January Journeys. It is so important, as we look to prepare our future spiritual leaders to pursue a greater passion for the purpose of God in our communities, churches and families.

Danielle Geiser will be the Lay Director for the Young Women's Journey #28. Journey # 28's Spiritual Director will be Winfield Davenport. That Journey begins January 6th, 2011, and ends on the 9th. Also there will be a Young Men's Journey January 20-23, 2011. Ben Kirkpatrick will serve as the Lay Director for Journey #21, and Ernest Hopkins will serve as the Spiritual Director.

These are exiting times for the Chrysalis Community. Christ is counting on us, as we are counting on Christ. Let's join together as we answer the call of our Savior in the support of our youth as they prepare spiritually for their life's journey. God Bless.

Fly with Christ,
Ron Allred, Chrysalis Community Director
Ron.allred@sbcglobal.net (806)445-3248

Kairos and Epiphany News

The Kairos 24 team has completed three team meetings to mold us into a unified vessel ready for God's use in serving the offenders He will bring to the November 18th-21st Kairos weekend at the Monford Unit. Our job is to humble ourselves before the Lord whereby we might be anointed to share His love with each offender in such a manner as to enable each man to personally see and experience the Risen Christ.

At this point in time, we desire your fervent prayers that the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob will:

- ◆ Raise up the persons He wants on the team *"...I was in prison and you came to visit me. The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:36c,40),*
- ◆ Use His team to minister to the offenders He will bring to the Kairos, and
- ◆ Accomplish His purpose for each offender, prison employee and team member.

Jim Gordon, Kairos 24
806-795-9692 home, 806-392-7537, jim@door.net

Just a note from Epiphany,

As I write this I realize that we are just a few days over being a month away from Post Epiphany #7. We've had a couple of amazing team meetings. Admittedly small but full of the Spirit of God. I look forward to what God has in store for those of us who will be blessed to take part in the weekend. Beyond serving on this team... (there is still room for more team members) ...there are many ways you can help to make the weekend the best Epiphany ever! We take paper agape into the weekend with us. Any type of paper works, just can't use glue, staples or glitter. Posters, placemats, bookmarks and pictures are all forms of agape. We covet your prayers. You can also contribute through buying meal tickets at a cost of \$5.00 per meal. For more information on being a part of Epiphany #7 please call Paula@ 806-543-2631 or e-mail at pjc903@aol.com. Thank you for joining us in showing the infinite depth of God's love to these young men.

"God Danced the Day You Were Born"

