

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 6 ~ Issue 1

January 2010

Upcoming Events

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

January 31, 2010, 3:00pm
First UMC
New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

February 8, 2010, 7:00pm
Logan Gathering
Trinity Lutheran Church
February 9, 2010, 7:00pm
Lancaster Gathering
6th Avenue UMC

Inside this issue:

Understanding the Bible (part 7)

The Conquest

(Updated for 2010)

Boardmember Contact Information

Keep this handy in case you would like to contact a board member.

2009 Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

Pilgrim Fee.....	\$125
Team Member.....	\$120
Logistics & Agape.....	\$75
Extra Meals:..... breakfast -	\$5.75
..... lunch -	\$6.75
..... dinner -	\$8.00
Mailed Newsletter.....	\$7.50/year
Emailed Newsletter.....	Free

From the Community Lay Director

“Don’t anticipate! Don’t anticipate! Don’t anticipate!” How many times did we hear those two words on the Walk to Emmaus? At this stage in my life and my Walk, I didn’t think I would need to hear those words again. However, God has a funny way of taking care of that. You see, in the last newsletter, I wrote what I *thought* was my *last* newsletter article. I anticipated a bit too much! Because of publication reasons, this newsletter had to be completed prior to the reorganizational meeting of the Board of Directors, which resulted in the need for another edition of my ramblings. So be it, I suppose.

As you read this, we find ourselves in January 2010. It’s a new year, with fresh opportunities. In January, for most Christian churches, two events unfold following Christmas—Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord. On the Christian calendar, these occur in successive weeks at the beginning of the month. Epiphany, to me, has always meant that Jesus came to an awareness of who he is while he was still in human form. In many of our churches, we celebrate Epiphany by telling the Gospel lesson about the visit of the Magi. The Magi, whom Jesus was too young to know, came to an awareness of who he is, even if those around him did not.

I think those of us who have walked on that road to Emmaus alongside Christ have also had our “epiphany-like” moments when we realize just who this Jesus is. Our eyes are opened and our hearts are warmed when we come to the realization that He is with us, that He has always been with us and the He will always be with us. It is almost a traumatic reaction, certainly dramatic, when we awaken from our dream-like lives to the realization that we have been in the presence of the Christ. I remember in the song “I Can Only Imagine” that the author of the lyrics wondered if he would be able to say anything at all in the presence of Christ or if he would just have to lay still. Makes me wonder if the Magi were speechless as well.

Jesus’ baptism by John in the Jordan River is another eye-opening event for us. We can relate this to our Emmaus experience as well. If we wonder, and we do, about

(continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1) why Jesus chose to be baptized, we can often get our heads screwed up a bit. Jesus didn't need to be baptized for repentance—he was, after all, without sin. So why did he do it? The best explanation I can find is that he did it for us. It was to experience what we experience as human beings, to associate with the very people he came to save—the lost.

In today's modern Christian church, baptism is often seen as a symbol of God's grace when we join the family of God. While baptism itself may not be required for entry into the Kingdom (remember the thief on the cross?), it is a desirable act for most Christians. In fact, there is usually much fanfare and celebration when people are baptized, whether it is infants, children, teens or adults. We celebrate because we know that the family has grown by another soul.

The Walk to Emmaus is a shared experience by millions of people today. We are part of a large family that has walked together down the road to Emmaus, being blessed and forgiven. We have come to a realization about the depth of the love of Christ together. We have rejoined the family of God together. We have celebrated the changes made and commitments renewed. We have celebrated at the table of God's grace and at the table of fellowship.

Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit when a dove came to rest upon him as his baptism with water was completed. God was pleased with His Son. And so began the ministry of the One whose role it is to save the world. One day, God willing, we'll walk again with Him, side by side, not on the road to Emmaus, but in the Kingdom itself.

It's a new year. Help someone find what all of us have found on the Walk to Emmaus. Recommend it to your husband, wife, brother, sister, pew mate, pastor, leader or friend. It's a new year and perhaps I won't need to write another one of these articles. I'll try not to anticipate that.

De Colores!
Dave Shoemaker

New Beginnings

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2010, the January newsletter, the newsletter for the month for making resolutions. We solemnly resolve to do something that is going to change in our lives. Each of us says to him or herself that here is something that is going to give me a new beginning, and I will get my life in order.

Unfortunately, by the time you read this article, most of those resolutions will have been modified, mangled, broken, forgotten, or otherwise overcome by temptation. Why? Because we count on our own strength to stick to our diet or exercise program, or whatever our resolution happens to be.

Brian Wren wrote the words to the song "This Is a Day of New Beginnings." Among the many inspirations of the song, we find these words: "*God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.*" And in those words, I believe we find the key to making real, sustainable changes in our lives, changes on a much higher level than just eating right or exercising more.

Consider, for instance, Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. In John's (the apostle's) Gospel, we are not told the details of the baptism itself, just that when the crowds were baptized, "Jesus was baptized, too."

But when he came up out of the water, Jesus prayed. And that's when the heavens were opened, the Holy Spirit descended, and God spoke. Jesus had entered a new phase of his relationship with his father. Later, he would enter the synagogue to teach, and proclaim "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me."

And it was, in a special way. But there is good news: the Holy Spirit is offered to everyone who is willing to pray. If we will pray, wonderful blessings are opened to us: our faith and hope are renewed, and we can make a world of difference.

I encourage each of you to make this not just a day or a month or even a year of new beginnings, but a lifetime of new beginnings through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray and be open to



the leading of the Spirit in your life, in your church, and in your Emmaus community.

De Colores!

David Rohrer

Community Spiritual Director

Would you like to make a new beginning in Emmaus?

Fill out your volunteer sheet and send it in today. Even if you've shared your areas of interest in the past, consider submitting a new volunteer form. You should have received the form in your pilgrim packet on the last day of your Emmaus walk, or you can find the form online at:

<http://southernohioemmaus.com/documents/volunteer.html>

Your volunteer form should be sent to:

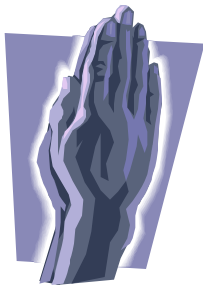
Marna Hyett

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December 2009 Emmaus Gathering Prayer Concerns

Concerns: Bev Shoemaker, The unsaved, Chrysalis Flights, Roger Taylor, John & Joan Gilchrist, Debbie Strode, Sharon Delaney, Erica Smith, Our troops, Dusty Garey, Olivia German, Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads(from Camp Otterbein), Susie Leonard, Diana West

The Conquest (Understanding the Bible)

“Joshua fit the battle of Jericho ... and the walls come a-tumblin’ down.”

Everybody knows at least one story from the era of the conquest, whose great leader was Joshua, the successor to Moses as leader of the Israelite people. It was a critical time. After wandering in the desert for forty years, the people were at last ready to cross into the Promised Land. The only problem was that there were already people there, and they wanted to stay. Remember from the previous lesson that when Moses sent scouts into the land, all except Joshua and Caleb reported that the people there were too strong to conquer. And, of course, Moses was dead. The great leader was gone. Would the people follow Joshua or would they shrink back from doing what God asked them to do?

Once again, the drama unfolds in four major events:

Jordan: Parting of the Water (Joshua 1-5).

To get into the Promised Land, the people have to cross the Jordan River. The problem is that it is at flood stage, and they have more than just a few people to cross. There are thousands and thousands of people, plus animals and equipment. No problem for God. He gives instructions, the priests follow them, and once again, the waters part so the people can cross, just as they had at the Red Sea.

Jericho: Conquest of the City (Joshua 6):

Getting across the river was only the first problem. Almost immediately, they had to deal with the fortified city of Jericho, which blocked their way. But Joshua was a brilliant military strategist. His campaigns are still studied in military schools today, and if you watch for them, you can find shows about his strategies on TV. Not only that, but he has help from an angel of the Lord, who tells him to have the warriors march around the city once a day for six days. Then, on the seventh day, they are to march around the city seven times while the priests blow horns. When they have done this, the army is to give a loud battle cry, and the city will collapse. They follow God's directions to the letter, and the city is conquered.



The Defeat of Canaan (Joshua 7-12): The people of Canaan are unanimous in their hatred of the Israelites. Fortunately, they are not united militarily. There are a number of individual kings, most of whom rule just one city and the surrounding territory. With no military alliance among the Canaanites, Joshua's army cuts through the middle of them and divides the land. It takes him about seven years, but he is able to conquer the land.

Dominion (Joshua 13-20): The twelve tribes hold a lottery to divide the land among them. Each tribe is responsible for finalizing dominion over its own territory. Israel is secure from its enemies, but Joshua sees that they are drifting away from God. He calls on them to remain faithful, issuing his famous challenge: "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." To their credit, the people did choose to renew the covenant and be faithful to God. Joshua dies at the age of 110.

Next: The Judges.

This article is based on chapter seven of Max E. Anders' book *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*, available through amazon.com or christianbook.com.

This article is part seven of a series. Earlier articles in the series can be found in previous editions of The Rainbow Connection beginning in June 2009, available at <http://www.southernhioemmaus.com/documents/newsletter.html> Your comments and questions are welcome, send them to: pastordavid@newhopelogan.org.

Pastor David Rohrer

Sponsorship Overview

Sponsorship is the most important part of the Emmaus walk.

Sponsorship is more than signing up someone to go on a walk. It's the first act of Agape before a walk ever begins. Pray for God's guidance as you consider sponsoring a pilgrim.

Sponsorship is the back bone to the whole weekend and should be done with sacrificial love in behalf of the pilgrim. Remember, your acts of Agape include: prayer, gathering agape letters, caring for the pilgrim's family, your presence at sponsor's hour, candlelight and closing, and follow-up after the walk.

Ideally, a pilgrim should not be struggling with relationship or financial problems. Non-Christians are also not often good candidates for an Emmaus Walk. Emmaus is meant for Christians who are looking to enrich their walk with God.

Talk to the pilgrim about the Emmaus weekend. Explain the basic elements of the walk, its purpose, take the attitude that you are giving the person a wonderful gift rather than pressuring the pilgrim to go.

A deposit should be included with the Pilgrim's application and make sure the Pilgrim knows the balance of the registration fee is required when registering on Thursday evening.

Remember, if you haven't attended training on sponsorship, you will need a co-sponsor who has experience with sponsoring pilgrims. Your co-sponsor should act as your coach.

For more information on sponsorship, contact:
 Chuck Moore
 Sponsorship Chairperson
 email: chuck71980@yahoo.com
 Phone: (740) 385-3758

Get the latest Pilgrim Application online at:
<http://southernhioemmaus.com/documents/sponsor.html>
 (Includes dates for 2010 and 2011 Emmaus Walks)

2010 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our 2010 Board of Directors. Keep this list handy so you can contact the board with needs, concerns, ideas, and information. Please keep the board in your prayers that they may honor Our Lord as they serve Him and our community.

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Note: Each boardmember name is followed by the year their term ends

Updated: January 18, 2010

Southern Ohio Emmaus

c/o Greg Rush
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE